

The Bellbird Primary School



Cycling Policy

January 2022

(To be reviewed Spring 2025)

Introduction

The Bellbird School recognises the many positive benefits of pupils cycling to and from school. We therefore look to encourage this form of travel behaviour in as many ways as possible. This cycling policy also includes the use of scooters.

Benefits of cycling to school include:

- Improving health through physical activity.
- Establishing positive active travel behaviour.
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness.
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community.
- Reducing environmental impact of the journey to school.
- Raising self-esteem

Role of the pupil:

- To ride to school sensibly and safely following the Highway Code.
- To take advantage of Bikeability cycling or scooting training opportunities as they become available, throughout the school, across the year groups.
- Behave in a manner which shows themselves and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling.
- To wear a cycle helmet correctly when travelling to and from the school site, including when using a scooter.
- To ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using bicycle lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.
- To dismount upon entering the school site and walk their bicycles or scooters to the storage area.
- To be aware of other pedestrians when wheeling the bicycle or scooter through the school site.
- To make their parent aware of any problems with their bike/scooter and to assist them with maintenance where appropriate.
- To use the bell as a warning when approaching pedestrians.
- To safely store the cycle helmet with the cycle or scooter in the cycle shelter.

Role of the school:

- To provide Cycling Training in Y6 and other bikeability opportunities if available/appropriate.
- To provide and maintain cycle shelter storage.
- To actively promote cycling or scooting as a positive way of travelling.
- To celebrate the achievements of those who choose to cycle or scooter to school.
- The Bellbird School is not responsible for bicycles or scooters brought on to or left on school premises and is therefore not liable for pupils' bicycles being stolen or damaged by a third party. The cycle storage is behind the school gates that are locked throughout the school day making it unnecessary for cycles to have a cycle lock, though children may use one if they wish.

- The Headteacher will notify parents if children do not adhere to the School Bicycle Policy and permission to ride will be withdrawn until the issues identified have been satisfactorily addressed.

Role of the parent:

While this school wishes to encourage an increase in the number of pupils cycling or scooting to school we strongly recommend that pupils wishing to cycle to school have undertaken the necessary Cycle Proficiency training available through school. More information on the Bikeability training syllabus is available at www.bikeability.org.uk

It is advised that you note the RoSPA advice that children below 11 years of age have not normally attained sufficient cognitive hazard perception skill to ride on roads independently. For children who are below the age at which on road cycling training is offered (Year 6) or who have not undertaken the necessary training and still wish to cycle to school, we recommend that these children must be accompanied by their parents. Children who have had some Bikeability training below this age, should still be accompanied by parents. This advice is also applicable to the use of scooters.

Although the school provides appropriate cycle storage, parents are advised to take out appropriate insurance cover as the school's insurance does not cover loss or damage to bicycles.

Recommendations for parents of children who cycle to The Bellbird:

- To ensure that their children are aware of, and follow the safety guidelines for riding on the roads or pavement.
- To ensure that children dismount from their cycles or scooters before entering the school grounds.
- To ensure the bicycle is the correct size, in good working order and well-maintained and encourage their child to do the same.
- To fit the bicycle with a bell and working lights.
- To wear the named cycle helmet (this is a condition) and encourage their child to wear bright and or reflective clothing/lights on the journey. (The school will provide every child with a cycle helmet upon entry.)
- To note that all bicycles and helmets are brought and stored on school grounds at the owners risk.