

# Jasper Road Public School



**Jasper Road Public School  
Bicycle / Scooter Policy  
Updated 2019**

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## Bicycle / Scooter Policy

### Policy Statement:

Students travelling to and from school, as well as those at school, need to feel and be safe.

JRPS and NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) recommend that children under 10 years of age DO NOT ride bicycles or scooters to or from school unless accompanied by an adult. Parents and carers are responsible for a student's travel to and from school. Students and their families agree to keep road rules and be responsible users and as part of this process parents/ carers will give written permission for their child to ride to school.

### Rationale:

Riding to and from school helps:

- reduce traffic
- reduce our carbon footprint
- promote physical activity
- provide an opportunity for supervising adults to talk with their child about road safety.

### Curriculum:

Jasper Road Public School will:

- teach students about safety on wheels as part of the PDHPE K-6 syllabus (K-10 in 2020).

Parents and carers assist to reinforce what is taught and the safe, legal use of bikes, scooters and skateboards by encouraging their child to:

- ensure students wear a helmet and protective gear
- understand and follow the road rules
- give way to pedestrians
- understand their responsibility for safe storage at school.

- want their students and community to be safe.
- encourage riding as one way to be physically active. Sometimes the busy roads and conditions around the outside of our school can impact on student safety. Riding may not be the safest option for the pedestrians or the rider. Jasper Road Public School supports and encourages safety for everyone with consistent safety on wheels advice and reminders for students, parents and carers.

## Riding Safely:

Jasper Road Public School inform parents / carers and students concerning:

- Scooters, skateboards and rollerblades (**wheeled recreation devices**) are subject to NSW Road Rules.
- **Cyclists in NSW** must also follow the road rules. Children under 16 and older riders who are supervising them may ride on footpaths unless signs specifically prohibit it.
- Children over 16 may not ride on footpaths unless they are shared footpaths. When riding on the road, riders need to keep to the left and where possible use marked bike lanes.
- All riders must keep to the left and give way to pedestrians.
- **Safety on wheels** has been developed by Transport for NSW to provide safety advice for parents and carers. Teaching and learning reinforces these safe practices as part of the PDHPE curriculum for K-10.
- It is legal to ride on some small roads however the Centre for Road Safety recommends children do not ride scooters, skateboards or rollerblades on roads. We fully support this recommendation.

## Management of safety:

Safe Bikes:

- All bikes must be in good safe working order fitted with working brakes, reflectors, a bell and lights if being used at night.
- A bell and brake are required by law.
- A safety check should be done before any trip on a bike and regular maintenance is recommended

Helmets and Safety Gear:

- Cyclists and scooter riders (at JRPS) of all ages are required by law to wear a correctly fitted and fastened helmet that meets the Australian Standard (AS/NZS 2063). **Parents and carers are asked to support the school and the department by complying with this law.**
- Schools may advise parents or carers if a student is not wearing a helmet. The school may request the student not bring their bike onto school grounds.
- **Transport for NSW** recommends riders of scooters and skateboards wear an approved helmet (meets Australian standard (AS/NZS 2063) and protective

gear such as knee pads and elbow pads. The department and JRPS supports this recommendation.

**At Jasper Road Public School** we are committed to developing safe places for everyone. Principals can deny permission for a student bringing a bike or scooter into the school if the school deems that the student is displaying **unsafe behaviours** when travelling to and from school, or if it considers bringing the wheeled device onto school property will affect the safety of others.

- Students must have written permission from their parents to ride a bicycle to school.
- Students must correctly wear a Standards Australia approved bicycle helmet at all times when in control of a bicycle or scooter.
- All RMS road rules concerning bicycles are to be followed. This includes the pedestrian's right of way on footpaths. The bell should be used as a warning when approaching pedestrians. Common sense safety rules should also be followed such as carefully negotiating pedestrians on paths and avoiding small children, travelling slowly when there are shared carriageways.
- Bicycles and scooters ridden to school must be in good, safe working order and bicycles must be fitted with a bell. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that the bicycle / scooter is in good safe working order and that all protective equipment as required by law is provided.
- Bicycle and scooter riders are expected to use the pedestrian entry point on Jasper Road, but not through the carpark gates, or Seven Hills Road. Great care must be exercised when crossing vehicle access points on both Jasper Road and Seven Hills Road.
- Students are to dismount before entering the school grounds and walk their bicycles / scooters whilst on site. Bicycles are to be stored in the bike racks next to the building beside the Support Unit. Bicycles can be locked with a chain and padlock supplied by the bicycle owner.
- Bicycles, scooters and helmets are brought and stored on school grounds at the owner's risk.
- Parents / carers will be notified if students do not adhere to the School's Bicycle Policy and permission will be withdrawn until the issues identified have been satisfactorily addressed.
- No riding of bicycles, scooters, roller blades or skateboards is permitted in school grounds during and after hours. NOTE: Skateboards and roller blades are not permitted at Jasper Road Public School, unless directed by teachers.

