



BFPS Bicycle and Scooter Policy



Rationale:

At Banyan Fields Primary School we encourage our students to ride their bicycles to and from school. We must ensure that students are able to safely and responsibly transport themselves and their bicycles/scooters. The primary intent of this policy is to minimise the risk to all of the children under the care of BFPS.

Research from VicRoads suggests that children under 9 years of age do not ride bicycles to or from school unless accompanied by an adult. Their peripheral vision has not developed to a point that allows them to ride safely along the footpath and roads. In reference to this recommendation at Banyan Fields we allow students in year four to six to ride unaccompanied to school. Students in prep to three must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Aims:

To ensure that all students riding their bicycles/scooters to and from Banyan Fields Primary School do so in a safe and orderly manner and to ensure that students, staff, parents and guardians are aware of the expected and acceptable use of bicycles when riding to and from school.

Guidelines and Implementation:

N.b. Students will be permitted to ride scooters to school, as long as they follow all of the same rules set out for cyclists below:

1. Children must correctly wear a Standards Australia approved bicycle helmet at all times when in control of a bicycle/scooter.
2. All road rules concerning bicycles are to be followed. (Appendix 1) This includes the pedestrian's right of way on footpaths. Cyclists must keep to the left hand side of the pavement. The bell should be used as a warning when approaching pedestrians.
3. Bicycles/scooters ridden to school must be in good, safe working order and bicycles must be fitted with a bell. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that the bicycle is in good and safe working order and that all protective equipment as required by law is provided.
4. Bicycle/scooter riders are expected to use the closest pedestrian entry and exit points.
5. Students riding bicycles or scooters must stop and look at any crossing/end of footpath to ensure it is safe to continue e.g. car park entrances at school and roadways
6. Children are to dismount before entering the school grounds and walk their bicycles whilst on site.
7. Bicycles are to be stored in the bike shed provided. Bicycles must be locked with a suitable lock supplied by the bicycle owner. Bicycles and helmets are brought and stored on school grounds at the owner's risk.
8. All bicycle and scooter riders must agree to the Bike/Scooter Riders Promise (Appendix 2). This must be signed by a parent before any child will be permitted to ride to school. Any student failing to sign the Promise will not be permitted to ride to school on a bicycle or scooter. A new Promise will need to be signed annually and/or in the event whereby the permission to ride to school has been lost due to non-compliance of the guidelines set out in this policy.
9. Students in year five and six will be given the opportunity to complete the Bike Education programme to improve their Bike Skills and Road Safety awareness. Children under the age of 12 are permitted to

ride on footpaths, any child above this age must not ride on the footpaths and therefore adequate education is required.

10. Skateboards and rollerblades are not permitted at Banyan Fields Primary School under any Circumstances.

Process for students who do not follow the Bicycle and Scooter Policy

- Students will have their bicycle removed and their parents will be notified.
- Parents will be required to collect the bike from school and the student will receive a ban from riding to and from school for one week.
- Students whose parents are unable to pick up their bike will be allowed to ride home the following day, and they will also receive a one week ban from riding their bike.
- All students who have privileges removed will need to have a new Bike/Scooter Riders Promise signed.
- Any student who repeatedly fails to follow the requirements set out within this policy will not be permitted to ride to school for the remainder of the school year.

In the event where the said policy may create hardship in enabling the child to get to and from school the parent is asked to advise BFPS of such circumstances, at which time a mutually acceptable compromise may be agreed upon.

<u>Evaluation:</u>	This policy will be reviewed by the School Council as part of the school's three-year review cycle.
<u>Policy dated:</u>	September 2015
<u>Date of next review:</u>	September 2018

Appendix 1

Reference to Bicycle and Scooter Policy

The following information is taken directly from the Vic Roads website

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules/a-to-z-of-road-rules/bicycles>

Bicycle helmets

Riders and passengers of bicycles must wear a securely fitted and fastened helmet. These helmets must have a mark showing that they comply with the Australian Standard, AS/NZS2063.

For helmets manufactured or imported from 1 July 2012, the helmet must be marked with the symbol of a JAS-ANZ (External link) accredited company to show they meet the standards.

Helmets must be worn when riding on roads and road-related areas like bike paths, bike lanes, shared and separated footpaths.

VicRoads has the authority to give a bicycle rider or passenger an exemption from wearing a bicycle helmet. For more information see our Exemptions from wearing a bicycle helmet page.

See our wearing a bicycle helmet page for more information about helmets.

Bicycle seats and handlebars

When riding a bicycle you must:

- sit with a leg on each side of the rider's seat
- face forwards
- have at least one hand on the handlebars.

Bicycle passengers must sit on a seat designed for passengers.

Riding on a footpath or shared path

You can ride on a footpath if you:

- are a child under the age of 12
- are an adult supervising a child under the age of 12
- have been given and are following the conditions on a medical certificate that says you have a disability that makes it difficult for you to ride on the road. You must be able to show the certificate to a police officer or authorised person when asked.

Bike riders must keep to the left on footpaths and shared paths, unless impractical to do so.

Bike riders must give way to pedestrians on shared paths or footpaths (see above for restrictions regarding bike riding on footpaths).



Bike/Scooter Riders Promise



When I ride my bike to school, I will:

- Wear a helmet
- Walk my bike across the school crossing
- Walk my bike inside the school grounds
- Park my bike inside the bike shed without interfering with any other bikes there
- Obey the road laws including being courteous to other users of shared footpaths (keep to the left)
- When I come to a car park driveway crossing I will stop completely and look before continuing.

Signed _____ Grade ____

Parental Permission

I give permission for my child _____ Grade ____
to ride his/her bike to school.

I understand that he/she must obey the rules of the school and abide by general road safety including the use of shared footpaths.

Any breach of these conditions will result in bike privileges being withdrawn.

I have read the Banyan Fields Bicycle Policy and understand the rationale, aims and implementation strategies.

Signed: _____ (Parent) Date: _____

