

BIKE EDUCATION

1 RATIONALE:

The highest hospitalisation rate of all types of transport accidents is bike accidents of children aged 0 to 14 years. Learning to use the roads safely takes many years, and the school has an important role in assisting parents in educating children about road safety. According to Vic Roads and the RACV children have their limitations in using the roads safely.

- Perception, attention, memory and co-ordination are not fully developed.
- Concentration is limited to one thing at a time.
- Judging speed and distance is difficult.
- Their sight and hearing are not the same as adults.

Most children ride bikes and are at risk of falls or collisions unless they are taught how to ride safely. The Bike Education course developed by TAC is taught by trained teachers and assists children in developing basic bike riding skills and is an introduction to basic road laws. The RACV Road Safety program and the 'Riding Through Time' program support this bike education strategy.

2 AIM:

To provide children in Years Three and Four with basic riding skills and road safety knowledge that will promote safe riding experiences.

3 IMPLEMENTATION:

- 3.1 The program will be introduced in Term 4 for Year Three level and completed in Term 1 for Year Four.
- 3.2 The theory and practical sessions are conducted in classrooms and within the school grounds by trained teachers and parent assistants.
- 3.3 Focus is on road safety and riding skills such as braking, slow riding and turning.
- 3.4 Bikes will be suitable and controllable for the child's physical size.
- 3.5 Roadworthy bikes and approved safety helmets are a requirement. Parents will be requested to complete the bike roadworthy checklist prior to the course.
- 3.6 For the duration of the course bikes can be secured at the school overnight.
- 3.7 Each child will receive a Bike Ed certificate of participation (this certificate does not authorise children to ride on the roads, but indicates that they have participated in a course which aimed to develop some basic riding skills and knowledge of road safety.
- 3.8 Only after children have participated in the course will they be allowed to ride their bikes to and from school and store their bike in the bike enclosure during the day.
- 3.9 For the safety of all children in Years Prep, One, Two and Three children are not permitted to ride their bikes to school.

4 EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.