

## ST. HELEN'S C. OF E. (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Road Safety Policy

#### Rationale

It is well noted that the amount of traffic on the roads has increased dramatically over recent years. As a result, too many accidents involving children occur nationally on a daily basis. Moreover, accidents concerning children during their home to school journeys arise too frequently. By adopting this policy the school community acknowledges that we have a duty to help prevent such tragedies and will ensure to meet our educational responsibility to contribute to the effective road safety education to all students in its care.

#### Aims

1. To establish and maintain a school ethos that incorporates:-
  - I. safer journeys to school
  - II. promoting walking to school
  - III. congestion-free school gates
  - IV. Promoting other forms of transport for school journeys (i.e. bikes, scooters, etc.).
2. To educate children and parents in road safety issues and make them aware of the dangers of road traffic around the school environment.
3. To encourage children to take the road safety issues that they have learnt from school and adopt them in other areas of their lives (i.e. around their home environment etc.) so they may become confident with these skills.
4. To ensure the road safety issues that have been taught to children at an early age are part of a sustainable long term strategy which can be used as a building block that can be built on as they get older.
5. To encourage a healthy attitude and walking culture amongst the school community that will lead to a healthier life style.

#### Pedestrian journeys

1. The School will promote this policy by encouraging walking to school and for those who cannot walk to school to increase opportunities for walking during out of school hours with their families.
  - i. This policy will be available on the school website.
  - ii. Reminders in the school's newsletter promoting personal and road safety.
  - iii. Road safety education to highlight the importance of walking to school.
  - iv. Regular participation in national events such as Walk to School Week, etc.
  - v. Working with the school council.

2. Children to be educated in pedestrian skills and road safety in accordance with the relevant sections of the Highway Code. (PCSO visits).
3. Parents to be encouraged to model use of the Highway Code on journeys to and from school.
4. The school will investigate and review the demand and feasibility of walking buses in partnership with Devon County Council's Road Safety Officer.

### Car journeys

1. If the use of the car is considered unavoidable for the journey to and from school:
2. Parents should be encouraged to avoid parking near the school gates and park away from the school at a sensible location that will not impede the safety of others. The parents should then be encouraged to walk the final part of the journey to adhere to the school's "walking ethos".
3. It is an offence to stop (which includes dropping off) or park on the yellow zig zag lines either side of the school entrance and could lead to a fine or points on a driving licence. Rule 244 of The Highway Code states that parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs. Additionally rule 243 provides advice on where motorists should not park. These include:
  - near a school entrance
  - anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
  - at or near a bus or tram stop
  - opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
  - where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
  - on a bend
4. Parking inconsiderately reduces considerably the visibility of cars trying to use the area around the school entrance and junctions located near the school.
5. Turning in the school drive is also not allowed.
6. Parking in the school park near the entrance to the drive is only for staff working at school or pre-school and visitors. It is not for parent parking at the beginning at end of school day as this creates a safety hazard.
7. The parents of new children to the school should be provided with information about parking.
8. Car drivers should be reminded to approach the school community with caution, drive at a sensible speed and be aware of other road users and pedestrians in accordance with the highway code
9. All car passengers should be restrained by seat belts and child locks should be used if appropriate.

10. The schools FPTA (FOSH) will promote parents and carers parking in the car park on adjoining land (at owners own risk).
11. The school will promote car sharing amongst those who live in the same vicinity and rely on the car as their only viable means of transportation.

### **Bus /Taxi Journeys**

1. Children are to be reminded that they should enter and depart from the bus/taxi in an orderly and sensible manner with due regard for their environment and the carriageway.
2. Children will be accompanied to the bus/taxi by an elected school Bus Escort of the school who will be aware of road safety issues.
3. Bus/taxi drivers will be regularly advised to approach the school with caution and pay due care to other pedestrians and vehicles within the school environment.

### **Cycling**

1. Children are encouraged to cycle to school as long as they fulfil the following criteria: -
  - i) They have prior consent from their parents/carers and have informed the school office.
  - ii) They have participated in the County Cycle Training course (Bikeability).
  - iii) They wear a cycling helmet and safety gear made to British Standards specifications
  - iv) They are aged ten years or over
2. The school will annually review the demand for Bikeability Training courses and organize these events accordingly
3. The school will ensure that a training commitment from a qualified instructor will be available annually for children in Key Stage 2 so that all children leaving St. Helen's school have had cycle proficiency training.

## Road Safety in General

1. Communication between the school and Parent/Carers on road safety issues will be responsive to need as it arises.
2. The school should attempt to make and maintain links with Devon County Council and the Community Police and to work in partnership to ensure road safety best practices are upheld
3. The school's road safety policy will be provided on the school website.
4. Parents of new children to the school will be verbally briefed of the school's road safety policy during induction to school.
5. The school has developed a full School Travel Plan (See Appendix A). The Travel Plan is available on the school website

## Road Safety In The Curriculum

1. Time is to be devoted within tutorial periods for the topic of road safety and school travel.
2. Road safety issues to be raised at appropriate times during school assemblies.
3. The issue of road safety and school travel to be part of the schools personal, social and moral education (PHSE) and /or citizenship lessons in Years R to 6.
4. Road safety will also be introduced to children through class work, specialist events eg. Junior Life Skills, visiting speakers and national campaigns. Including, where possible, visits from police, fire.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of Resources Committee

Date approved:	29.11.2016
Approving committee:	Resources Sub-Committee
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## Version History

Version	Date Issued	Brief Summary of Change	Owner's Name
0.1		Initial document for discussion	Rose Colpus-Fricker

Version	Date Issued	Brief Summary of Change	Owner's Name
1.0	20.09.12	Approved	FGB
1.1	15.02.2013	Additional points included	Resources
1.2	25.11.2014	Reviewed – no changes	Resources
2.2	29.11.2016	Additional points included	Resources

## Appendix A

### SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

#### Aims

- To reduce the number of cars used for the school journey
- To reduce congestion
- To improve safety
- To encourage healthy travel and pupil fitness

#### What is the school doing?

- Liaising with Devon County Council Road Safety Officer for North Devon. Areas examined include yellow lines for 'no parking' outside school entrance, road crossing (pelican/zebra), speed reduction measures.
- Exploring the cost of a school bus to travel to and from the Londonderry Estate at the beginning and end of the school day.
- Liaising with the local beat police officer regarding possible offences of obstruction and dangerous position.
- Liaising with the Parish Council who have received complaints from local residents about blocked roads and dangerous parking by parents.

#### What parents can do to help?

- Where possible ensure that pupils walk to school.
- Consider sharing car journeys with other parents.
- Ensure that children only emerge from cars on to the verge or pavement not on to the roadway.
- Make sure that if a car is going to be parked it is not left on or near the crossroads or the junction opposite the school entrance.
- Parents are encouraged to notify the school of any road safety issues within the school community that they believe have the potential of causing an accident.