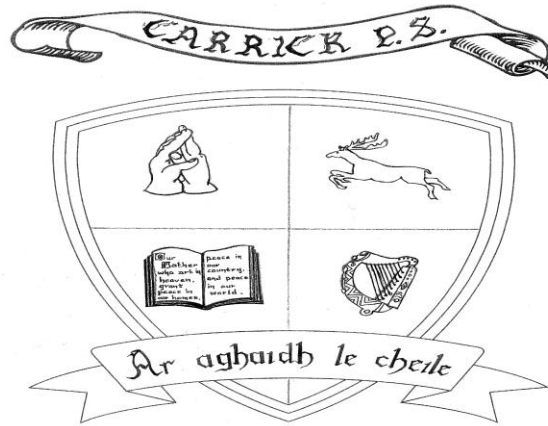


Carrick Primary School



Road Safety Policy

December 2023

Carrick Primary School

Vision Statement

Forward Together: Ar aghaidh le chéile

Mission Statement

In Carrick Primary School we aim to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment, in order to realise and celebrate the academic and non-academic potential of all our pupils. We expect our pupils to work hard and encourage parents to assist us in helping children to learn and to become lifelong learners.

School Aims

We aim to:

- develop and strengthen each pupil's understanding and love of Catholic values by promoting the Catholic ethos throughout the school;
- create a safe, enjoyable learning environment, in which effective learning is facilitated and quality teaching is provided;
- implement all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- help our pupils to develop a positive attitude towards life and a love of learning;
- value, respect and nurture every child in our care;
- encourage pupils to respect themselves and others and to support and care for one another;
- equip our children with the necessary life skills to enable them to participate in a fast changing society;
- endorse the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child and work towards the implementation of policies and practices which reflect the Convention;
- involve the parents, Board of Governors and wider community in the life of the school and in the holistic development of the children in our care.

The general aim of education is to contribute to the development of all aspects of the individual, including the aesthetic, creative, critical, cultural, emotional, intellectual, moral, physical, political, social and spiritual development for personal and family life, for working life, for living in the community and for leisure.

Road Safety Education is clearly a vital part of this aim.

INTRODUCTION

The ethos of Carrick Primary School centres around the maintenance of a safe, stable and caring learning environment in which pupils, parents and staff work together to develop self respect and respect for others. This policy document reflects the aims of the school, and takes account of the guidance received from the DOE and from the PSNI.

The school has consulted with the children, the staff, the parents and the Governors, in order to prepare and finalise this Road Safety Policy.

MORAL AND VALUES FRAMEWORK

Carrick Primary School values all of its pupils equally. It recognises the challenges of modern life. The school will strive, in partnership with parents, to educate children in the proper and safe use of roads, promoting safe behaviour and practice, as well as an attitude which respects those dangers which will be encountered on or near roads.

The school acknowledges the diverse backgrounds of its pupils and that they will, therefore, be faced with a wide variety of risks. Since perception, expressive language and understanding are critical to this “life skill”, lessons will endeavour to meet the needs of children particularly challenged in these areas.

Given this situation, one of the focuses of the school’s Road Safety Education Programme will be to encourage all of our pupils to develop their self esteem and confidence to enable them to make critical and informed decisions regarding road safety now and in later life.

The teaching of Road Safety Education will not solve all of our community’s road safety problems but without a carefully planned programme, our children will be ill-equipped when confronting the many issues and situations which can arise on or near our roads.

KEY AIMS OF THE ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- To place the pupils at the centre of a programme which helps them to understand the impact of road safety upon their lives.
- To equip children with the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to make informed choices and decisions about their own behaviour as pedestrians, passengers or cyclists on or near roads.
- To encourage parental responsibility.
- To make children aware that actions have consequences and that their behaviour should reflect this.
- To help children develop respect for themselves and others by encouraging positive role modelling within the school environment through peer support strategies; e.g. Circle Time, Drama Workshops etc.
- To enable children to communicate their views and feelings about road safety using appropriate language.
- To develop self-confidence and awareness in pupils so that they can give correct information and cope adequately with inaccurate information and detrimental peer pressure.
- To engage children in risk assessment exercises relating to road safety issues in hypothetical and real, locally based situations.
- To upskill the Junior Road Safety Officers who help to plan, implement and review Road Safety events and activities.
- To encourage children to cooperate with the Junior Road Safety Officers and support them in their role.
- To encourage the children to engage with the school's Sustrans events including the Feet First events and the Ditch the Dark event.

Background information.

Primary school age deaths and serious injuries in our province fall into the main categories of :

- ❖ pedestrians;
- ❖ passengers in vehicles; and
- ❖ cyclists.

Carrick Primary School will endeavour to make its contribution to community efforts to reduce road related child deaths and serious injuries through Road Safety Education.

THE ROLE OF ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

This school acknowledges that Road Safety is of prime importance to everyone connected with the school and the community.

Road Safety is, however, primarily influenced by:

- ❖ Parents;
- ❖ Parental attitudes; and
- ❖ Children's experiences at home.

In recognition of the important role of those with parental responsibility, this school encourages all parents to take time to model safe and responsible pedestrian and/or road practices.

