



St Louise's

Comprehensive College, Belfast

A Specialist College

Road Safety Education Policy



Department of
the Environment
www.doeni.gov.uk

Mission Statement

*"In partnership with parents, guardians, staff, governors and students
St Louise's promotes excellence in learning and teaching
within a Catholic, Vincentian, Comprehensive ethos"*

1. INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

Road deaths are a tragic and unnecessary waste of human life and one of the greatest problems facing society today. DOE Road Safety Education Service tell us that school age deaths and serious injuries in our province fall into the main categories of:

- ❖ Drivers
- ❖ Pedestrians
- ❖ Passenger/driver in vehicles
- ❖ Cyclists

St Louise's is determined to support the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy and to support community efforts aimed at reducing road related deaths and serious injuries. We recognise that as educators we have an important role to play in helping to reduce the number of young people killed or injured on our roads.

We are fully committed to educating and preparing our students for life. We believe therefore that Road Safety needs to be taught in our school as it is an essential life skill. We recognise that our teaching in this area is done in partnership with home and community.

2. POLICY FORMATION

This policy document has been developed using guidance received from the DOE's Road Safety Education Officer Service.

The policy is a key Safeguarding Policy and is closely linked to our Health and Safety Policy.

3. VALUES

St Louise's values and cares for all its students. The school works, in partnership with parents, to educate our students in the proper and safe use of roads, to promote safer behaviour and practice as well as an attitude that respects those dangers which will inevitably be encountered by young people who are on or near roads.

We recognise that the teaching of Road Safety Education will not solve all of our community's road safety problems but we believe that the programme we deliver will help our students to be better equipped when confronting the many issues and situations which arise on or near our roads.

4. AIMS OF THE ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- ✓ To allow our students to understand the impact of road safety upon their lives and the lives of others
- ✓ To develop our students' self esteem and confidence to enable them to make positive and informed decisions regarding road safety
- ✓ To equip students with the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to make informed choices and decisions about their own behaviour as pedestrians, passengers or drivers on or near roads
- ✓ To make students aware that actions have consequences on themselves and others and that their behaviour and the decisions they make should reflect this

- ✓ To help students develop respect for themselves and others by encouraging positive role modelling within the school environment
- ✓ To enable students to communicate their views and feelings about road safety using appropriate language
- ✓ To develop self-confidence and awareness in students so that they can give correct information and cope adequately with inaccurate information and detrimental peer pressure
- ✓ To engage students in risk assessment exercises relating to road safety issues in hypothetical and real, locally based situations
- ✓ To encourage parental responsibility

5. THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Rule 7 of "The Highway Code" clearly identifies that those with parental responsibility are responsible for deciding upon young peoples "Road Safety Readiness".

Road Safety is, therefore, primarily influenced by:

- ❖ Parents
- ❖ Parental attitudes
- ❖ Young peoples' experiences in society

Our Road Safety Programme has been designed to supplement work done in the home and to support parents as they educate their children in this area.

6. OUR ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

In St Louise's Road Safety Education is taught as part of the Learning for Life & Work /Personal Development Programme in Key Stage 3 (Term 2 Year 9).

Road Safety is a compulsory element within the Personal Health concept of LLW.

Road Safety is also addressed and promoted by external agencies, including Translink, the DOE and the PSNI.

Year 8 students are invited on board Translink's Safety Bus in term 1 each year.

Post 16 students participate in the PSNI's annual Road Safety Road Show.

This experience is supplemented in Post 16 by extended assemblies on this theme, also delivered by the PSNI.

The school has hosted drama productions sponsored by DOE and they have been targeted at KS4 and post 16 students.

A fact file on Pedestrian and Road Safety, based on DOE guidance, has also been created and distributed to all our students. Tips on Road Safety and Pedestrian Safety have also been integrated in to a Health and Safety flyer for pupils and parents which has been distributed to all homes.

Pedestrian and Road Safety messages are also delivered to all year groups through our assembly programme.

The Road Safety Education programme is developmental and the lessons and resources used are appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of the pupils to which they are delivered.

7. STAFF TRAINING

St Louise's recognises the need to develop whole staff awareness of our students' needs and to provide strategies for ensuring that those needs are met. As issues and opportunities are identified, the Pastoral Vice Principal in consultation with the Principal and the Senior Leadership Team will organise training for staff on Road Safety Education.

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We will seek to ensure that our Road Safety Education programme is relevant and accessible to all of our students, regardless of their age, culture, disability, gender, religion or social class. All students will be taught through lessons which are appropriate to their age and ability.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Road Safety Education Policy will be reviewed and updated annually.

The Pastoral Vice Principal will work with teachers to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and relevance of the programme on an ongoing basis. The evaluation will be based on teacher feedback as well as feedback from pupils and parents. The information gained will be collated by the Pastoral Vice Principal and used to adapt the programme for the future.

OUR STUDENTS' PROMISES IN TERMS OF ROAD SAFETY

At St Louise's we are students who:

- ❖ Line up safely and follow the teachers' and drivers' instructions when leaving school by taxi or bus.
- ❖ Act as role models to our friends or to younger children when they are near roads.
- ❖ Ask known adults for help as required when we are on or near roads.
- ❖ Know that the wearing of seatbelts, where available, is the safest way to travel whether in buses, taxis or cars.
- ❖ Always stay behind the lead teacher and in front of the rear guard when walking on school visits or outings.
- ❖ Challenge ourselves to "Stop, Look, Listen, Live" when we are on or near roads.
- ❖ Use footpaths.
- ❖ Cross roads safely - at school crossing patrols, zebra crossings, traffic islands, footbridges, subways and traffic lights when available.
- ❖ Ensure that we are never distracted when we are crossing the road by ipads, MP3 players or mobile phones. We will not be accused of "iphone oblivion"

- ❖ Wear reflective clothing when we are walking at night.
- ❖ Never accept lifts from strangers.
- ❖ Never get in to a car with someone who has taken drugs or alcohol.
- ❖ Exercise care and restraint when taking our cars to school as well as parking in designated areas within the school grounds.

APPENDIX 2

ROAD SAFETY IN OUR SCHOOL

In St Louise's we appreciate the efforts of our Governors, Parents, Teachers and Students whose care and consideration help to maintain a safe environment for all members of the whole school community. The school has employed a full time Security Guard.

All Governors, Parents, Teachers, Students and visitors should be aware of the following health and safety guidelines:

- ❖ All drivers are reminded that extra care is needed when entering and leaving the school grounds.
- ❖ Drivers should be aware of the particular dangers present on site at "Arrival and Home Times" when parents, school buses and special taxis are dropping off and collecting students.
- ❖ Drivers should remember the importance of parking clear of the yellow zigzag lines at the school entrance and complying with other traffic arrangements designed to maintain the safety of students in our school.

Traffic arrangements to be followed:

- ❖ Cars are not allowed to enter the school grounds between 3.00pm and 3.40pm. (2.45 - 3.30pm on Friday)

- ❖ Cars must not use the school to cut through to St James's as the access road is pedestrianised throughout the day.
- ❖ Cars must respect the residents of St James's by not blocking their driveways at any time.
- ❖ Cars must not park up on the access road at any time.
- ❖ Cars must not enter the Bus Park at any time.
- ❖ Students should be collected punctually at the end of the school day and supervised appropriately thereafter.
- ❖ Students should be encouraged to use school crossing patrols, zebra crossings, traffic islands, footbridges, subways and traffic lights in place on routes to/from school.

For further information contact:

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