ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION POLICY

RATIONALE

Road safety education at Winston Hills School is integral to the safety and wellbeing of our students. A whole-school approach involves our school, parents and carers working together to implement road safety education. It involves integrating the areas of curriculum, policy, ethos and environment and parents and community.

AIM

This policy aims to provide our school community with recommended guidelines for safe road use behavior for pedestrians, passengers, bus commuters and bicycle riders.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Winston Hills Primary School is located on Hillcrest Ave in a residential area. Traffic flow is light during the day, peaking before and after school.

There are two pedestrian access gates on Hillcrest Ave. The crossing gate leads directly to a pedestrian crossing, which is supervised before and after school. The clinic gate is for pedestrians and bicycle riders.

There is a rear pedestrian entrance to the school, located from the park in Ixion Street. This gate is also used by bicycle riders.

Only students aged 10 years and older are permitted to ride their bikes to school unaccompanied by an adult.

Bicycle riders may enter the school grounds after 8.30am via the clinic gate and back gate only. Students are to store their bicycles in the bike racks situated outside the living skills computer room.

A teacher supervises afternoon bus duty for students to exit the school via the bus gate.

The majority of students travel to school by car. A number travel by foot, a minority travel by bus and a few children ride their bicycles to school.

There is limited parking directly outside the school on Hillcrest Ave. There are two school car park entrances into the school. One is located on Hillcrest Ave and is used by staff and delivery vehicles only. The gate is sign-posted to restrict unauthorised vehicle access. The car park entrance on Junction Road is also used as a kiss and drop zone for the Support Unit. The whole school can access this kiss and drop zone from 8.45 in the morning only.
CURRICULUM

Winston Hills Public School will provide teaching and learning programs that lead to the achievement of student outcomes as specified in the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education K-6 Syllabus (Board of Studies, NSW, 1999). Effective road safety education will provide our students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to help them make informed, safe decisions in the road environment.

Teaching and learning will be programmed as part of our school’s PDHPE program. These programs include passenger, pedestrian and safety on wheels teaching and learning activities using the RTA Move Ahead With Street Sense kits. Bus safety education is provided as part of passenger and pedestrian safety.

Teaching and learning programs will:

• be implemented in each Stage of learning
• provide students with learning experiences in the traffic environment e.g. using the pedestrian crossing on Hillcrest Avenue, safe bus travel and travel training in the Support Unit
• aim to address the road safety needs based on our local traffic environment
• reflect current road safety resources, information and research
• be appropriate to the level of understanding, needs and cultural differences of students

These teaching and learning experiences may be enhanced by:

• Participation in the annual Walk Safely to School Day.

POLICY, ETHOS AND ENVIRONMENT

The approach to road safety education programs at our school reflects the Department of Education and Training’s Road Safety Education, Driver Education and Training Policy, 2007.

Current school practices that support road safety education programs are extensive. They include:

Managing the entry and exit of students by:

• identifying and promoting the safe use of pedestrian entry/exit gates
• identifying and promoting designated waiting areas for pedestrians, bus travellers
• supporting the RTA’s crossing supervisor positioned at the Hillcrest Ave pedestrian crossing before and after school
• developing and highlighting wet weather travel procedures for before and after school periods
• providing a teachers to undertake afternoon bus supervision duties
• having staff park in designated areas
• closing school pedestrian gates during from 9.00am-3.00pm
• maintaining signage to assist with risk management within school grounds e.g. signposting the car park driveway to restrict pedestrian or unauthorised access, staff only
• ensuring delivery truck drivers have designated areas in which to deliver goods
• reviewing and addressing the school traffic environment as needs arise

Managing the behaviour of students travelling to and from school by:

