



Road Safety Education at Avoca Beach Public School

Environmental context

Avoca Beach Public School is located on The Round Drive in a residential area. Traffic flow peaks before and after school.

There are three pedestrian access points into the school on The Round Drive. One leads to a pedestrian crossing, which is supervised before and after school. Teachers are rostered to supervise afternoon bus duty, the exit of students from the bottom gate including the bike riders and at the 'Kiss and Drop'.

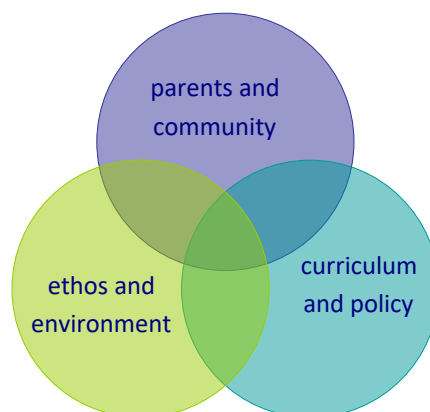
The school car park entrance is used by staff, delivery and council vehicles. The gate is sign-posted to indicate staff parking only. Parents, carers and students are not permitted to use the driveway entrance. The school hosts after school activities which results in the car park being used for parking for these purposes. For student safety the gates are closed from 3:25 to 3:45.

The majority of students travel to school by bus, car with a few children riding their bicycles to school.

There is no parking directly outside the school on The Round Drive. There is a *No Parking Zone* in The Round Drive for "kiss and drop" purposes however the only available parking can be found south of the school.

A whole school approach to road safety education

Road safety education at Avoca Beach Public School is integral to the safety and wellbeing of our students. A whole-school approach is about our school, parents and carers working together to implement road safety education. It involves integrating the areas of *curriculum, policy, ethos and environment* and *parents and community*.



Health promoting schools model

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Curriculum

Avoca Beach Public School will provide teaching and learning programs that lead to the achievement of student outcomes as specified in the *Personal Development, Health and Physical Education K-6 Syllabus (Board of Studies, NSW, 1999)*. Effective road safety education will provide our students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to help them make informed, safe decisions in the road environment.

Teaching and learning is programmed as part of our school's PDHPE program. These programs include passenger, pedestrian and safety on wheels teaching and learning activities. Bus safety education is provided as part of passenger and pedestrian safety.

Teaching and learning programs will:

- be implemented in each stage
- provide students with learning experiences in the traffic environment e.g. walking and crossing procedures to Heazlett Park, using the pedestrian crossing on The Round Drive, safe travel during school excursions
- aim to address the road safety needs based on our local traffic environment
- reflect current road safety resources, information and research
- be appropriate to the level of understanding, needs and cultural differences of students

These teaching and learning experiences may be enhanced by:

- Participation in the annual *Walk Safely to School Day*.
- Visits by Stage 3 to the *CARES* Facility.

Policy, ethos and environment

The approach to road safety education programs at our school reflects the Department of Education and Community's *Road Safety Education, Driver Education and Training Policy, 2007*. Current school practices that support road safety education programs are extensive. They include:

Managing the entry and exit of students by:

- implementing safe exit procedures for Kindergarten students every Term 1 – class teachers walking Kindergarten students to the safest exit, staggering bell times to reduce traffic congestion
- identifying and promoting designated waiting areas:
 - for pedestrians the waiting area is under the trees
 - for bus travelers the waiting area is between the school office and the FSU building

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- supporting the RMS's crossing supervisor positioned at The Round Drive pedestrian crossing before and after school
- providing teachers to undertake afternoon supervision of student exit and bus duties
- providing teachers to supervise the "kiss and drop" zone after school
- painting 'Stop Look, Listen, Think' reminders for students on the path near car park entry
- having staff park in designated areas
- maintaining signage to assist with risk management within school grounds eg. "kiss and drop" zone sign and the car park driveway sign to restrict parking to staff only and indicating no pedestrian access
- reviewing and addressing the school traffic environment as needs arise

Managing the behaviour of students travelling to and from school by:

- reminding students of safe travel behaviour/enforcing the school's discipline code and school rules regarding safe travel to and from school at assemblies, in newsletters, on the website and with individual students
- reinforcing the use of pedestrian crossings, wearing seatbelts as passengers, boarding, travelling and alighting from buses, trains and ferries safely
- reinforcing the wearing of helmets and protective gear when riding bicycles and wheeled toys
- school staff modelling and reinforcing appropriate road safety behaviours and attitudes whilst on excursions, during school activities e.g. at sport and around the school
- using excursions, sport and community walks as opportunities for students to practice and enhance their decision making skills in the traffic environment
- highlighting new traffic facilities outside and near to the school, as they are installed
- liaising with bus operators to discuss expected bus travel behaviours and issues arising
- supervising the safe travel of students by bus during excursions, sport and other related school activities including use of seat belted buses when travelling on freeway
- keeping a register at the front office to ensure safety guidelines are met when private motor vehicles are used by staff and students to transport students to sporting events or excursions
- including requirements for travel by private car in the school's excursion policy

Parents and community

Our school currently provides parents and carers with information to reinforce road safety messages on a regular basis through:

- parent meetings, including parent teacher nights, P & C meetings, newsletters, take home notes, fact sheets, RMS pamphlets/stickers, on the school website
- utilizing the school foyer/library/ the school electronic noticeboard and school assemblies
- the distribution of the RMS *Kindergarten Orientation Packs* at Kindergarten Orientation

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- distribution prior to safety days and special school events, eg. school fair
- liaising with community users to ensure participants only use staff car park after school for recognised after school activities such as dance
- liaising with the local council's Road Safety Officer and school community to review and discuss traffic concerns in the school environment
- liaising with the NSW Police Service for speeding concerns outside the school and with the local council's Road Safety Officer for illegal parking

Parents, carers and the wider school community are asked to support student road safety behaviours by:

- modelling safe road user behaviour and abiding by NSW Road Rules
- parking vehicles correctly near the school and observing all parking signs in and around the school site
- encouraging young students up to 10 years of age to hold an adult's hand in the traffic environment
- actively supervising the travel of young students, particularly those up to 12 years of age
- ensuring that children are adequately protected when travelling in cars through the use of seat-belts and suitable seating restraints (child seats, booster seats)
- supporting and regularly reinforcing the school's riding to school procedures
- ensuring that children play safely on wheels (bicycles, foot scooters, rollerblades, skateboards) by providing protective gear, helmets and well-maintained equipment
- reinforcing the safety messages delivered at school
- bringing road safety issues in and around the school to the attention of school staff
- using the designated entry and exit gates to the school
- only use staff car park after school for recognised after school activities such as dance

Review and evaluation

This Road Safety Education Statement was reviewed and updated 27 July, 2022.

Teachers

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Principal

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The document is due for review in 2024.