

Williamstown Primary School Transport Safety Policy

Ratified by School Council: November, 2006

Review Date: 2009

In Victoria in the five year period 2000-2004, more than 10,000 primary school children were involved in road trauma. Road related deaths and injuries account for 62% of all deaths and injuries of primary school aged children in Victoria. In Victoria primary school aged pedestrians and cyclists are generally involved in a crash travelling to or from school or playing near home after school.

RATIONALE

The following points provide the rationale for the development and implementation of the school's Transport Safety Policy:

- Children use road traffic and transport systems as pedestrians, cyclists, passengers in vehicles and as passengers on the public transport system;
- *Arrive Alive! Victoria's Road Safety Strategy 2002-2007* aims to reduce road related deaths and serious injuries by 20%. Preparing children to use the road safely contributes to the Government's strategy;
- Traffic Safety Education (TSE) is an integral part of the Transport Safety Policy. TSE that is comprehensive and builds up gradually in degree and scope during children's schooling:
 - can prepare children to be safe and independent road users
 - can contribute significantly to the practice of lifelong safe road and transport usage;
- This Transport Safety Policy encompasses a number of initiatives and programs that are conducted at the school. These initiatives and programs include (*Bike Ed, Walking School Bus, TravelOn* and Walk to School days);
- TSE has application across the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). It has relevance in the Physical, Personal and Social Learning strand and in particular the Health and Physical Education domain and Civics and Citizenship domain;
- TSE is included in the Integrated Units of work every year at Level 1 and a two year cycle in Grades 1/2. In grades 3/4 *TravelOn* is used each year and Grade 5 children all complete the *Bike Ed* course;
- The TSE section of the Health and Physical Education Course Advice forms the basis of the curriculum; and
- This Transport Safety Policy acknowledges that the school has a responsibility to provide the children with learning experiences that will assist them to become safe road users

AIMS

This school will implement a Transport Safety Policy that aims to:

- Enable children to learn about their traffic environment and develop the skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours for safe use of the roads and the public transport system within the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS);
- Set the TSE Program in the children's own environment and social and cultural contexts here at Williamstown Primary School and environs, whilst following Department of Education and Training guidelines with respect to traffic safety;
- Raise school community awareness of transport safety issues through articles in the school newsletter, at school assemblies and at parent information sessions particularly at transitional levels Prep and grade 6;
- Encourage adults (parents, carers and teachers) in the school community to act as positive role models;
- Facilitate a safe road traffic environment in and around the school; and
- Build partnerships between our school and other schools in the vicinity, in particular St Mary's and relevant traffic safety authorities such as VicRoads, Department of Education and Training, TAC, Department of Infrastructure, Police, RACV, RoadSafe Community Road Safety Council and the local council in the implementation of a multi-action traffic safety education program for the children.

IMPLEMENTATION

In meeting the above aims, the school will adopt a whole-of-school approach in the implementation of this Transport Safety Policy. Implementation will include:

- Children participating in developmentally appropriate curriculum-based activities to develop skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours relevant to the traffic situations and environments that they regularly encounter, including take-home activities that encourage supervised practice in real traffic situations;
- Allocating funding for TSE resources through the Units of Work;
- Teachers having access to TSE Professional Development as needed;
- The school appointing a Transport Safety Coordinator;
- Guidelines for the implementation and delivery of initiatives and programs included in the Transport Safety Policy being followed;
- Transport safety issues being promoted to parents and the local community through the school newsletter, at assemblies and at parent information sessions; and
- Professional development being completed by staff members and parents taking/implementing *Bike Ed*.

RESOURCES

The school will utilise the following resources in the implementation of the Transport Safety Policy:

- VicRoads *Kids on the Move* (2006) to be implemented from 2007
- VicRoads *Bike Ed* kit
- School Bus Safety Workshops / Sessions
- VicRoads picture storybooks
- VicRoads posters and stickers
- RoadSafe Victoria's Road Safety Around Schools CD-ROM
- DOI *TravelOn*
- *Walking School Bus* guidelines
- *TravelSmart* guidelines
- *Relevant websites: DE&T, VicRoads, RACV, DOI, TAC, RoadSafe Victoria*

ASSESSMENT

Assessment of the students' progress will be continuous and part of the learning process within the Units of Work. A range of appropriate assessment methods will be used including anecdotal records, checklists, work samples, self-evaluation by the students and the Grade 5 *Bike Ed* Test.

EVALUATION

Evaluation of the program will be carried out at the classroom, early years / middle years and whole school, based on the CSF II learning outcomes and Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) as appropriate.

This policy will be reviewed across the school after three years and include an evaluation of school community awareness and behaviour in relation to road safety (eg drop off and pick-up practices, adherence to speed zones/limits, increase in students/families walking and/or cycling to school). The evaluation will include:

- Number of transport safety programs being implemented in the school;
- Utilisation of available transport safety resources from key stakeholders;
- Evaluating community awareness and behaviour in relation to road safety (eg drop off and pick-up practices, adherence to speed zones/limits, increase in students/families walking and/or cycling to school);
- Feedback from parent/student surveys such as that used in the *Walking School Bus* Program;
- Number of teachers that complete Transport safety related professional development training;
- Feedback from teachers to ensure that the program has been implemented across the school;
- Number of children successfully completing the *Bike Ed* program;
- School's participation in Transport Safety initiatives (*Walking School Bus, TravelOn* etc); and
- Distribution of Transport Safety Information to the school community.