

Newington Primary School & Nursery

Cycling/Scooting to School Policy and Agreement



Reviewed: August 2024

Bicycle and Scooter Policy at Newington Primary School & Nursery

Purpose of Policy

As a school we recognise both the environmental and health benefits of cycling or travelling to school on a scooter and wish to promote safe cycling/scooting to school.

Cycling/scooting gives children freedom as it provides an opportunity for independent travel. Our school encourages cycling/scooting as a safe and affordable means of getting to and from school with minimal impact on the environment. Parents are responsible for the safe transport of children to school.

Our school promotes cycling/scooting in the following ways:

1. All pupils are encouraged to undertake cycle training which is usually conducted in Primary 6.
2. All pupils are encouraged to:
 - Provide and be responsible for their own bicycle/scooter, helmet and lock.
 - Wear clothes that are visible to other road users.
 - **All pupils are expected to wear a helmet.** Pupils who do not wear a helmet will not be allowed to bring their bike/scooter into the school premises.
3. Parents/pupils must read and sign the cycle/scoot agreement (See Appendix 2)

For safety reasons we ask that you do not scoot/cycle on school grounds therefore:

- Dismount on arrival at the school gate and walk with your bike/scooter to the storage area. When leaving school, pupils must collect their bike/scooter and walk to the gate and ensure that it is safe to cycle, checking for vehicles or pedestrians on the pathways.

In order to help with this cycle policy the school provides a place for bikes/scooters to be stored.

Pupils/parents/carers are responsible for the locks for the bike as we cannot guarantee the safety of any bike/scooter. Parents/carers should understand that any property (e.g. bicycles/scooters/helmets etc.) stored in the bicycle area are left entirely at the owners risk and the school is not in any way responsible for the security and safe keeping of the property.

Parents understand that the school/nursery is not liable in any way for any injury or damage caused either on the journey to or from school while riding their bicycle or scooter.

The decision to allow a child to cycle or travel on scooters to school rests with parents/ carers. We strongly recommend that all children who cycle/scoot to school are accompanied by an adult, until such time as the parent is confident the child has the knowledge and skills to be allowed to cycle unsupervised.

Storage

The cycle and scooter racks are available on school premises for those who have signed the cycle/scooter agreements. We recommend that all bicycles and scooters are securely locked to a stand.

Maintenance checks

All bikes and scooters should be fully roadworthy and properly maintained. Regular checks should include:

- Both brakes working
- Tyres pumped up, and wheels not wobbling sideways
- Handlebars and saddle straight and tight
- Lights should be in good working order.

We insist that all children wear helmets when cycling/scooting. These should fit well and conform to current British standards. We also recommend the use of high visibility garments such as jackets or tabards.

Please note, we **do not** allow motorised e-scooters on our school premises. In Scotland, it is illegal to use a privately owned electric scooter in any public place, including roads, pavements, parks, town centres, and promenades. The only place to use a privately owned e-scooter is on private land with the owner's permission. (See Appendix 1)

Appendix 1

Useful Websites:

<https://cycling.scot/bikeability-scotland>

<https://www.firstnews.co.uk/talking-points/tips-and-advice/childrens-safety/scooter-kids/>

<https://roadsafety.scot/road-user-advice/cyclists/>

<https://roadtrafficaccidentlaw.co.uk/cycle-law/legal-information-centre/e-scooters/>

BICYCLE/SCOOTER AGREEMENT



I would like my child..... in

.....class to cycle/scoot to school/nursery and agree to the following

conditions:

- The bike/scooter is my responsibility.
- The bike /scooter will be stored in the school’s designated cycle area and secured (where possible) using a padlock which I/we will provide.
- I understand that the school/nursery does not have insurance cover for personal equipment and therefore is not responsible for its security.
- My child will wear a cycle helmet when cycling/scooting to and from school/nursery.
- My child will be accompanied by an adult when cycling/scooting to and from school, until I am confident that they can travel confidently and safely.
- I realise that if my child is found cycling/scooting in a dangerous manner they will be provided with a warning and a possible ban from cycling/scooting to school in which parents/carers will be notified.
- I have explained the agreement to my child.

Signed.....Parent/Carer

Signed.....Child (if age appropriate)

Date.....

This agreement will last for their years with us in primary school and will not need to be signed again unless they have incurred a ban to which there will be a cooling off period and then the agreement will need to be signed again.

Hopefully, pupils will enjoy this opportunity to be responsible and safe when travelling to and from school/nursery.

Mrs A M Ferguson
Head teacher

