

Yarrowarrah Public School BICYCLE and SCOOTER POLICY Updated 2023

Yarrowarrah Public School's Bicycle and Scooter Policy is consistent with Department of Education and Transport for NSW Guidelines for safe wheel users. Yarrowarrah Public School encourages safe, active travel through walking or riding to and from school to promote physical activity and positive road safety behaviours as individuals now and into the future. The staff thanks the parents/carers of Yarrowarrah Public School students for supporting safe, active travel. Road safety is taught as a mandatory part of the PDHPE curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 6.

The Bicycle and Scooter Policy is a shared agreement between the school, parent/carers and students. Yarrowarrah Public School encourages all **Kindergarten to Year 4 students** to use bicycles and scooters for travel to and from school when **accompanied by a parent/adult carer** providing active supervision. **Only Year 5 and 6 students** are allowed to use bicycles and scooters to travel to and from school **independently**. Students must demonstrate responsibility for their own safety, their equipment and the safety of others. Students travelling to and from school, as well as those at school, need to feel and be safe.

This Policy is informed by NSW Department of Education (see: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/wellbeing/health-and-safety/safe-travel/travelling-safely-to-and-from-school-on-a-bike-or-scooter>) and Transport for NSW.

What does Transport NSW say?

- Children under 10 years of age should be actively supervised by an adult when riding a bicycle or scooter.
- All children under 12 years of age should ride in a safe place off the road, such as a footpath or bicycle path, and away from vehicles and driveways.
- Any person over 16 years of age cannot ride on footpaths, unless they are supervising a wheel-user who is under 16 years of age. It is recommended children ride away from busy roads.

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- How your child travels to and from school.
- Ensuring your child correctly wears an approved bicycle helmet at all times when in control of a bicycle or scooter (see: <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/bicycle-riders/helmets-gear.html>).
- Teaching your child the road rules. All road rules concerning bicycles are to be followed (see: <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/bicycle-riders/laws.html>). This includes the pedestrian's right of way on footpaths. A bell should be used as a warning when approaching pedestrians.
- Maintaining your child's bicycle and/or scooter. Bicycles and scooters ridden to school must be in good, safe working order and bicycles must be fitted with a bell.

- Support Yarrawarra Public School's road safety education program by instructing your children in the rules of road safety and maintaining your child's bicycle or scooter as a matter of routine. (See attached Bicycle and Helmet Safety Checklist).
- Completing the Parent and Carer Agreement issued by our school. This is to be returned to the principal prior to the first time your child rides to school.

Students who ride a bicycle and/or scooter to school are responsible for:

- Completing a Bicycle and Scooter Rider's Agreement (either Kindergarten-Year 4 Supervised Agreement or Years 5 and 6 Independent Rider Agreement) issued by our school. This is to be returned to the principal prior to the first time your child rides to school.
- Dismounting before entering the school grounds using the council oval entry/exit gate and walking their bicycle or scooter whilst inside the school grounds.
- Storing their bicycle or scooter inside the school grounds, alongside the fence next to the council oval. Bicycles and scooters may be locked with a chain and padlocked (supplied by the bicycle owner).
- Bicycles or scooters and helmets are brought and stored at school at the owner's risk and are not the responsibility of the school.

Parents and carers will be notified if their child does not follow the school's Bicycle and Scooter Policy.

Students may be banned from bringing their bicycle and/or scooter onto school grounds if they breach this policy or school rules.

Skateboards, rollerblades and any other wheeled devices are not to be ridden to and from Yarrawarra Public School.

The Principal has the right of discretion to make provision for departure from the policy or the application of the policy in the event of unforeseen and exceptional circumstances.

Kyleigh Nash
Principal

Endorsed by
P&C President and Committee

More information is available from:

1. Department of Education:

- Riding a bike to and from school

2. Transport NSW

- NSW road rules, bicycle laws and penalties in NSW
- Helmet and safety gear
- A Handbook for bicycle riders

Bicycle and Helmet Safety Checklist

Feature	What are You Checking For	How Does Your Bicycle Rate?
Tyres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● firm tyres ● tread not worn and no canvas showing ● no bulges or cuts 	
Bell/ Horn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● sounds clearly and loudly 	
Pedals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● rotate freely when spun ● rubber not showing signs of wear 	
Lights and Reflectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● secure, clean and shine brightly 	
Brakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● blocks not worn down when brakes applied ● bike wheel does not rotate when brakes are applied 	
Chain / Gears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● does not move more than 2.5 cm when lifted ● is well oiled 	
Helmet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helmet shell and lining are not damaged ● Helmet straps and buckles are not damaged ● Helmet sits on top of the head (two fingers width between eyebrows and helmet edge) and can be firmly buckled under the chin 	
Size of Bike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● correct size for rider (see information below) 	

What is required by law:

A bicycle must be fitted with a working horn or bell and at least one working brake.

What is the right size of bicycle?

The right size of bicycle:

- Has controls within reach
- Is comfortable for the rider
- Has a level seat
- The rider's feet should just touch the ground when the rider is sitting on the seat
- Handlebars should allow for the arms to be slightly bent as the body leans forward
- The bicycle is the right size if the rider can straddle the crossbar with both feet flat on the ground, otherwise the bicycle is too big and therefore, unsafe. There should be about 3cm between the bicycle and the rider's crotch for a medium or lightweight bicycle. For a BMX or mountain bike there should be a 10cm gap. If there is no crossbar, make the test from where the crossbar would be.