

# Road Safety Education Program

## Whole school approach to road safety education

### Environmental context

Pennant Hills Public School K-2 site is located at the end of Trebor Street in a residential area. The school is located in a cul de sac with traffic parking and turning before and after school.

There are three pedestrian access gates. One each at the end of Trebor Street, Malahide Road, and Leith Road. An executive teacher supervises afternoon bus duty outside St Agathas Public School..

The school car park entrance is used by staff and delivery vehicles. The gate is sign-posted to restrict unauthorised vehicle access. Parents, carers and students are not permitted to use the driveway entrance.

The majority of students travel to school by car and by foot. A small number travel by bus.

There is limited parking directly outside the school at the end of Trebor Street, Malahide Road, and Leith Road.

Pennant Hills Public School 3-6 site is located on corner of Weemala Street and Ramsay Road in a residential area.

There are two pedestrian access gates on Weemala Road, one on Ramsay Road, and one on Greycliffe Avenue. One on the corner of Ramsay Road and Weemala Roads leads directly to two pedestrian crossings, which are supervised before and after school. An executive teacher supervises afternoon bus duty and the exit of students from the school grounds at one gate on Weemala Road.

The school car park entrance is used by staff and delivery vehicles. The gate is sign-posted to restrict unauthorised vehicle access. Parents, carers and students are not permitted to use the driveway entrance.

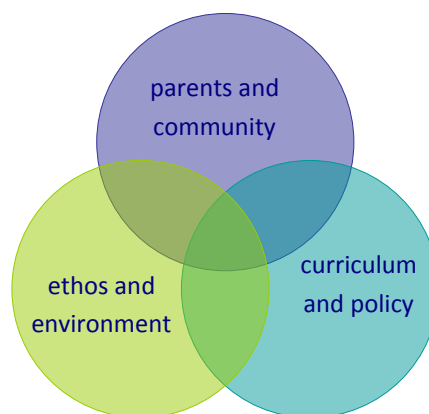
The majority of students travel to school by car and by foot. A number travel by bus, two or three travel by train or ride their bicycles to school.

There is limited parking directly outside the school on Weemala Road which includes a timed bus zone and kiss and drop zone.

# Road Safety Education at Pennant Hills Public School

## A whole school approach to road safety education

Road safety education at Pennant Hills 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

### Curriculum

Pennant Hills 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 will be programmed as part of our school's PDHPE program. These programs include passenger, pedestrian, 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 as per each Stage PDHPE scope and sequence in first term
- provide students with learning experiences about the traffic environment e.g. using the supervised pedestrian crossings, safe travel during school excursions
- aim to address the road safety needs based on our local traffic environment
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# Road Safety Education at Pennant Hills Public School

- 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 Year 5 to the *CARES* Facility.

## Policy, ethos and environment

The approach to road safety education programs at our school reflects the Department of Education and Training'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:

- identifying and promoting the safe use of pedestrian entry/exit gates
- identifying and promoting designated waiting areas for pedestrians, bus travellers
- supporting the RTA's crossing supervisors positioned at the corner of Weemala and Ramsay Roads pedestrian crossings before and after school
- providing an executive to undertake afternoon bus supervision duties
- staggering bell times to reduce traffic congestion outside the school due to bus arrivals/neighbouring school traffic
- having staff park in designated areas
- maintaining signage to assist with risk management within school grounds eg. signposting the car park driveway to restrict pedestrian or unauthorised access, staff only
- ensuring delivery truck drivers have allocated areas in which to deliver goods
- 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 and enforcing the school's discipline code and school rules regarding safe travel to and from school, at assemblies, in newsletters and with individual students
- reinforcing the use of pedestrian crossings, wearing seatbelts as passengers, boarding, travelling and alighting from buses, trains safely
- reinforcing the wearing of helmets and protective gear when riding bicycles, foot scooters, skateboards or rollerblades
- school staff modelling and reinforcing appropriate road safety behaviours and attitudes whilst on excursions, during school activities eg. 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

## Road Safety Education at Pennant Hills Public School

- highlighting new traffic environments/facilities outside and near to the school, as they are installed
- liaising with bus operators to outline expected bus travel behaviours and facilitate discussion on issues that arise
- supervising the safe travel of students by bus during excursions, sport and other related school activities
- ensuring safety guidelines are met when private motor vehicles are used by staff and parents to transport students to sporting events or excursions

### Parents and community

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

- parent meetings, P & C meetings
- newsletters, take home notes, fact sheets, RTA pamphlets/stickers
- the school website
- excursion permission notes
- assemblies
- the distribution of the RTA *Kindergarten Orientation Packs* at Kindergarten Orientation, high school orientation days
- 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

This information includes:

- laws, offences and penalties for illegal parking and driving in school zones
- correct use of road traffic facilities surrounding the school
- limitations of children in traffic, and the danger of parked cars
- the importance of holding a young child's hand (up to 10 years of age) and closely supervising the travel of children up to 12 years of age
- safe bus travel and correct parking around bus zones/stops
- safe use of bicycles by students to and from school
- school guidelines for the use and storage of bicycles by students for travel to and from school.
- translations of road safety information in community languages
- messages designed by students promoting safe road use
- use of private motor vehicles by staff, parents and students for travelling to and from school and school related activities such as sport, excursions
- updates on changes to traffic law and RTA/police campaigns

## Road Safety Education at Pennant Hills Public School

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 outside the school and observing all parking signs in and around the school site
- ensuring that all adults and children cross at supervised pedestrian crossings at all times
- 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)
- reading and discussing the *Bicycle and scooter rider's agreement* with your child/ren and completing and returning the *Bicycle and scooter rider's permission note* to the Principal prior to your child riding to school
- ensuring that children play safely on wheels (bicycles and scooters) 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

### Review and evaluation

This Road Safety Education Statement was written on 8 August, 2011.

Jenni Lainson  
Assistant principal/Classroom Teacher

Penny Willis  
Principal

The document is due for review in 2013 (two years).

Future considerations:

- closing school driveway gates at the K-2 site from 8.45am-3.30pm to restrict vehicular movement on site before and after school/as students arrive and depart.