

Date: 12/05/2019

Dear Parent/ Guardian

Due to the increase in complaints from local residents about the manner in which children are seen cycling both to and from school and also outside of school hours, we feel it is important that you remind your children about the importance of being safe and not a danger to themselves and other road users.

Hence, we would like to remind all parents of safety tips and current laws around cycling;

- Any person using a bike is strongly encouraged to wear an appropriate fitted cycle helmet for the entirety of their journey.
- Cycles must be the correct height for the person riding them – they should be able to straddle the bike with both feet flat on the ground
- 80% of cycling accidents occur in broad daylight through playing in the streets, pulling stunts on bicycles, failing to look properly and poor manoeuvring.
- **The Law states** that bicycles must be equipped with approved front and rear lights which are lit, clean and properly working, when cycling in the dark and poor weather conditions. They must also have red rear reflectors and four amber pedal reflectors.
- **It is an offence** to ride a bicycle on public roads without two efficient braking systems, which operate independently on the front and rear tyres
- **Cyclist must also stop at a red traffic light** – this can carry a £50 fine if not adhered to. They must also stop if a school crossing patrol officer is present in the road.

- Cyclists should stop and get off their bike to cross roads and controlled crossing points.
- **It is illegal** to carry more than one person on a bicycle, unless it is specifically constructed or adapted for the carriage of more than one person.
- Section 29 of the Road Traffic Act 1998 states: **If a person rides a cycle on a road without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the road, he is guilty of an offence.**
- Cyclists pulling wheelies and stunts on public roads and pavements is prohibited and dangerous as the person riding is not in full control of the bicycle.
- Ensure basic hand signals are used when cycling as this gives clear indication to other road users of where the cyclist intends to go.

The above has been sent to you to open up conversation with your children to help ensure the safety of your children, other road users and pedestrians and to promote safe practices.

We are actively working with the local schools to identify children riding on the public roads and footpaths around the area in an inconsiderate and dangerous manner. Those identified will be contacted individually by the school and invited in to discuss the matter with ourselves.

Parents are reminded that how their child / children travel to and from school is ultimately the responsibility of parents.

We thank you for your support in relation to this matter.

Kind Regards

Central Bedfordshire Council Road Safety Team.

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