



Clacton County High School

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Higher Expectations, Raising Aspirations

BICYCLE POLICY 2021-22

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BICYCLE POLICY 2020-21

INTRODUCTION

Cycling is always popular when schoolchildren are asked how they would like to travel to and from school. However, nationally, less than 1% of young people cycle to school.

Why is this when cycling is healthy, cheap, environmentally friendly and can give young people a sense of freedom and independence?

As a nation, around 60% of men and 70% of women are currently not physically active enough to benefit their health. Not only can cycling improve an individual's health, it can also benefit the environment by reducing the number of car journeys.

Benefits of Students Cycling to School:

- Cycling to and from school is a relatively low cost way to integrate physical activity into daily routines and the majority of children already own a bike.
- Regular cyclists typically have a level of fitness equivalent to someone ten years younger. If students start cycling whilst at school, they may be more likely to carry on into their adult lives - those cycling regularly beyond their mid-thirties could add two years to their life expectancy.
- Nearly a quarter of all journeys by car are currently one mile or less and 42% are within two miles.

Cycling has a positive impact on student well-being and Clacton County High School supports cycling as transportation as long as students maintain their bikes in a good, roadworthy condition and cycle safely, using cycle paths only when on the school grounds, or on their way to and from school.

To ensure the safety of all students and staff, on entering school grounds, students must keep to the cycle paths or dismount from their bicycles and walk them to the bike storage facilities. During the Pandemic and to adhere to social distancing, these will be:

- Year 11 – Bike Shed
- Years 7 – 10 – Caged playground, behind the Inclusion Hub

Bicycles are the personal belongings of individual students and must be appropriately and securely stored within the bike storage facilities. Where this is the caged playground (y7-10), bikes should be secured to the railings with an appropriate bike lock. On wet days, students should bring a bag or seat cover to protect their seat.

The prime responsibility for transporting students to and from school rests with Parents/Carers, not the school. As school travel does not occur within 'school hours' or on school premises and as it does not involve supervision by school staff, **the school does not accept any legal liability for any accident or injury that occurred while students were riding to and from school.**

The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle to and from school rests solely with the Parents/Carers. Parents/Carers are advised to take out appropriate insurance cover, as the school's insurance does not cover road accidents, loss, or damage to bicycles on, or off, school premises. We would also recommend that Parents/Carers ensure that their child has followed appropriate bicycle training or a similar safety course, before riding to and from school. The school can help to facilitate this. Further guidance on cycling safety can be found at:

The Essex.gov.uk website:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Travel-School/Pages/Cycling-to-School.aspx>

The direct.gov.uk website (<http://talesoftheroad.direct.gov.uk>)

In the interest of health and safety, Clacton County High School recommends that students, who have been granted permission to bring their bicycle to school, wear an approved bicycle safety helmet.

The school requires support from Parents/Carers to make their child aware of the Bicycle Policy and the safety reasons supporting this policy. Students must follow the laws of the road and ride safely and sensibly, when travelling to and from school. Failure to do this may result in a ban on riding onto the school site being issued, along with the withdrawal of cycle privileges and facilities. This will be for a specific period and Parents/Carers will be notified by letter.

Bikability courses will be offered throughout the year, initially to Year 7's in September. More courses can be booked if demand requires. Additional Bikability courses are also mandatory for a student who repeatedly fails to ride safely, despite warnings. In this case, the student will no longer be able to use the school facilities until they have completed the course.

May 2020

(Author of this document Mr R Blanes, Pastoral Leader)

Clacton County High School CYCLE RULES

1. No student is allowed to bring a bicycle on to the school site unless they and their Parents/Carers have signed the agreements within this policy.
2. Bicycles brought to school by students must only access the school via the front entrance on Walton Road or the rear entrance via Clacton Leisure Centre car park.
3. Within the school, cycling is only permitted on the recognised cycle paths and must be done sensibly and carefully.
4. Bicycles brought to school must be in a good, safe working order and must be fitted with working brakes.
5. Bicycles used in the winter months (i.e. outside British summer time clock changes) must be equipped with appropriate head and tail-lights, before being brought onto school grounds. (If finance is an issue then the school may be able to loan some lights.)
6. Bicycles are to be stored in the facilities provided, (during the Pandemic and to adhere to social distancing, these will be: Year 11 – Bike Shed adjacent to the site-staff office; Years 7 – 10 – Caged playground, behind the Inclusion Hub). Bicycles must be locked with a chain/padlock or appropriate bicycle lock supplied by the bicycle owner. Where stored in the caged playground (y7-10), bikes should be secured to the railings. On wet days, students should bring a bag or seat cover to protect their seat.
7. Bicycles and safety helmets are brought and stored on school grounds entirely at the owner's risk.
8. No students will be allowed into the bicycle facilities during school hours, without staff permission. Only bicycle riders may go into the bicycle shed before and after school.
9. Students should not, under any circumstances, tamper in any way with another student's bicycle, lock or helmet. A student found to have done this, particularly in a way that might endanger the user's safety, will be expected to pay for any damage caused, will have cycle privileges withdrawn and further sanctions may be applied. For serious offences, the police may be involved.
10. Parents/Carers will be notified if students do not adhere to the school's Bicycle Policy. This may lead to the student being refused entry with their bicycle to school. After one formal warning, if there is a further infringement, permission to bring a bicycle on to the school site, will be withdrawn.
11. Any students riding dangerously, on public roads, on public footpaths, or being disrespectful to others on the way to school, or when leaving school, will also have their bike privileges withdrawn.

Please note that cycling, or not being able to cycle to school, should bike privileges be withdrawn, cannot be used by a student as an excuse for late arrival. Parents/Carers should ensure that students are on time for school, and if their bicycle privileges have been withdrawn, they have an alternative method of getting to school.

N.B. it is highly recommended that students wear a cycle helmet when riding to and from school.