

TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION POLICY

PURPOSE:

Rationale: "Children are exposed to danger on the roads everyday. Some 70% of all accidents and deaths to school age children are road traffic related. They use road traffic and transport systems as pedestrians (including skateboards and roller-blades), cyclists, passengers in private vehicles, and as passengers in public transport.

Children up to the age of nine do not have the sensory and physical skills and concentration needed to be safe in many traffic situations on their own. These children can learn and practice safe traffic behaviours in a comprehensive traffic safety education program."

(Reference: *Traffic Safety Matters*, Vic Assoc. of Traffic Safety -**V.A.S.E.E.T.** Edition 1 2003)

- To enable students to learn about their traffic environment and develop the physical skills and attitudes and behaviour patterns for safe use of the roads.
- To raise community awareness of traffic safety education issues through the college newsletter, college assemblies and information sessions.

GOALS:

- To promote the issues of Traffic Safety Education via a partnership between home, college and community so that parents become more aware of their children's needs and the difficulties they experience in traffic.
- To reinforce safe travel within the College grounds by walking and walking all bikes, scooters or skateboards until out of the school yard and also by using the correct exits.
- To encourage students to be responsible for their own safety and the safety of others when travelling.
- To prepare students for independent travel by learning about the transport system and by learning the skills needed for safe vehicle operation (eg. Riding a Bicycle, scooter or skateboard).
- To encourage students, through decision making and action, to improve their efficiency and safety when using our roads and other transport systems.
- To promote a community awareness of traffic safety through the implementation of Walk & Ride to School programs.

GUIDELINES:

- Engage and instruct the students and parent community, on key issues related to traffic safety conditions relevant to Baden Powell College P - 9.
- Parents/Guardians play a vital role in the child's learning about traffic safety. They should complement the college's teaching of traffic safety and be encouraged to play a part in the college's traffic safety programs.

- Effective traffic safety education programs need to be relevant to students' ages and abilities (*e.g.* 'Streets Ahead' for Junior School and 'Bike Ed' for Middle & Senior School) and combine the following three elements:
 - Knowledge and understanding of the road traffic and transport environment and the law
 - The development of physical skills to manage such an environment safely, whether as a pedestrian, a rider of a bicycle, a passenger in a motor vehicle, or a user of the public transport
 - The development of behaviours and attitudes and decision-making skills to manage the traffic environment in a responsible and safe way
- Students will be expected to follow all road rules while using bicycles, scooters or skateboard to and from school with consequences given out to repeat offenders.
- Students in the Senior and Middle school will be allowed to ride bikes to school unsupervised by adults. In special circumstances, the principal may give permission, for individual students in the Junior School to ride unsupervised.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The program will be implemented from Preparatory Grade to Grade 6 in sequential development through both the Integrated Program and through Specific Health Units. (*e.g.* 'Bike Ed' Unit). A program of support will also be provided for our Year 7/8 and 9 students.
- A Traffic Safety Award Scheme is recommended to celebrate safe road behaviour.
- Bike/Traffic Safety, as a community issue, will be constantly promoted through such things as newsletters, assemblies, curriculum delivery and walk/ride to school days.

To reinforce student's safety:

- *Students who ride a bicycle to school will be required to sign a Baden Powell College Bicycle Safety Code of Conduct' that sets out the safety requirements that students must follow. This form should also be signed by the child's parents/guardian.*
- *Students not following road rules (including not wearing a helmet) will be given two warnings. If they reoffend for the same incident a third time, then they will not be permitted to ride to school for a minimum of 2 weeks.*
- *Students who ride to school without a helmet will be required to leave their bicycle at school until they bring a helmet to ride home with, unless alternative 'safety' arrangements are made with their parents.*
- *Records of children riding bikes to school will be done through a Traffic Safety Bicycle form signed by both student and parent.*

EVALUATION:

- Observation of community compliance in relation to the Traffic Safety Management Plan.
- Monitor and record incidents involving traffic safety in the college environment.
- Seek community reports/opinions in relation to Traffic Safety.
- Evaluation of the program will also be gained from:
 - Long term changes in student behaviour and attitudes
 - Student achievement in Bike Ed. and Curriculum Programs relating to Traffic Safety
 - Students compliance with the Baden Powell Bicycle Safety Code of Conduct
- This policy to be reviewed as part of the college's two year review cycle, individually, in teams and with the community in 2016.