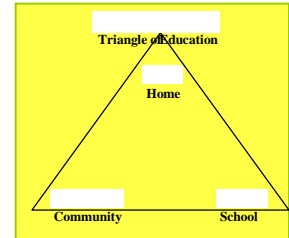


St. Fintan's National School

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Roll No. 18133S



Mayglass
Bridgetown
Co Wexford

Cycling Policy November 2021

Rationale:

St Fintan's NS School recognises the many positive benefits of pupils cycling to and from school and actively encourage this form of travel. However, there are risks involved and as a school community we need to prepare the pupils for the use of bicycles as a form of transport on public roads.

Benefits of cycling to school include:

- Improving health through physical activity.
- Establishing positive active travel behaviour.
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness.
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community.
- Reducing environmental impact of the journey to school.
- Fostering knowledge of the natural world and our local biodiversity

Role of the pupil:

1. To ride to school sensibly and safely following the Rules of the Road
2. To correctly wear a cycle helmet to and from school.
3. To ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using bicycle lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.
4. To dismount the bicycle on school grounds

Role of the school:

1. To train the pupils in road safety and cycle safety. This will include cycling training by specialists (e.g. Sheilbaggan Outdoor centre) to pupils in 5th and 6th Class and to younger children if slots are available. Grants to pay for this training will be sought from the County Council and other organisations.
2. To provide and maintain cycle storage

3. To actively promote cycling as a positive way of travelling to school, a dedicated cycling week will be held in the final term to encourage parents/grandparents to cycle to school with pupils, especially younger children.

5. St Fintan's NS is not responsible for bicycles brought on to or left on school premises and is therefore not liable for pupils' bicycles being stolen or damaged.

6. The Principal will notify parents if children do not adhere to the Cycling Policy and permission to ride to school will be withdrawn until the issues identified have been satisfactorily addressed.

Role of the parent:

St Fintan's NS recommends that any child younger than 5th Class arriving by bicycle should be accompanied to school by an adult.

Although the school provides appropriate cycle storage parents are advised to take out appropriate insurance cover as the school's insurance does not cover loss or damage to bicycles.

Thought could be given by parents in a particular area to organise the children from that area to cycle to school together as a group. Cycling as a group makes cyclists very visible to motorists.

Parents should:

1. Ensure bicycle is of correct size for the child and in good working order with particular attention to brakes being fully functional and that the child can operate them easily
2. Ensure that the bicycles have serviceable lights during dark evenings.
3. Provide a cycle helmet and encourage their child to wear bright and or reflective clothing on the journey.
4. Give permission for the child to cycle to school (Available on Aladdin, under 'Permissions'. This is for 5th and 6th Class pupils)
5. Understand that all property left at the school is at the owner's risk.

Note: This policy covers bicycles. E-scooters are not covered in this policy are not permitted in school.