## Information from RMS 7/2/19

### Responsibilities for bicycle riders

Bicycle riders have a number of responsibilities when riding on and off the road. These responsibilities include:

- Bicycle riders must sit astride of the rider's seat facing forward, with at least one hand on the handlebars.
- Bicycle riders must not ride a bicycle that does not have at least one working brake and a fully functioning bell, horn, or similar warning device.

- Bicycle riders must use the storage boxes when provided.
- Bicycle riders must not ride a bicycle at night or in hazardous weather conditions unless the bike displays a flashing or steady white light from the front, and a flashing or steady red light from the rear. The bike also requires a red reflector which is visible from the rear.
- When in the left lane of a multi-lane roundabout and wanting to turn right, bicycle riders must give way to any vehicle leaving the roundabout.
- Bicycle riders must not carry more people on a bike than it is designed for.
- Where there is a marked bicycle lane in their direction, bicycle riders must use the lane - unless it is impracticable to do so.
- Bicycle riders must not ride on a crossing unless there is a green bicycle light.
- Bicycle riders must not be towed by or hold onto another moving vehicle.
- Bicycle riders must wear an approved bicycle helmet securely fitted and fastened on the rider's head.
- Bicycle riders must not carry a passenger who is not wearing a securely fitted and fastened helmet.
- Bicycle riders must keep to the left of any oncoming bicycle rider or pedestrian on a footpath, shared path or separated path.

## **Riding in traffic**

Bicycle riders must use a bicycle lane where one is available. If there is no bicycle lane, ride to the left of the road but avoid grates, debris and parked cars.

When riding in traffic you must stop:

- At red lights
- At stop signs
- At give way signs if there is traffic travelling on the crossroad
- At a railway crossing when:
  - There is a stop sign
  - The crossing lights are flashing
  - The boom gate is down
  - A railway employee signals traffic to stop
  - A train is coming
- When entering a roadway, it is advisable especially from driveways.

## **Hand signals**

Hand signals help to tell other road users what you are doing and where you are going. You are required by law to give a hand signal when turning right or merging to the right lane. When signalling, do so about 30 metres before you turn or change lanes or lane position. Giving a hand signal does not guarantee your safety. Assess the actions of other road users around you to make sure it is safe before turning or changing lanes.

## School zones and school buses

School zones are signposted and operate outside schools in the morning (8am through to 9.30am) and in the afternoon (2.30pm through to 4pm) during school term time. There are also a small number of school zones that have different operating hours to suit the individual school.

As a road user, you are required to give way to children crossing the road at a pedestrian crossing. You should also follow the direction of a pedestrian crossing supervisor using the handheld stop/slow sign. Be wary of car doors opening and other potential hazards like children running across the road.

Buses can pose a hazard to bicycle riders. Buses may pull out at any time in front of you so allow yourself plenty of clearance and move quickly.

You must give way to a bus that is attempting to merge into traffic in accordance with the law.



## Shared paths

Shared paths are paths designed for pedestrian and bicycle use. Shared paths are signposted and marked so you can tell if you are meant to share the path with pedestrians. When riding on a shared path, keep to the left at all times unless it is impractical to do so, and give way to pedestrians. You should also adjust your speed to suit the environment. Use your bell or horn to signal your presence to other users of the shared path, especially when approaching pedestrians and other riders. As a bicycle rider, you must overtake on the right hand side. Be particularly careful around young children, older pedestrians and animals.

## Riding on a footpath

Generally, bicycle riders must not ride on a footpath. However, children under the age of 16 years can ride on the footpath unless there is a NO BICYCLES sign.

Bicycle riders aged 16 years or older must not ride on a footpath unless:

1. The rider is an adult accompanying and supervising a child who is under 16 years old.
2. The rider is aged 16-17 years, and is cycling under the supervision of an adult accompanying a child under 16 years old.