

Merimbula Public School

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Riding to School Protocols



RATIONALE:

It is a privilege for students to ride a bicycle/scooter/skateboard to school. In promoting safety and education, it is important for staff, parents and carers to draw attention to issues and rules regarding children riding to and from Merimbula Public school, or whilst at Merimbula Public School during sport, fitness and/or skills programs.

Young people are vulnerable when riding because:

- They are easily distracted.
- They have a limited concentration span.
- They are unable to deal with sudden changes and may act without thinking.
- They have a limited concept of danger.
- Their peripheral (side vision) is not fully developed.
- Their balance and motor skills are still developing.
- They are not seen easily by other traffic.

AIM:

For students to travel to school safely, whether it be by private or public transport, walking or by riding alternative modes of transport such as bicycles, scooters or skateboards.

CRITERIA FOR RIDING:

Students are to follow the guidelines listed in this policy, as well as, all other road rules:

- **Legal Requirements:** The NSW Traffic Act recognises bicycles as legal road vehicles with equal rights (and responsibilities) to use the road. Bicycles are required to obey all road rules and traffic signals.
- **Riding on the Footpath:** Riders under 16 years, and older riders accompanying them, may ride on the footpath unless specifically prohibited by signs. Riders must keep to the left of the path, overtake on the right, and give way to pedestrians.
- **Riding on the Road:** Cyclists 16 years and over cannot use the footpath unless it is signposted as a shared footpath. Cyclists 16 years and over are required to use roads or cycle ways. Bicycle lanes are to be used when present. Bicycles must have a bell fitted and effective brakes. If used at night, bicycles must also have rear lights and a rear reflector.
- **Helmets:** All riders of bicycles, scooters and skateboards must wear a Standards Australia approved helmet.

- **Storage:** All bikes, scooters and skateboards are to be stored, once at school, on the correct racks located beside the equipment or hall. Bicycles, scooters and skateboards are to be walked to and from this area when on school grounds and when on the paths on the school block. The racks are out of bounds during school hours.
- **Safety Advice:** Helmets of the correct size must be worn and securely fastened.

RIDERS:

- Should demonstrate safe and responsible behaviour at all times when riding to and from school.
- Should not pose a hazard either to themselves, other riders or pedestrians.
- Follow the recommendation that riders younger than 10 years, should be closely supervised by a caregiver whenever they ride.
- Should not ride near busy roads, driveways or cars if possible.
- Are encouraged to consider using additional equipment such as flags, reflectors and bright clothing to make themselves more visible to traffic.
- Should walk their bike, scooter or skateboard across roads when crossing and also use appropriate hand signals when turning.
- Who are students at Merimbula Public School, who fail to follow these protocols may lose the privilege of bringing their bicycle, scooter or skateboard onto the school premises.
- Who demonstrate unsafe riding behaviour will have their parent/carers contacted by the school and they may be asked to collect their bicycle, scooter or skateboard.

PROCESS:

Decision-making protocol at Merimbula Public School will be followed to ensure that bicycles, scooters and skateboard safety protocols are decided in consultation with stakeholders. Procedures will comply with relevant legislation including: *The NSW Traffic Act, The Road Safety: Transport NSW, The Anti-Discrimination Act 1977; The Work Health and Safety Act 2011; The Department's Code of Conduct; The Dignity and Respect*

Guidelines for Scooters, Skateboards and Roller Blades:

- These modes of transport may be ridden on footpaths unless there are signs that prohibit them. Riders must keep to the left and give way to other pedestrians.
- Powered (electric) scooters cannot be registered and therefore, can only be used on private land.
- On separated bicycle and pedestrian paths, riders must use the lane designated for bicycles but must keep out of the path of cyclists.
- Riders can ride on the road during daylight hours. They cannot be used on the road with a dividing lane or median strip, or a speed limit that is greater than 50km/h, or a one-way road with more than one lane. Riders must keep as far left as practicable.

MOTORISED WHEELED DEVICES

Devices such as electric scooters, skateboards, and hoverboards are **ILLEGAL** in NSW.

Although a motorised scooter, skateboard, or hoverboard (electric or petrol powered) are considered motor vehicles, they do not satisfy the Australian Design Rules and for this reason, cannot be registered in NSW and are unable to be insured.

These devices cannot be ridden on roads, or road related areas (such as footpaths shared paths and cycleways) in NSW, except on private land.

Anyone caught riding a motorised device on a road or road related area in NSW can face fines starting from \$704

Further information is available at roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au

Safety Advice:

- ✓ Riders need to take care around other pedestrians.
- ✓ Parents and carers need to supervise and guide their children to ensure they do not endanger other people.
- ✓ Riders need to demount and slow down in busy areas.
- ✓ Children under 10 years should only ride in safe areas off the road away from vehicles and driveways and ideally, be supervised by an adult.

in The Workplace Charter and The Code of Conduct Policy.

Merimbula Public School Guidelines:

- Children in Years 3 to 6 and K-2 are permitted to ride their bicycles, scooters and skateboards to school and children in K-2 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Students are not permitted to ride electric scooters to or from school.
- Children should be proficient in riding and must obey all road rules.
- Children must wear a fastened, approved helmet at all times (As outlined previously).
- Children are to ride in single file only and cannot dub/dink, even with the use of pegs.
- Upon arrival at school and when leaving, riders will walk their bicycles, scooters and skateboards when on school grounds. Bicycle racks are out of bounds during school hours.
- Riders who do not follow these rules will be asked not to ride to school for their own safety. Contact will be made with parents/carers and they may be asked to collect their child's mode of transport and to support the school's decision to ban their child/ren from riding to school.

Always wear a helmet when you ride or skate

All bicycle riders are required by law to wear an approved helmet that is securely fitted and fastened. Make sure the helmet fits correctly. Check the helmet regularly for damage. It is best to replace a helmet that has been involved in a crash, dropped on a hard surface, has cracked foam, or frayed or worn straps.

	Can you place just two fingers between your eyebrows and your helmet?		Can you fit just two fingers between the helmet strap and your chin?
	Do the straps join in a 'V' just below your ears?		Has an adult checked your helmet?

For more information on keeping your child safe on wheels visit the parents section on safetytown.com.au/parents

For further guidelines and safety tips please visit:

<https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/downloads/safety-on-wheels.pdf>

EVALUATION:

The principal is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this protocol document and reviewing its effectiveness, every three years. Implemented May, 11 2009. Updated, March 4, 2022.

NSW Education

For further information contact:
The Principal, Hulme
Merimbula Public School, 49-55 Main Street, Merimbula NSW 2548
T (02) 6495 1266
Email: merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.merimbula-p.school.nsw.edu.au