



Monday 22nd September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many students cycle to school each day, which we encourage and support as a healthy and sustainable form of transport. However, we are concerned that a large number of students are doing so without wearing a cycle helmet, therefore putting themselves at risk.

Whilst we appreciate that image can be very important to teenagers and they can therefore be reluctant to wear a helmet, we also know that parents want their child to be safe on the roads. We want to support parents and carers in ensuring their children are as safe as possible and to normalise helmet wearing when on a bike ride of any length. Wearing a helmet can greatly reduce the risk of a head injury in a crash, and regardless of how competent a cyclist an individual student is, they cannot legislate for other road users.

Therefore, from Monday 6th October, all students cycling to school will be expected to wear a helmet. Those not wearing a helmet will not be permitted to bring their bike on to school site. If you are concerned about the cost of a helmet or any other reason, please contact your child's SAFE manager so that we, as a school, can help with this. We will be discussing this with students over the next few weeks in preparation for the new rules next Half Term. We hope that parents and carers will support us in this, and that students will understand that our priority is to keep them safe.

We would like to remind students and parents about the safe and legal use and storage of bikes, scooters, electric bikes, and electric scooters. Electric scooters and electric bikes must not be stored anywhere in the school site due to associated fire safety risks. Electric scooters are also illegal to use on public roads or pavements, unless they are part of a government-approved rental scheme and have valid insurance, which is not currently available for privately owned scooters. Therefore, students may be asked to provide proof of a hire agreement and associated insurance if seen on an electric scooter. Electric assist pedal cycles (EAPC) are legal provided they meet the government's requirements (see <https://gov.uk/electric-bike-rules> for more details). For their safety, students' electric bikes and electric scooters may be held by the school if they are suspected to be illegal. The school may prohibit the use of any transport method on school property and may ban students from using any transport believed to be illegal or that could endanger other site users.

As the darker evenings approach, we would also like to remind students and parents about the legal requirement to use bike lights when cycling after dark. By law, bicycles must be fitted with a white front light, a red rear light, and a red rear reflector when ridden at night. We strongly recommend that students check their lights regularly to ensure they are working. In addition, wearing high-visibility or reflective clothing whilst cycling can significantly increase a cyclist's visibility to other road users, particularly during early mornings and late afternoons. These simple measures can greatly reduce the risk of collisions and help keep everyone safe.

If you need any further support with anything covered in this letter, please let me or your child's SAFE manager know.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Morgan-Russell
Deputy Headteacher