

Barker's Lane Community School

Road Safety Policy

Rationale

Barker's Lane Community School is situated beside a road, on the edge of the town of Wrexham. Our children come to school by a variety of means: by car, on bicycles and walking. It is therefore vital that they are aware of the dangers and how they can minimise them. Teaching road safety can prevent children being killed or injured and improves their chances of being responsible road users throughout their lives.

Effective road safety education:

- is part of a whole school, whole community approach
- involves and encourages children in decision making and making safe choices
- is positive and rewards safe behaviour
- is a partnership

Aims

The safety of our children will always come first. All pupils will learn road safety through a range of cross-curricular activities and will be given the skills, knowledge and attitudes to make safe choices when using roads. We endeavour to work alongside parents in teaching children to be safe and develop a sense of responsibility. This will assist with the prevention of accidents or injuries.

Road safety initiatives

During Foundation Phase, the children have access to the 'Walkwise' programme, which is a practical programme aimed at helping the children to learn to cross the road safely in real-life situations. At the end of KS2 pupils are also provided with training on the safe use of bicycles, in the form of Bikeability training.

What makes road safety effective?

To ensure that the schemes and initiatives have a positive effect on developing the children's awareness of road safety and to ensure they make safe choices, we provide a range of cross curricular activities for the children to participate within. These activities encourage the children to:

- Listen
- Discuss
- Give their own opinions
- Reach a consensus
- Use maps
- Carry out surveys
- Review evidence
- Gain knowledge, understanding and practical skills
- Demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding to staff, parents, carers and other members of the community.

Learning outside the classroom

If transporting children by car, we will prioritise safety by adhering to the latest safety advice regarding seat belts and booster seats. If an external company is required, we will ensure that buses have seat belts for all passengers and these are checked by the lead teacher before departure. Prior to the excursion, a full risk assessment will also be completed, including where transport will be stopping and if there are any roads to cross.

Whilst on foot, we will ensure that pupils are supervised in-line with the school's policy detailing adult, pupil ratios and will use this opportunity to reinforce road safety e.g. the Green Cross Code. Accompanying adults will be fully briefed on their roles and responsibilities regarding road safety provisions.

In-line with the school's prospectus, children who cycle to school are to wear a helmet and will be encouraged to attend the Bikeability training within Year Six.

Any member of staff / parent who transports children must present the headteacher with a copy of his / her driving licence and insurance certificate. MOT certificate will be checked by the school office. There must be the correct number of operational seatbelts and booster seats must be available if required.

How can parents and carers help?

Parents and carers play a key role in reinforcing road safety messages. By developing a partnership between home and school, parents are encouraged to help their children develop road safety skills and, before allowing them to walk or cycle to school unaccompanied, promote the importance of being independent and responsible road users.

To assist with the safety of all, parents and carers and other visitors should closely observe the road markings outside the school gates. For the safety of pupils and other pedestrians, parents are asked to refrain from using the school car park as a means of collecting or dropping off their children and are instead asked to use the pedestrian entrance/exit at all times. Parking facilities are available for staff or visitors who hold a disabled badge.

It is the responsibility of all adults within school to reinforce safety messages. Reminders are regularly distributed to parents on newsletters.

Our local PCSO and Police Liason Officer support the school in its aims.

This policy document was compiled by Miss C Edwards in February 2013 and update in March 2019 in consultation with all staff and governors.

The headteacher, staff and governors will review this policy as and when necessary.