Carrick Primary School believes that it is important for parents and children to realise that their behaviour has implications for themselves and others.

ORGANISATION OF THE ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Road Safety Education will be taught across the curriculum, but mainly through World Around Us, Religious Education, Technology, ICT, Art and Health Education.

Although specific topics will be addressed, Road Safety is best addressed through a combination of subject specific and cross curricular approaches. This approach will ensure that Road Safety Education is a regular and integral part of a child's education at Carrick Primary School.

Staff will use a variety of teaching strategies and approaches which incorporate the use of all of the children's senses. Tasks and experiences will reflect the maturity of pupils whilst taking particular account of the mobility and the visual and auditory needs of all pupils in practical situations.

Class teachers will deliver most of the Road Safety programmes. Occasions will arise, however, when the expertise of outside agencies and other professionals will be used including:

- ❖ Road Safety Education Officers for cycling proficiency and pedestrian skills;
- ❖ PSNI officers.

Normal classroom arrangements will prevail during road safety related activities. Where it is necessary to alter this, the consent of parents will be sought.

For example:

- ❖ An educational event related to a Road Safety Education topic; or
- ❖ A pedestrian training observation walk.

Teachers are encouraged to base as much Road Safety teaching as possible on existing schemes and topics and to include practical sessions in the locality.

STAFF TRAINING

Carrick Primary School recognises the need to develop whole staff awareness of our children's needs and strategies for ensuring that those needs are met. As issues and opportunities are identified, staff will engage in training in Road Safety Education.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT and MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

The Road Safety material used in Carrick will form part of the school's work within Personal Development and Mutual Understanding.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The school will seek to ensure that the Road Safety Education programme is relevant and accessible to pupils, regardless of age, culture, disability, gender, religion or social class.

In respect of Road Safety Education, we will ensure that children from rural/farming locations and those from residential areas all learn valuable lessons from our programme.

All children will be taught together through lessons appropriate to their age, development and ability.

Conclusion

This Road Safety Policy has been devised in consultation with pupils, staff, Governors and parents. A review of the Road Safety Education Policy, procedures and provision will take place every three years or sooner if necessary, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Road Safety Education Policy. Included in the Appendices are:

- Appendix 1: Proposed Lines of Development: Main Aims: Primary
- Appendix 2: At Carrick Primary School we are children who..
- Appendix 3: Road Safety Problems specific to our School
- Appendix 4: Bus Safety Charter
- Appendix 5: Safe Cycling Charter
- Appendix 6: Road Safety Charter

Signed: Dr A Cassidy (Principal)

Signed: Mr G Murdock (Chairperson of Board of Governors)

Date: December 2023

Review Date: December 2026

APPENDIX ONE

Proposed Lines of Development: Main Aims: Primary

Before they leave Carrick Primary School, most children should know:

Road Safety Elements	Foundation Stage/Early Years	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
Pedestrian Skills	<p>That it is always best to hold hands with a known adult when near roads.</p> <p>The importance of staying well away from machinery on farms, building sites, grass cutting machines and bin lorries etc.</p>	<p>The language and skills necessary to co-operate with adults who help keep us safe and help us to cross roads.</p> <p>How to implement the “Be Safe, Be Seen” message, in order to stay safe.</p>	<p>How to best apply the “Green Cross Code”, when they meet safety challenges on rural and urban roads.</p>
Passenger Skills	<p>How to behave safely in cars, buses and trains.</p> <p>The importance of using special seats and seatbelts when travelling in cars, buses and trains.</p>	<p>The skills necessary for safe travel in cars, buses and trains e.g. how to fasten seat belts, waiting, boarding, disembarking etc.</p> <p>Why tractors etc are dangerous.</p>	<p>Safe ways to board and disembark from all types of home-school transport.</p> <p>Be able to exercise appropriate road crossing after disembarking.</p>
Risk Identification/Hazard Control	<p>That roads and traffic can be very dangerous and that there are safer places to play.</p> <p>That there are special people who help us near roads.</p> <p>What is meant by “dangerous”.</p>	<p>That it is best to have help when crossing roads.</p> <p>The importance of wearing a suitable cycle helmet.</p> <p>That they can spot “dangers” for themselves by looking, listening etc.</p>	<p>How conspicuity might reduce road collisions.</p> <p>The basic safety rules regarding machinery on farms, roads, railways etc.</p> <p>What hazards and risks are and know how to carry out simple risk assessments for themselves.</p>
Cycle Training	<p>How to, with assistance, put on and wear a cycle helmet.</p>	<p>Which are the safest places for riding junior bikes etc.</p>	<p>How bicycles are best maintained and ridden.</p>

APPENDIX TWO:

At Carrick Primary School we are children who:

- ❖ Know that in P1, P2 and P3 we wait for our carers to collect us at the school door;
- ❖ Line up quietly and follow the teachers' and drivers' instructions when leaving school by car, taxi or bus;
- ❖ Help our friends or younger children when they are near roads;
- ❖ Ask **known** adults for help when we are on or near roads;
- ❖ Know that the wearing of seatbelts is the safest way to travel on all school and home outings whether in buses, taxis or cars;
- ❖ Always stay behind the leading teacher and in front of the rear guard when walking on school visits or outings;
- ❖ Walk in single file when walking on any road without a designated footpath.
- ❖ Wait patiently for balls, hoops, bean bags etc, which are on the road or on neighbouring property, to be retrieved by a member of staff;
- ❖ Are advised to bring bicycles onto school grounds, only if we are wearing suitable cycle helmets;
- ❖ When arriving at school, we dismount our bicycles at the pedestrian gate and walk them to the designated parking area provided and repeat this procedure when leaving school. In addition, we are not allowed to cycle in the school grounds at any other time without the supervision of a member of staff.

