

Bike and Scooter Policy



Approved by:	Local Authority and School Governors
Date approved:	September 2022
Date of next review:	September 2024

At Meadowhead Community Junior School we recognise both the environmental and health benefits of cycling to school and wish to promote safe cycling to school. Cycling gives children freedom as it provides an opportunity for independent travel. The school encourages cycling 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. Partnership with parents and a clear understanding of responsibilities will help to support safe cycling/scooting. While the school provides a cycle and scooter storage area and cycle training for older children, the decision to allow a child to cycle to school rests with parents.

We strongly recommend that children who cycle 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.

a) Our school promotes cycling in the following ways:

- Undertaking cycle training for all pupils in Years 5 and 6.

- As part of the curriculum on health, safety, environment and welfare.

b) All pupils are asked to:

1. Provide and be responsible for their own bicycle/scooter **and lock.**
2. Wear clothes that are visible to other road users.
3. To be courteous roads users and to cycle/scoot in accordance with the Highway Code.
4. Investigate a suitable cycle route for their journey to and from school.
5. Let parents/guardians know the route they will be using.
6. Report any problems with their route to either the school or their parents/guardians.
7. Complete a cycle permit form School
8. **Dismount on arrival at the school gate.**

c) In order to help with this cycle policy the school provides a safe place for bikes to be stored.

Any issues regarding pupils cycling/scooter to and from school are to be raised with the Headteacher

The Headteacher monitors the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis and reports this to the Governing Body, making recommendations for further improvement where necessary.

Liability and insurance

Schools are not liable for property brought onto their premises including pupils' bicycles or scooters being stolen or damaged by a third party while they are at school. The school's insurance does not cover cycles on the premises, so parents are advised to make their own arrangements. Responsibility for children while they are on their way to or from school rests with parents. The school can take no responsibility for the safety of children outside school. We recommend that cycles are clearly marked or post-coded and that all equipment is named.

Permits

All children bringing cycles or scooters onto the school premises must have a completed cycle/scooter permit. The school may withdraw the permit at any time which will prohibit the cycle being brought onto school premises. All cyclists must have a permit to come onto school premises.

Storage

The Cycle and scooter racks are available on school premises for those with cycle/scooter permits. We recommend that all cycles and scooters are securely locked to a stand.

(Pupils/parents/guardians are responsible for the locks for the bike).

Training

All pupils will be encouraged to undertake cycle training if they have not already done so. Cycling training courses are available for pupils in Year 5 and 6. The school arranges for appropriately qualified companies to run courses. A scooter club is also arranged by school at Junction 4 Skate Park, Blackburn.

Maintenance checks

Cycles ridden to school 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
- front and rear reflectors and wheel reflectors
- both lights working

Safety

We recommend the use of high visibility garments such as jackets or tabards. Children are also strongly encouraged to wear appropriate reflective clothing and bike lights when visibility is poor. Lights should be in good working order. All cyclists should be aware of the rules of the Highway Code that relate to cycling and should follow these at all times. We suggest that parents identify the safest cycling route to school with their children and point out particular hazards and danger points. Cyclists must dismount on entering the school and carefully wheel the bike/scooter and secure it to the cycle rack.

No cycle or scooter may be ridden anywhere on the school site including the paths or carpark area.

Cycle Helmets

Although it is not a legal requirement for children to wear cycling helmets, **pupils are expected to wear a correctly fitted cycle helmet when riding to and from school.** These should fit well and conform to current British Standards.

Useful Website

www.bikeability.com

Please complete this form and return to school – use of cycles

If you wish your son/daughter to cycle to school, please complete the form below. It is important that we know the numbers of children cycling to school even on an irregular basis in order that we can make appropriate security and safety arrangements. Space is limited in cycle racks.

I would like my child _____ in Class _____ to use the school cycle racks.

I/We are committed to ensuring safe cycling for all as set out in the policy

I/WE understand that THE SCHOOL CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE THAT OCCURS.

I/WE note that the advice by the police and by The Road Safety Unit is that children should not ride on the road unaccompanied.

Only children who have passed the Bikeability Level 2 Course and have been judged competent road cyclists can cycle to school BUT PARENTS MUST USE THEIR OWN JUDGEMENT IN ALLOWING OVER TENS WHO HAVE PASSED THE TEST TO RIDE UNACCOMPANIED.

The school does not encourage children to ride to school alone.

I agree to follow school policy and guidance on use of cycles/scooters

Name of child.....

Date of birth.....

Cycle make.....

Model.....

Colour.....

Features.....

Signed Parent/Carer.....

Date.....

Parent/Carer name.....

Approved.....

Please ensure you inform school should any of the details change.

Please complete this form and return to school – use of scooters

If you wish your son/daughter to scoot to school, please complete the form below. It is important that we know the numbers of children scooting to school even on an irregular basis in order that we can make appropriate security and safety arrangements. Space is limited in cycle/scooter racks.

I would like my child _____ in Class _____ to use the school cycle racks.

I/We are committed to ensuring safe scootering for all as set out in the policy

I/WE understand that THE SCHOOL CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE THAT OCCURS.

I/WE note that the advice by the police and by The Road Safety Unit is that children should not ride on the road unaccompanied.

The school does not encourage children to scoot to school alone.

I agree to follow school policy and guidance on use of cycles/scooters

Name of child.....

Date of birth.....

Scooter make.....

Model.....

Colour.....

Features.....

Signed Parent/Carer.....

Date.....

Parent/Carer name.....

Approved.....

Please ensure you inform school should any of the details change.

Important Notice to Parents

While Meadowhead Community Junior School wishes to encourage an increase in the number of pupils cycling to school, the decision as to whether your child is competent to negotiate such hazards as may present themselves on the route from home to school and back must be yours and yours alone. Meadowhead Community Junior School does not accept 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.

In signing this agreement you are agreeing to follow our Bike and Scooter Policy – this can be found on the school website or a paper copy requested from the school office.

School has the right to withdraw any permits to those children/parents not following the policy.