Ride a bicycle safely

As younger children are still developing the skills needed to ride alone, the safest place to ride bikes, scooters and skateboards is within fenced areas.

Until children are at least 10 years old they should ride away from vehicles and driveways. As they are learning to ride it is important to ride or walk alongside them and talk about how to be a safe bicycle rider.

Children between 10 years old and 12 years old should ride away from busy roads.

Children under 16 and adult riders accompanying and supervising them may ride on the footpath, unless there are signs specifically prohibiting cycling.

Teach your children to be safe bicycle riders by getting them to always:

- follow bicycle road rules including:
  - ride to the left on footpaths
  - give pedestrians right of way on footpaths
  - watch out for cars entering or leaving driveways
- wear a correctly fitted bicycle helmet – it’s the law
- wear bright-coloured clothing such as a vest so other road users can see them.

For older children, think carefully about the following when judging their ability to ride on their own:

- How safe is the travel route?
- What are their riding skills like?
- How aware are they of their surroundings in the traffic environment?
- How well can they manage unexpected hazards?

Your school will have procedures about students bringing bikes onto school grounds. Ensure your children follow these at all times.