



# IRRAWANG PUBLIC SCHOOL

## BICYCLE SAFETY 2019 POLICY

Last Review: Term 1, 2024 Next Review: Term 1, 2025

Principal: Mrs Stacy Mathieson



This policy was developed using NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA now RMS) guidelines and in consultation with parents and teachers, through School Council, P&C and staff meetings.

### RATIONALE

The safety of our students is the first priority of Irrawang Public School. As a number of our students travel to and from school on bicycles, this policy establishes guidelines, which must be followed by students and parents if they wish to ride a bicycle or a scooter to school. This policy requires the support of parents who ultimately have the responsibility for the safe travel of their children to school when they are riding a bicycle or scooter. All children require active supervision when they are in a traffic environment. This policy has been developed to assist with that safe travel.

### SCHOOL POLICY

The Department of Education and Training and the NSW RMS recommend that **children under the age of ten do not ride bicycles to and from school unless accompanied by an adult. This depends upon each child's ability and readiness to deal with changing traffic conditions. It is further recommended that an adult periodically accompany them to maintain vigilance in correct road safety and riding procedures.**

- Students up to the age of sixteen (16) and their accompanying adults should ride on the footpath.
- Students must **wear a Standards Australia Approved (SAA) bicycle helmet correctly** at all times when riding a **bicycle or scooter** to school.
- All RMS road rules for bicycles must be followed, including giving pedestrians the right of way on footpaths and using a bell when approaching a pedestrian.
- Bicycles ridden to school must be in good, safe working order. **All bicycles must be fitted with a bell or horn, brakes and reflectors.**
- All bicycles and scooters are to be walked into the school grounds and stored on the school's bike racks.
- All bicycles, scooters and helmets are brought onto the school grounds at the students' own risk.
- Students who do not adhere to the school's bicycle/scooter policy will have their parents notified. Students **may be refused** entry onto the school grounds if they do not follow this policy.

**NOTE: Skateboards and roller blades are not permitted on the school grounds at any time.**

It is suggested that parents accompany children under the age of ten from time to time when they ride to and from school.

**Parents are also expected not to ride bicycles in the school grounds and to wear a helmet.**

### **LIMITATIONS OF CHILDREN IN TRAFFIC**

Children under 12 years of age (sometimes even older children) are particularly vulnerable to injury when riding a bicycle/scooter, due to:

- limited concentration span
- ability to scan not being fully developed
- unpredictability
- reduced peripheral vision
- limited concept of danger
- reflexes not being fully developed
- poor directional hearing
- limited size which conceals them from driver's field of vision
- judgement of speed and distance not being fully developed
- being easily distracted
- inexperience in using the road
- increased confusion caused by sudden changes in traffic.

### **ROAD RULES FOR CYCLISTS – Both students and parents**

#### **Riding on the footpath**

Children under twelve years of age and older riders who accompany them may ride on the footpath unless signs prohibit it.

Riders must ride on the left side of the path.

Riders must give way to pedestrians at all times.

Riders must use their bell or horn to warn pedestrians that they are approaching.

Riders must dismount their bicycles at pedestrian crossings and walk their bicycle across.

#### **Riding on the road \*\*different rules as of 2017**

Cyclists over sixteen years old cannot use the footpath unless it is signposted as a shared footpath or clearway or unless accompanying and supervising a young rider.

All cyclists must dismount their bicycle at a pedestrian crossing and walk their bicycle across. The same applies for scooters.

All cyclists must obey all road rules including:

- Riding on the left side of the road.

- Stopping at **STOP** signs.
- Giving way at **Give Way** signs.
- Stopping at **red traffic lights**.
- Stopping for pedestrians on pedestrian crossings or for pedestrians who are about to cross the road.
- Using a roundabout correctly – that is to give way to vehicles on the roundabout, indicate where you want to go and travel in a clockwise direction.

### **Parents' responsibilities**

Follow the school's policy.

It is a good idea to accompany your child if they are **under the age of ten (k-3)** when they **ride to and from school**.

Set a good example when riding a bicycle as children imitate adults, including wearing a helmet and not riding bicycles in the school grounds.

Make sure all bicycles are maintained in good road worthy condition. Check the bike regularly.

Make sure your child wears an approved safety helmet, which is fastened at all times.

Teach your child the road rules.

### **SCHOOL INIATIVES**

Teaching and learning activities in road safety are provided in Term 3 as part of the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PD/H/PE) syllabus.