APPENDIX THREE:

ROAD SAFETY PROBLEMS SPECIFIC TO OUR SCHOOL

The Governors of Carrick Primary School appreciate the efforts of parents, pupils and staff whose care and consideration help to maintain a safe environment for the whole community.

All Governors, parents, teachers and children should, however, be aware of the following:

- ❖ The dangers present at “Arrival and Home Times” when the school bus drops off/picks up children. Parents are advised through Newsletters not to park on the hill which is designated as a bus stop and to maintain a safe distance from the school bus until it has departed;
- ❖ The importance of parking clear of the roundabout at the school entrance and complying with other traffic arrangements designed to maintain the safety of children and adults at Carrick Primary School;
- ❖ The importance of not parking in the disabled parking bays, unless you have a blue badge;
- ❖ The dangers of children being on the school premises in the mornings before normal arrangements for supervision are in place;
- ❖ The necessity for children to be collected punctually at the end of the school day;
- ❖ The potentially serious implications of unsecured children in cars or on the bus, being involved in a road traffic collision;
- ❖ The importance of encouraging children to use school crossing patrols in place on routes to/from school; and
- ❖ Parents collecting pupils by car, are strongly encouraged to walk up to school to collect children rather than driving up to the front of the school.

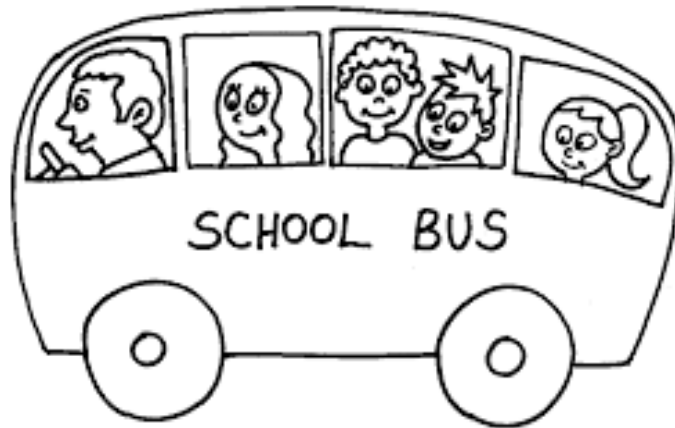
We acknowledge the assistance of DOE Road Safety Branch in the formulation of this Road Safety Policy.

APPENDIX FOUR

Carrick Primary School

Bus Charter

Drawn up by Carrick Council



On the bus:

- We will all wear our seatbelts to keep everyone safe;
- We will use good language;
- We will let the driver concentrate on his driving;
- We will talk to the Bus Prefects, the Bus Driver or a member of staff if we are worried about something to do with the bus;
- Everyone will be able to get off at their bus stop;
- We will all show good manners on the bus;
- We will always pay our bus fees.

Carrick Primary school
Safe Cycling Charter (Drawn up by Carrick Council)



Always wear a helmet.



Wear bright/reflective clothes especially in the evening and in autumn and winter.



Make sure your bicycle is in full working order, including your lights, brakes, tyres and chain.



Young children must always be accompanied by an adult when cycling on the roads.



All Primary Sevens should attend Cycling Proficiency lessons, where possible.



Always follow the rules of the road when out cycling.

Carrick Primary School
Road Safety – School Guidelines

(Drawn up by the Junior Road Safety Officers, Mrs J McStay and Carrick Council)

- When walking down from school all pedestrians must stay on the paths/footpaths and not take short cuts or run as the ground is steep and stony.
- Always wait until Mrs McStay leads you across the road. Never step out onto the road, before Mrs McStay.
- Children must cross the road with Mrs McStay or with a parent/carer.
- Always cross the road, in front of Mrs McStay.
- Don't run across the road; walk.
- When crossing the road with Mrs McStay, keep listening and looking out for oncoming traffic and any dangers.
- Never get out of a car, along the road; you must wait until the driver pulls in beside a pavement or pulls into a parking space, before you get out of the car.
- When you get into a car or the bus to travel to or from school, please put on your seat belt. This may well save your life and/or someone else's life, in the event of an accident.
- If you are travelling on the bus, always wait until the bus has stopped before taking off your seat belt and leaving your seat.
- When walking up to school from the Ballydesland Road or from the Bridge Road, always use the footpaths provided.
- When leaving school, always use the footpaths provided.
- Children are not permitted to go over to the park after school, unless they have a note of permission from their parents.

