



Kia ora koutou,

Well here we are at the start of term 4 and with it comes the warmer weather and longer days. Bring on the BBQs, and more time outdoors. As part of the board's strategic workplan, trustees have recently reviewed the school's policy on Road Safety. Children's Safety is of paramount importance to the Board of Trustees and that includes getting to school and home after school without incident. The Board of Trustees have clear policy in place, which is outlined below for your reference, and systems in place like the drop off/pick up zone. It is not enough to just have these things in place though, we rely on our parents and caregivers adhering to the policy, for the safety of **all** the children. The Board of Trustees make a desperate request to you to:

1. Read the policy below, share it with other family members and caregivers in your whanau and adhere to the guidelines it contains
2. Comply with the NZ road rules, and the Clive School rules in place around the drop off and pick up zones (as signposted there).

### ***Road Safety Policy***

#### **RATIONALE**

Road safety is an aspect of the children's education, which is a shared responsibility between the school and the parents and the wider community. It should ensure the safe arrival of the children at school, and their safe arrival home after school.

#### **PURPOSE**

- To assist the safety of our children as they travel to and from school.
- To encourage children to take responsibility for their own personal safety as they travel to and from school.
- To ensure there are rules and guidelines for all methods of transport children may be using while in our care at school.
- To educate children about Road Safety issues regularly.
- To demonstrate to all children that rules are made for their own safety.
- To encourage police visits to reinforce safety procedures.

#### **GUIDELINES**

- ***Parents, caregivers and other adults interacting with children are encouraged to model the following guidelines.***

#### **Walking**

- Walking children must walk on the footpath where one is available.
- Children must use the pedestrian crossings – school road patrol where available.
- Children are given age appropriate training at school on safe walking practices.
- The board does not stipulate a minimum age that children can walk to school and home unsupervised by an adult however, they recommend parents make the best decision for their individual child's safety and wellbeing. That decision should be based on the child's maturity, cognitive skills, reasoning and ability to follow directions.

## **Cycling, Scootering and Skateboarding**

- Children are given age appropriate training at school on safe scootering and cycling practices.
- **Best practices for keeping children safe recommended that:**
  - Children in year 4 and below not be permitted to ride a bicycle, a scooter or skateboard unless accompanied by an adult.
  - Children riding bicycles, scooters and skateboards wear shoes.
  - Children who ride bicycles, scooters and skateboards to school wear an approved safety helmet. This is law for bicycles.
- **The board of trustees support the recommendations above and will actively encourage parents and caregivers to adhere to them in the safe interests of their children.**

## **Buses**

- Children are given age appropriate training at school on safe bus travel. That includes embarking, disembarking and riding.
- Buses used for transporting school children must have a current certificate of fitness.
- Bus loading is the responsibility of the driver however the driver must not exceed maximum loading. When seatbelts are available they must be worn.

## **Motor Vehicle**

- When private motor vehicles are used for school trips, each vehicle and driver must have:
  - A current registration and Warrant of Fitness.
  - A current driver's licence.
  - Crossover safety belt. Lap belts are not acceptable (except in emergency).
  - Drivers agree to abide by the road rules.
  - Correct booster restraint seats for each child in the car dependent on age and height.

## **Car Park**

- When parents are picking up from school or dropping off, they should ensure that:
  - Children get out of the car from the footpath side door.
  - Parents may not park and wait for their children on any yellow line.
  - No children should cross over the front opening, or walk through the school carpark.
  - Parents must not get out of their vehicle in the drop off zone.
  - Parents may not park on the turning bay opposite the drop of zone.

## **General**

- Should a crash or unforeseen emergency occur involving a child from the school, police will be notified only after due attention has been paid to the scene.
- The priorities given to Road Safety are reflective of the needs of our local community.
- If parents or students see dangerous student behaviour when traveling to or from school they should report that to the Principal. The Board of Trustees Health and Safety committee will assess the level of dangerous behaviour and decide on a course of action.
- The school will include appropriate education safe practice programmes in the school's curriculum.

## **CONCLUSION**

Road Safety procedures are a lifetime necessity, which we, as a school, can help to establish firmly, at an early age, for the present and future benefit of our pupils.