



Cycle to School Policy for Athea National School

Introductory Statement:

Athea National School recognises the many positive benefits of pupils cycling to and from school. We therefore look to encourage this form of travel behaviour in as many ways as possible.

Some of the benefits of cycling to school include:

- Improving health through physical activity
- Establishing positive active travel behaviours
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community
- Reducing environmental impact of the journey to school.

To encourage as many pupils to cycle to school as we can, the school will:

- Actively promote cycling as a positive way of travelling
- Celebrate the achievements of those who choose to cycle to school
- Provide cycle storage within the school grounds
- Provide high quality cycle training to those pupils who wish to participate

To make cycling to and from school a positive experience for everyone concerned, we expect our pupils to:

- Ride sensibly and safely and to follow the Highway Code
- Take responsibility for checking that their bicycle is roadworthy and properly maintained
- Behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling

- Consider wearing a cycle helmet
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using bicycle lights and by wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.

For the well-being of our pupils, we expect parents and carers to:

- Encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in cycling
- Provide their child with the appropriate safety equipment such as high-visibility clothing, bicycle lights and cycle helmet, as appropriate
- Ensure that the cycles ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.

The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle to and from school safely rests with the parents/carers and the school has no liability for any consequences of that decision.

Parents are advised to take out appropriate insurance cover as the school's insurance does not cover loss or damage to bicycles.

Roles and Responsibilities/Implementation

All stakeholders have a role to play in the implementation of this policy from pupils, parents, staff and the Board of Management.

Ratification/Communication

The policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management in 2021.

Signed: *Marie Gleeson*

Date: 18/05/21

(Chairperson B.o.M)