



Stella Maris Primary School

Bike Education Policy

Rationale

About 65% of children aged 5 to 14 years ride bicycles.

Most injuries (80%) associated with falls from bicycles such as limb fractures, concussion and intracranial injuries do not involve other vehicles. They are caused by inexperienced, unpredictable and often illegal cycling.

Studies indicate that the most important skills required for safe cycling do not reach satisfactory levels of performance until the age of 10. That is a combination of perceptual motor and cognitive skills.

The Bike Ed program is a national initiative produced by the Federal Office of Road Safety. Children in Grade 5 will be provided with a training program, which develops an increased level of competence in riding skills and basic road sense.

Aim

The Bike Ed Program is to promote in children:

- Knowledge and understanding of the road traffic environment and the law.
- The development of physical and cognitive skills to manage such an environment safely, as a cyclist.
- The development of responsible behaviors, attitudes and decision-making skills for the safe use of bicycles both on and off the road through participation in enjoyable learning experiences relevant to their ages and abilities.

The ultimate goal of the Bike Ed program should be for children to become competent to ride safely and independently on the road.

Bike Ed Program Guidelines:

1. The Official Bike Ed Program approved by Bicycle Victoria will be followed and implemented by qualified instructors.
2. Parents will be informed prior to the commencement of the program aspects of bicycle roadworthiness.
3. All children's bicycles will be inspected for roadworthiness before the program. No child will be allowed to participate without a roadworthy bike.

4. All children will wear an Australian Standards Council Approved Helmet when riding in the Bike Ed Program.
5. Children will be assessed according to standards outlined in the Bicycle Victoria Program.
6. The ultimate responsibility of travel to and from school resides with the parents. It is expected that all children riding to school will wear an approved helmet at all times.
7. Grade 5 children will complete the course in 3 levels.
 1. Basic riding skills – Taken within the school grounds.
 2. Safe shared/footpath riding.
 3. On-road Cycling – Roads skills training and test conducted on supervised local roads.
Instruction will follow this pattern as described in Bicycle Victoria Program.

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School Bicycle Policy

1. The Catholic Education Office and VIC Roads recommends that children under 10 years of age DO NOT ride bicycles to or from school unless accompanied by an adult.
2. Acceptable modes of transport for children travelling to and from school are: car, bike, scooter, bus and by foot. Skateboards and roller blades are not permitted to be ridden to school under any circumstances.
3. A child over the age of 10 years should only ride bicycles to and from school with the written permission of a parent/caregiver accepting responsibility for the child and identifying the safest route to and from school
or
If a child has successfully completed the Bike Ed course.
Children under Grade 4 are not permitted to ride a bicycle to school unless under direct adult supervision.
4. Children must correctly wear a Standards Australia approved bicycle helmet (Australian Standards Mark TM AS/NZS 2063) at all times when in control of a bicycle or scooter.
5. All road rules concerning bicycles are to be followed. This includes the pedestrian's right of way on footpaths. The bell should be used as a warning when approaching pedestrians.
6. Bicycles ridden to school must be in good, safe working order and bicycles **must be** fitted with a bell.
It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that the bicycle is in good and safe working order and that all protective equipment as required by law is provided.
Arrangements can be made for children who do not have access to a suitable bike.
7. Bicycle riders are expected to use the main school gates as an entry point. These are near the supervised pedestrian crossing at Oak Street.
8. Children are to dismount before entering the school grounds and walk their bicycles and scooters whilst on site at all times.

9. Bicycles and scooters are to be stored in the bike shelter provided. It is recommended that bicycles be locked with a chain and padlock supplied by the bicycle owner.
10. Bicycles, scooters and helmets are brought and stored on school grounds at the owner's risk.
11. No riding of bicycles, scooters, roller blades or skateboards is permitted in school grounds during and after hours (with the exception of Bike Ed classes).
12. Parents will be notified if children do not adhere to the School's Bicycle Policy and permission will be withdrawn until the issues identified have been satisfactorily addressed.



This policy was ratified in 2008

This policy will be reviewed biannually

This policy was updated in 2016