



# **Cycling to School Policy**

2022-2025

## **INTRODUCTION**

Harmony Hill Primary School recognises the many positive benefits of pupils cycling to and from school. Working in partnership with Sustrans, we will encourage this form of 'active travel' in as many ways as possible. However, as a school, we also acknowledge the responsibilities we all have to ensure our cyclists are able to travel to and from school safely.

## **RATIONALE**

**Some of the benefits of cycling to school include:**

- Improving health through physical activity.
- Establishing positive active travel behaviours.
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness.
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community.
- Reducing the environmental impact of the journey to school.

## **SCHOOL ROLE**

**To encourage as many pupils to cycle to school as we can, the school will:**

- Actively promote cycling as a positive way of travelling.
- Celebrate the achievements of those who choose to cycle to school.
- Provide cycle storage within the school grounds.
- Provide high quality cycle training to those pupils who wish to participate.

**As a school we recommend that:**

- Each cyclist rides a roadworthy bicycle, correctly adjusted to his/her height and with effective, working lights.
- Each cyclist wears a correctly fitting and adjusted safety helmet which meets the relevant safety standards.
- Each cyclist should wear suitable safety aids and high visibility clothing, ideally with reflective material on it as well.
- Each cycle is locked if left on school grounds. The school is not liable for property brought onto our premises and is therefore not liable for pupils' bicycles being stolen or damaged by a third party.
- Whilst cycling to school, children who have not attended bikeability training are accompanied by a responsible adult.

## **PUPIL ROLE**

**To make cycling to and from school a positive experience for everyone concerned, we expect our pupils to:**

- Ride safely and responsibly and use the Highway Code.
- Take responsibility for checking that their bicycle is roadworthy and properly maintained.
- Behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling.
- Wear a correctly fitted and adjusted cycle helmet.
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using bicycle lights and by wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.

- Dismount at the school gate and walk the cycle to and from the cycle storage area.
- Have and use a lock for their bicycle.

### **PARENTAL ROLE**

**For the well-being of our pupils, we expect parents and carers to:**

- Make the decision whether the child cycles to school. Parents are the best judge of their child's ability and responsibility.
- Explain clearly to their child all the road safety and courtesy issues involved in cycling to school.
- Encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in cycling by attending appropriate training.
- Ensure that the cycles ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- Provide their child with the appropriate safety equipment such as high-visibility clothing, bicycle lights and cycle helmet, as appropriate.

**The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle to and from school safely rests with the parents/carer and the school has no liability for any consequences of that decision. Parents are advised to take out appropriate insurance cover as the school's insurance does not cover loss or damage to bicycles.**