

Road Safety Policy
December 2017

Why have a road safety policy?

In the twenty-first century, the numbers of cars and other vehicles on our roads are still growing. The Department for Transport publishes annual statistics which show just how many children are injured, and how many die, on our roads every year. At John Ray Infants, we recognise that:

- There are now increased number of cars on the roads around our school.
- More children are travelling by car to school than ever before.
- Pollution and congestion is becoming an ever growing problem.
- There is a need to increase the fitness of our children without compromising their safety.

At John Ray Infants we believe that a road safety policy provides a framework of common understanding for children, staff, parents/carers and the community who interact with the school to provide a safe environment.

The main intention of this policy is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the children who use the services and facilities of this school. John Ray Infant School is concerned about all issues relating to road safety, both within the curriculum and day to day practices such as travel to the school site and organised school trips. Staff at John Ray Infants will, when necessary, liaise with the Local Road Safety Officer and Local Police on all road safety matters.

Aims

To ensure that children, their parents and teachers are safe on the roads. John Ray Infant School recognises the threat of death and injuries on roads to children, parents and teachers and has prepared this policy to reduce that threat.

- The safety of our children will always come first. Our most important priority is to prevent the death or injury of a child while in our care.
- If out and about with children on foot, we will always prioritise walking safely, in line with the latest safety advice.
- If transporting children by vehicle, we will always prioritise doing so safely, in line with the latest safety advice.
- We will teach road safety within the classroom, integrating it into topic work in a range of activities as well as planning whole school Road Safety assemblies and one off sessions around specific road safety issues.
- We will get involved in useful awareness-raising initiatives that promote road safety in our wider community, such as Road Safety Week and Walk to School week.
- We will aim to improve the safety and environmental standards of transport to and from our premises by having a School Travel Plan that aims to reduce use of cars and improve the safety of children on foot or bikes and that we implement and update annually.

How this policy will be reviewed and developed.

This policy was reviewed in the Autumn Term 2017 in conjunction with discussions from Staff, Parents and Governors.

We use our Parent Council Group to review our practices and raise awareness with parents.

The responsibility for Road Safety is seen as a joint role between the school and the home and we stress this in our prospectus.

Good Practice and Curriculum Planning

As a health promoting school, we include Road Safety as part of the curriculum, where children are taught knowledge and skills that will raise awareness for the need of safe behaviour.

The school has identified safe practices, which will be carried out during all school activities.

School Premises

- Parents are encouraged to wait for their child in the safety of the playground or to come to the main office and sign their child out if they are leaving other than the planned start and end of the school day.
- The car park is designated for staff only and parents are discouraged from parking there.
- Gates are kept locked at all times.
- There is a safe walk way that joins the Infant school with the Junior school.

Parents

- It is vital for the safety of all, that parents observe the road markings in and around the school. This point is reviewed in the termly health and safety review. (HT/H+S governor and site manager)
- Parents must ensure that children are restrained correctly in cars.
- Parents should help their children develop road safety skills and encourage them to become independent and responsible road users, before allowing them to walk or cycle to school.
- Parents are expected not to park in the staff carpark unless they are using the disabled bays.
- No parking is allowed by the entrance to the school, even for dropping off. This is due to the pedestrian crossings and carpark access.

Children

- Children are frequently reminded about safety on the roads both inside and outside the school and are required to use the marked crossings on site.

Journey to School

- Where possible parents and children are encouraged to walk to school.
- There is a school crossing patrol outside the school at the beginning and end of the school day.
- Staff are encouraged to car share during out of school training and after school meetings.

School Trips

School trips are used as an opportunity to discuss safe behaviour.

Pedestrian Trips (see risk assessments and Healthy and Safety File).

- Parents will be notified before any school trip. A consent form will have been signed in relation to short excursions off school premises.
- Adequate adult supervision will be provided (preferably using school staff only)
- Adults accompanying trips will be fully briefed on their responsibilities and duties.
- Adults should walk on the roadside of the pavement.
- One adult should be at the rear of the group and others spaced at intervals.
- When crossing a road any accompanying adults should follow the directions of the teacher in charge.
- In the majority of cases, a 'wave' approach should be used to allow children to cross roadways in groups (or 'waves'). Teachers should liaise with the EVC to ensure they fully understand how to implement this. In a minority of cases, the 'wave' approach is not suitable. In this case, adults should stand on each side of the children crossing the road. They do not have the authority to stop traffic.
- Enough time will be allowed for a safe journey.
- A full first aid kit will be taken on all out of school trips and visits.
- A mobile phone will be taken on all out of school trips and visits.
- When crossing roads, safe crossing places will be used wherever possible. If zebra or pelican crossings are used, the teacher in charge will proceed to the centre of the crossing only when vehicles in both directions have stopped and the adult helpers will lead the children across the road.
- See additional information on EVC website.

Bus and Coach Trips

- The children will wait inside the school until advised the bus has arrived at the pick-up point.
- Teachers will ensure that the children remain seated throughout the journey and do not distract the driver.
- A teacher or adult helper must disembark first.
- Coaches with seat belts will be hired and belts worn at all times by adults and children.

Transport of Children in Staff Cars

- Staff transporting children in their own vehicles must have a full driving licence. Their insurance policy must be valid and sufficient for this purpose. There must be the correct number of operational seatbelts and it is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that they are worn. The new regulations from September 2006 regarding booster seats will be adhered to.
- Booster seats are used when transporting children in staff cars.
- In the Event of an Accident a designated adult will take responsibility for the group whilst the incident is dealt with. Wherever possible, a qualified "First Aider" will accompany the trip.

Clothing

- Children and adults are encouraged to wear fluorescent bibs on local walks.
- Children and staff are issued with fluorescent jackets on all school trips.

The Curriculum

Road safety education has many links to the wider curriculum. There are links to traditional subject areas such as geography, maths and science as well as to citizenship and PSHE. The main part of our Road safety teaching will be through a comprehensive curriculum for PSHE.

Many of the skills children learn in road safety education can apply to other aspects of staying safer. For example, understanding simple rules, recognising what can cause harm, knowing who and how to ask for help.

The following objectives will be covered by children either in topic work, as part of PSHE lessons or during Health Week.

Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1

- To establish the difference between road and pavement.
- To study vehicles and traffic movement.
- To encourage children to listen and identify traffic sounds.
- To introduce children to crossing the road under supervision.
- To introduce children to people who help us in the community.
- Playing safely.
- To encourage children to identify and use safe routes.
- To work with local road traffic police.
- To increase the children's awareness and knowledge of the traffic environment encouraging safe patterns of pedestrian and passenger habits and behaviour.
- To assist the children in preparation for their future independence as road users.
- To promote the ideas of caring and sensitivity towards others in their use of the local environment.

Foundation stage specific

It has been proven that Forest School sessions provide children with an opportunity to learn about the environment, how to assess and manage risks and to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. This will therefore provide children with the opportunity to learn to experience and manage risk, and find ways to stay safer. Understanding risk is a key skill for being a safer road user.

Monitor and evaluation of the policy:

We will continue to maintain this policy through:

- Health Week
- Surveys to parents
- School / Class/Parent Councils.

Agreed by Governors:.....

Date:.....