



**THE WHITEOAK ACADEMIES,
HANNAH MORE INFANTS AND GROVE JUNIORS**
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"Planting Dreams. Nurturing Hearts. Growing Minds."

Tuesday 16th January, 2024

Dear Parents, Families and Carers,

Bike and Scooter Safety

Recently we have had a number of parents raise concerns about the safety of our children on their bikes and scooters before and after school.

I spoke to the children in KS2 assembly yesterday and reminded them of safety rules and will also do a full road safety assembly with the children early next week. However, please can I ask that if your child scoots or cycles to school that you go through road and pedestrian safety with them and make sure you are happy that they are travelling safely and considerately to and from school every day.

As a family of schools, we strongly recommend that all children wear helmets when cycling / scooting. These should fit well and conform to current British standards. We also recommend the use of high visibility garments such as jackets or tabards. Lights should be in good working order. Children should be aware of the rules of the Highway Code that relate to cycling and scooting and should follow these at all times. We strongly suggest that parents identify the safest cycling / scooting route to school with their children and point out particular hazards and danger points.

In addition, I would like to highlight some important rules for safety relevant to our school. We fully recognise that scooters are much easier to master than a bicycle, and are more convenient to carry should it be needed. They are also great fun and can be used to help promote active travel and a more active lifestyle. However, like other wheeled methods of travel, they can be dangerous without the proper safety precautions in place; therefore, scooter safety education, alongside bicycle and road safety, is important for all children.

To help keep everyone safe, we ask that you reinforce the following rules with your children:

- 1) Control your speed: The faster you go, the longer time you will need to come to a stop. Never go too fast on pavements or anywhere near roads, as you (or vehicles coming towards you) might not have the space to slow down.
- 2) Be aware of other people: Pavements, streets and roads are used by lots of other people who are walking, cycling, scooting and driving, so always look around carefully to see where they are. Do not try to push past pedestrians, or weave in and out of pedestrians. Be polite and considerate.
- 3) Stop at the kerb and be aware of driveways: ALWAYS STOP at kerbs, and be AWARE that cars may be entering or exiting driveways.
- 4) Never scoot on the road and always get off and push when crossing, even when using the zebra crossing.
- 5) Remember the Green Cross Code: Always STOP, LOOK and LISTEN before crossing any road, and if possible use a designated crossing point or subway.
- 6) Children should dismount their scooter **before** entering the school site. To help keep everyone safe, we ask that there is no scooting (or cycling) on the school grounds.
- 7) At the end of the day, no scooting (or cycling) on the school grounds and only start to scoot (or cycle) outside school when it is safe and clear to do so. It is important to be polite and considerate of other people.



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8) When parking bicycles and scooters, please do so considerately. Do not leave them lying around on the ground, on the edge of pavements or in the road.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep your children and everyone in our family of schools safe.

With best wishes,

Mr Duncan Cook
Executive Headteacher

Please find below some further links to articles and videos related to bicycle and scooter safety. Although some are American, they are still relevant to the UK.

Scooters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWhls1IrZJg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHOfk42Su2s>

<https://www.primarytimes.co.uk/devon/smart-scooting-to-school>

<https://myjourneyhampshire.com/education/early-years-in-hampshire/resources-for-early-years-settings/scooting-to-school/>

Bicycles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HTi8ZI6lQ4>

<https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=4634&type=pdf>

Other tips for safe scooting include:

- Wear a helmet: no matter how short the journey, or how much you care about helmet hair. They save lives.
- Be seen: particularly on darker days/evenings. Wear a reflective jacket or strip and perhaps attach a light to your scooter. If there is any doubt, get off and push the scooter, it is better to take a bit longer than to have an accident.
- Check your scooter: regularly check to make sure it is in good working condition. Does the brake work properly? Do the wheels spin correctly? Do the handlebars turn smoothly?
- Be heard: Attach a bell to your scooter, roads and pavements are noisy, so it's important that other people can hear you coming. Please remember, it is important to be considerate, having a bell is no excuse for scooting at speed and using it to tell people to get out of the way.