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• reminding students of safe travel behaviour and enforcing the school’s discipline code and school rules regarding safe travel to and from school, at assemblies, in newsletters and with individual students
• reinforcing the use of pedestrian crossings, wearing seatbelts as passengers, boarding, travelling and alighting from buses
• reinforcing that students 10 years and older exclusively ride their bicycles to school
• reinforcing the wearing of helmets and protective gear when riding bicycles
• school staff modelling and reinforcing appropriate road safety behaviours and attitudes whilst on excursions, during school activities e.g. sport, and around the school
• using excursions, sport and community walks as opportunities for students to practice and enhance their decision making skills in the traffic environment
• highlighting new traffic environments/facilities outside and near to the school, as they are installed
• utilising the RTA resource, A Practical Guide to Addressing Road Safety Issues Around Schools, to resolve road safety issues around the school
• reducing misbehaviour on buses by using the guidelines Managing School Student Misbehaviour on Buses Information for Bus Operators and School Principals, NSW Department of Transport
• liaising with bus operators to outline expected bus travel behaviours and facilitate discussion on issues that arise
• supervising the safe travel of students by bus during excursions, sport and other related school activities
• ensuring safety guidelines are met when private motor vehicles are used by staff and Support Unit taxi drivers to transport students to school, home, sporting events or excursions.

PARENTS AND COMMUNITY

Our school currently provides parents and carers with information to reinforce road safety messages on a regular basis through:

• parent meetings, including parent teacher nights, P & C meetings
• newsletters, take home notes, fact sheets, RTA pamphlets/stickers
• the school website
• excursion permission notes
• assemblies
• school representative council (SRC)
• school foyer/library/community venues/on the school fence
• the distribution of the RTA Kindergarten Orientation Packs at Kindergarten Orientation, school information days/evenings and open days, high school orientation days
• safety days and community events, e.g. Walk Safely to School Day
• liaising with the local council’s Road Safety Officer and school community to review and discuss traffic concerns in the school environment
• liaising with the NSW Police Service for speeding concerns outside the school and with the local council’s Road Safety Officer for illegal parking

This information includes:
• laws, offences and penalties for illegal parking and driving in school zones
• correct use of road traffic facilities surrounding the school including using the pedestrian crossing, which is supervised before and after school
• limitations of children in traffic, and the danger of parked cars

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• the importance of holding a young child’s hand (up to 10 years of age) and closely supervising the travel of children up to 12 years of age
• safe bus travel and correct parking around bus zones/stops
• reinforcement of safe travel behaviours as a pedestrian, car and bus passenger on the bottom of parental permission notes for students travelling on school related activities
• safe use of bicycles by students to and from school
• school guidelines for the use and storage of bicycles by students for travel to and from school
• messages designed by students promoting safe road use
• use of private motor vehicles by staff, parents and students for travelling to and from school and school related activities such as sport, excursions
• updates on changes to traffic law and RTA/police campaigns

Parents, carers and the wider school community are asked to support student road safety behaviours by:
• modelling safe road user behaviour and abiding by NSW Road Rules
• parking vehicles correctly outside the school and observing all parking signs in and around the school site
• encouraging young students up to 10 years of age to hold an adult’s hand in the traffic environment
• actively supervising the travel of young students, particularly those up to 12 years of age
• ensuring that children are adequately protected when travelling in cars through the use of seat-belts and suitable seating restraints (child seats, booster seats)
• reading and discussing the Bicycle, foot scooter, skateboard and rollerblades rider’s agreement with your child/ren and completing and returning the Bicycle, foot scooter, skateboard and rollerblade rider’s permission note to Ms Matthews prior to your child riding to school
• ensuring that children play safely on wheels (bicycles, foot scooters, rollerblades, skateboards) by providing protective gear, helmets and well maintained equipment
• reinforcing the safety messages delivered at school
• bringing road safety issues in and around the school to the attention of school staff
• using the designated entry and exit gates to the school

EVALUATION

This policy will be evaluated as the need arises and inline with current DET policies and documentation. This Road Safety Education Policy was written on 27 May, 2011.

Teachers
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Principal
Maxelle Matthews

The document is due for review in 2013.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

• recognising and rewarding students who demonstrate safe travel behaviours, through stickers and merit certificates
• painting the posts of the pedestrian gates bright yellow to highlight correct access points
• translations of road safety information in community languages

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