



BICYCLE AND SCOOTER POLICY

RATIONALE

This policy has been created in accordance with the Transport for NSW Centre for Road Safety and guidelines of Bicycle/Scooter safety.

AIM

St Nicholas believes physical activity is an essential component to a healthy lifestyle and the development of our children. The aim of this policy is to support, with safety of paramount importance, children being active on their way to and from school.

IMPLEMENTATION

St Nicholas requires children without adult supervision to be **10 years of age** before riding their bicycle/scooter to and from school. This age has been set after following advice from Transport NSW and the NSW Department of Education <<https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/media/documents/29450/Ride-a-bicycle-Safely.pdf>>

For children who are accompanied by an adult, the age of consent is the responsibility of the parents/carer.

The correct Bicycle/Scooter and Safety Equipment

All children that ride their Bicycle/Scooter to school must ensure:

1. **A correctly fitted helmet.**
When riding a Bicycle/Scooter, children are required by law to wear an approved Bicycle/Scooter helmet securely fitted and fastened on their head. Look for the sticker certifying that the helmet meets Australian and New Zealand standards.
2. **The Bicycle/Scooter is the correct size for the children.**
The children should be able to stand over the Bicycle/Scooter with their feet firmly on the ground.
3. **The Bicycle/Scooter is in a safe and maintained state.**
Seat: The seat is at a height that allows the child to bend their knees slightly when their leg is in the most extended position.
Handlebars: Handlebars are well adjusted to allow children to confidently mount, start off, steer, pedal, balance, ring the bell and stop.
Lights and Reflectors: Good quality lights and reflectors will increase visibility on the road.
Brakes: By law a child's Bicycle is required to have at least one working brake.
Bell or Horn: Under the NSW road rules your Bicycle must be fitted with at least one working bell or horn, or a similar warning device.
Tyres: Tyres should be appropriate to the size of the child's bicycle and inflated to the pressure as listed on the tyre wall.

Safety Check

It is recommended that all students carry out a 3 minute safety check before riding their Bicycle/Scooter. The safety check should include:

- Check tyres
- Check seat height



- Lift the handlebars spin the front wheel, apply the brakes and check that the:
- Wheel is properly secured in the forks
- Quick release levers are secure
- Wheel rotates freely without rubbing on the brakes
- Gears and breaks operate smoothly and directly

Safe Route planned

All children who ride their Bicycle/Scooter to school need to map and plan the safest route to and from school. They need to maximise the use of off road, on road Bicycle paths and roads that have low traffic volume and speeds. Under NSW law, children less than 16 years of age, and an accompanying adult if supervising a child, are allowed to legally ride on the footpath. This law was introduced because, whilst young children quickly develop skills required to ride, steer and stop a bicycle, their development limitations preclude the child's capacity to ride on a road shared with moving vehicles (www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

When entering the school grounds

- When students arrive at the school entrance they should immediately dismount their Bicycle/Scooter and walk into school. Bicycle/Scooters are to be left in the designated area.
- Once their Bicycle/Scooter is stationary children may remove their helmet.
- The Bicycle/Scooter will remain here until the conclusion of the school day.
- The children will then immediately return to the supervised area.

When leaving the school grounds

- When the student has been dismissed they will walk to their Bicycle/Scooter.
- Before touching their Bicycle/Scooter they must have their helmet securely and correctly fastened to their head.
- The children will then walk their Bicycle/Scooter to the designated area and wait for the duty teacher to take them out of the school grounds.

Responsibilities

Students:

- It is the responsibility of each student who rides their bike to school to read and abide by the St Nicholas Bicycle and Scooter Policy.
- To respect and obey all NSW Road Safety laws.
<<https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/bicycle-riders/laws.html>>
- Failure to meet student requirements and responsibilities will result in the students right to ride their Bicycle/Scooter to school suspended till further notice.

Parents:

- It is the responsibility of each parent of a student who rides their bike to school to read and abide by the St Nicholas Bicycle and Scooter Policy.
- It is the responsibility of each parent to ensure that; the correct Bicycle/Scooter and safety equipment is used; safety check has been completed by their child before leaving home; and that they have planned the safest route for their child to and from school.

Teachers:

- The duty teacher will ensure Bicycle/Scooter riders are wearing their helmet before leaving the school grounds.
- The duty teacher will ensure that no child mount their Bicycle/Scooter inside the school gates.

St Nicholas School

- St Nicholas School takes no responsibility for any damages which may occur while riding a bicycle or scooter to and from school, or while it is stored in the school grounds.



AMENDMENTS TO THE POLICY

Amendments may be made to the policy after consultation with the Staff and School Advisory Council. Any amendments to the policy will be communicated by the re-issue of the policy in its amended form.

EVALUATION

The St Nicholas School St Nicholas Bikes and Scooter Policy is designed to establish safe and supportive travel for students to and from school. The full support of the school community is essential in achieving and maintaining these goals. This policy will be reviewed when necessary or as circumstances require.