

Road Safety Policy for Mary Immaculate Primary School, Eagle Vale. N.S.W.

Rationale/ Preamble/Belief Statement

At Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School we believe that a road safety policy provides a framework of common understanding for students, staff, parents/carers and the community who interact with the school to provide a safe environment.

Our Catholic School is founded on the person of Jesus Christ and is committed to educate in Gospel values - especially in hope, love, justice and care for others in the community.

The main intention of this policy is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our students who use the services and facilities of this school. We do this by assessing the risks in the road environment around our school, developing practical school management procedures and ensuring that curriculum that pertains to all road safety issues is taught to our students.

Environmental Statement

Our school property is bounded by Emerald and Aquamarine Drives with a reserve and housing bordering the other sides. The approximate area is 3 hectares. The public roads are zoned to 40 kmh during the hours of 7.30am-9.30am and 2.30pm-3.30 pm. A foot path is on the same side of the street as the school in each Drive. There is no footpath on the opposite side. Two pedestrian crossings service the school, one in each Drive and they are approximately 30 metres from the intersecting corner.

There are two entrances to the school for traffic - each on Emerald Drive. They are open for the working day. The Eastern traffic entrance serves both parishioners and school staff, while the Western entrance serves staff, service vehicles, casual visitors to the hall and those parents who have disabled children. There is another traffic Entrance in Aquamarine Drive that is locked and only used on special occasions. Eg. The Spring Fair.

Three gates are available for walkers – one at Aquamarine Drive and two at Emerald Drive. These are locked during school hours. There is a bus stop at the school gates on Emerald Drive.

Pedestrian and motor traffic is at its heaviest in both Drives in the half hour before school begins and between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. At these times many parents drop off and pick up their children using designated drop off zone or parking on the street. Buses are also arriving to drop off and pick up. **It is at these times that inconsiderate and illegal behaviour by parents occurs.** There is illegal parking, improper use of crossing the road, double parking and parking in the drop off zone.

The Pedestrian Crossings in Emerald Drive and Aquamarine Drives are unmanned except for the end of the school day when a teacher is on roster to take students across both crossings.

Aims

At Mary Immaculate Parish Primary School we aim to provide a quality road safety education program (K-6) that develops attitudes, behaviours and values promoting responsible road use.

At Mary Immaculate Parish Primary School we aim to have procedures and practices in place that maximise the safety of students when they arrive at school and when they leave school.



Curriculum Statement

At Mary Immaculate Parish Primary School our staff will develop and implement effective, sequential road safety education programs within the K-6 PDHPE key learning area. Our programs will make use of the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) Move Ahead with Street Sense materials and address the following road safety issues for our students:

- passenger safety;
- bus safety
- pedestrian safety; and
- safety on wheels (bicycles, scooters, roller-blades and skateboards).

School management procedures

At Mary Immaculate Parish Primary School the staff will maximise the safety of students by:

Endeavouring to ensure that parents drop off and pick up their children each day abiding by the requirements of the law in relation to parking, drop off, crossing the road and with any other requirements requested by the Principal in relation to safety in the school grounds.

Students arriving by bus and foot are to enter through the walkers gates, follow the footpath to the "concrete area" and then await the teacher on duty at 8.00am. Students leaving the school by bus are to be supervised by a teacher from the assembly area and escorted to their bus. Students meeting parents are to meet at the Infants shelter area where they are supervised by the teacher on duty.

All students walking home are to be escorted by the teacher to cross the Drives at the pedestrian crossing. These students are also required to carry a "Pass" indicating their parents' permission to walk home or to a designated place.

Buses for excursions are to pick up and drop off students from the bus zone. Students are to wait with teachers inside the school grounds until the arrival of the bus. When excursions return after school hours students are to alight from bus and be met by waiting parents/carers. When latter are not yet present, students are to wait inside the school grounds. If this is not possible, they are to assemble with the teacher and wait.

Where students are required to leave the grounds on activities e.g. cross country, picnics, they are to leave under the supervision of a teacher, walk on the footpath and to wait for the teacher or staff member to accompany them cross any streets as required.

Riding of bicycles to school is not permitted at Mary Immaculate.

Members of the community, Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School will be informed via newsletters, handbooks, and orientation activities and parent take-home notes of the importance of:

- modeling safe road user behaviour;
- parking vehicles safely outside the school and observing all parking signs;
- ensuring that children are protected whilst travelling to and from school;
- reinforcing the safety messages taught at school;
- supervising the travel of young students;
- identifying and reporting safety issues in and around the school; and
- contribute to solving road safety issues that are of concern to the school and community.

