



St Joseph's Primary School, Quirindi

Bicycle/Scooter Policy

This policy has been created in accordance with the RTA guidelines of Bicycle/Scooter safety.

St Joseph's recommends children to be 10 years of age before riding their bicycle/scooter to and from school, but ultimately the age of consent is the responsibility of the parents/carer.

Respecting Road Safety rules

All students who are permitted to ride to and from school must respect and obey all NSW Road Safety laws.

The correct Bicycle/Scooter and Safety Equipment

All children that ride their Bicycle/Scooter to school must ensure:

1. **A correctly fitted helmet.**

When riding a Bicycle/Scooter, children are required by law to wear an approved Bicycle/Scooter helmet securely fitted and fasten on their head. Look for the sticker certifying that the helmet meets Australian and New Zealand standards.

2. **The Bicycle/Scooter is the correct size for the children.**

The children should be able to stand over the Bicycle/Scooter with their feet firmly on the ground.

3. **The Bicycle/Scooter is in a safe and maintained state.**

Seat: The seat is at a height that allows the child to bend their knees slightly when their leg is in the most extended position.

Handlebars: Handlebars are well adjusted to allow children to confidently mount, start off, steer, pedal, balance, ring the bell and stop.

Lights and Reflectors: Good quality lights and reflectors will increase visibility on the road.

Brakes: By law a child's Bicycle is required to have at least one working break.

Bell or Horn: Under the NSW road rules your Bicycle must be fitted with a least one working bell or horn, or a similar warning device.

Tyres: Tyres should be appropriate to the size of the child's Bicycle and inflated to the pressure as listed on the tyre wall.

Safety Check

It is recommended that all students carry out a 3 minute safety check before riding their Bicycle/Scooter. The safety check should include:

- Check tyres
- Check seat height
- Lift the handlebars spin the front wheel, apply the brakes and check that the:
 - Wheel is properly secured in the forks
 - Quick release levers are secure
 - Wheel rotates freely without rubbing on the breaks
 - Gears and breaks operate smoothly and directly

Safest Route planned

All children that ride their Bicycle/Scooter to school need to map and plan the safest route to and from school. They need to maximise the use of off road and on road Bicycle paths

and roads that have low traffic volume and speeds. Under NSW law, children less than 12 years of age, and an accompanying adult if supervising a child, are allowed to legally ride on the footpath. This law was introduced because, whilst young children quickly develop skills required to ride, steer and stop a bicycle, their development limitations preclude the child's capacity to ride on a road shared with moving vehicles (www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

When entering the school grounds

- When students arrive at the school entrance they should immediately dismount their Bicycle/Scooter and walk into school. Bicycle/Scooters are to be left next to the school canteen.
- Once their Bicycle/Scooter is stationary children may remove their helmet.
- The Bicycle/Scooter will remain here until the conclusion of the school day.
- The children will then return to sit outside the office if it is before 8.30am and wait for the duty teacher, or if after 8.30am make their way to the supervised area.

When leaving the school grounds

- When the student has been dismissed from class they will walk to their Bicycle/Scooter.
- Before touching their Bicycle/Scooter they must have their helmet securely and correctly fasten to their head.
- The children will then walk their Bicycle/Scooter to the designated 'Walkers and Bikes' area and wait for the duty teacher to take them out of the school grounds.

Responsibilities

Students:

- It is the responsibility of each student who rides their bike to school to read, abide and sign off on the St Joseph's "Bicycle/Scooter Policy".
- To respect and obey all NSW Road Safety laws.
- Failure to meet student requirements and responsibilities will result in the student's right to ride their Bicycle/Scooter to school suspended till further notice.

Parents:

- Read and sign off on the St Joseph's school 'Bicycle/Scooter Policy' giving their child the opportunity to ride to school.
- Accept that it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that; the correct Bicycle/Scooter and safety equipment is used; safety check has been completed by their child before leaving home; and that they have planned the safest route for their child to and from school.

Teachers:

- The teacher on 'Walker's and Bikes' duty ensures that Bicycle/Scooter riders are wearing their helmet before leaving the school grounds.
- The teacher will ensure that no child mounts their Bicycle/Scooter inside the school gates.

Note: No St Joseph's student will be allowed to ride their Bicycle/Scooter to school without both the parent and student signing off on this policy.

Student

Parent

Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____