

West Exmoor Federation



Road Safety Policy

Reviewed in January 2023

West Exmoor Federation - Road Safety Policy

Rationale

It is well noted that the amount of traffic on the roads has increased dramatically over recent years. As a result, too many accidents involving children occur nationally on a daily basis. Moreover, accidents concerning children during their home to school journeys arise too frequently. By issuing this policy the school community acknowledges that we have a duty to help prevent such tragedies and will ensure to meet our educational responsibility to contribute to the effective road safety education to all students in its care.

Aims

1. To establish and maintain a school ethos that incorporates: -
 - i) safer journeys to school;
 - ii) walking to school as the preferred means of travel;
 - iii) congestion free school gates;
 - iv) investigate and encourage other forms of transport for school journeys.
2. To educate children and parents in road safety issues and make them aware of the dangers of road traffic around the school environment.
3. To encourage children to take the road safety issues that they have learnt from school and adopt them in other areas of their lives i.e. around their home environment etc. so they may become confident with these skills.
4. To ensure the road safety issues that have been taught to children at an early age are part of a sustainable long term strategy which can be used as a building block that can be built on as they get older.
5. To encourage a healthy attitude and walking culture amongst the school community that will lead to a healthier life style.
6. To support our School Travel Plans which cover all aspects of school travel and related health and environmental issues.

Pedestrian journeys

1. It will be pressed upon the parents that the preferred means of travel to school is walking. This will be done by:
 - i) this policy being strenuously stated in the school's prospectus;
 - ii) regular reminders of the school ethos being made in the school's newsletter;
 - iii) road safety education to illustrate importance of walking to school;
 - iv) regular participation in national events such as Walk To School Week etc.
2. Children to be educated in pedestrian skills and road safety in accordance with the relevant sections of the highway code.
3. Parents and children to be encouraged to either wear bright or reflective clothing or carry something of that description on their school journey especially in the winter and poor conditions

4. The schools within the federation will investigate and review the demand and feasibility of walking buses in partnership with Devon County Council's Road Safety Officer
5. Early Years and KS1 children should be collected from the playground by a responsible adult, or older sibling. Parents/carers of older children to be encouraged to collect their children from the playground if they are not walking home independently.

Car journeys

If the use of the car is considered unavoidable for the journey to and from school:

1. Parents should be encouraged to avoid parking near the school gates and park away from the school at a sensible location that will not impede the safety of others. The parents should then be encouraged to walk the final part of the journey to adhere to the school's "walking ethos";
2. The parents of new children to the schools within the federation should be provided with a map of the local area highlighting the parking areas which are deemed appropriate by the school ;
3. Car drivers should be reminded to approach the school community with caution, drive at a sensible speed and be aware of other road users and pedestrians in accordance with the highway code;
4. All car passengers should be restrained by seat belts and child locks should be used if appropriate;
5. The federation will promote car sharing amongst those who live in the same vicinity and rely on the car as their only viable means of transportation.

Bus /Taxi Journeys

1. Children are to be reminded that they should enter and depart from the bus/taxi in an orderly and sensible manner with due regard for their environment and the carriageway.
2. Children will be accompanied to the bus/taxi by an elected school Bus Escort of the school who will be aware of road safety issues
3. Bus/taxi drivers will be regularly advised to approach the school with caution and pay due care to other pedestrians and vehicles within the school environment

Cycling

1. Children are not encouraged to cycle to school because of the dangerous nature of the local roads. However, if they do choose to cycle, they may do so as long as they fulfil the following criteria: -
 - i) they have prior consent from their parents and the Headteacher;
 - ii) they have participated in the County Cycle Training course;
 - iii) they wear a cycling helmet and safety gear made to British Standards specifications;
 - iv) they are aged ten years or over.
2. The federation will annually review the demand for County Cycle Training courses and organise these events accordingly.

3. The federation will ensure that there is at least one representative, either teacher, governor or parent (unless there is a training commitment from an outside trainer i.e. the Community Police Officer etc.), is a qualified to run a course so that cycling can become part of the school curriculum.

Road Safety In General

1. Parents should be encouraged to notify the federation of any road safety issues within the school community that they believe has the potential of causing an accident. By the same token, feedback should be given to the parent once the matter has been investigated.
2. The federation should attempt to make and maintain links with Devon County Council and the Community Police and work in partnership to ensure road safety best practices are upheld.
3. Constant reminders of the federation's road safety policy and ethos will be provided to parents via the federation newsletter, the federation prospective, the federation website, occasional handouts etc.
4. Parents of new children to the federation will be verbally briefed of the schools road safety policy and ethos.
5. The federation will maintain a full School Travel Plan that will assist with monitoring, evaluation and planning for all school travel related issues.

Road Safety In The Curriculum

1. Time is to be devoted within tutorial periods for the topic of road safety and school travel.
2. Road safety issues to be raised on a regular basis during school assemblies.
3. The issue of road safety and school travel to be part of the schools personal, social and moral education and /or citizenship lessons.
4. Road safety will also be introduced to children through class work, specialist events eg. Junior Life Skills, visiting speakers and national campaigns.