

Our Ref: JWa/GCo

Date as Received

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you regarding the important issue of road safety. More and more students are choosing to cycle to and from school and some of them are putting themselves at risk through potentially unsafe cycling habits.

In particular, students are often arriving to school on their bikes but without cycle helmets and some students are riding on the site in an unsafe fashion at the end of the school day. Both Oulder Hill and Redwood School finish at the same time and therefore the Oulder Hill site has many potential hazards at the end of the school day. As well as over 1500 students leaving school at the same time, there are many parents that arrive in cars to pick up students and there are a significant number of minibuses that leave Redwood School directly past the Oulder Hill building. Therefore it is crucial that those students who choose to ride a bike to school do so sensibly around the school site on their way home.

Accidents involving young cyclists are common. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, 18,477 cyclists were injured in reported road accidents during 2016. Accidents involving child cyclists are often the result of the child playing, doing tricks, riding too fast or losing control. For teenage and adult cyclists, accidents are more likely to involve collisions with motor vehicles, but about 16% of fatal or serious cyclist accidents reported to the police do not involve a collision with another vehicle, but are caused by the rider losing control of their bicycle.

Whilst there is no law that dictates that cycling helmets should be worn, the Highway Code does recommend their use. Rule 59 of the Highway Code states that cyclists should wear, "a cycle helmet which conforms to current regulations."

Bearing in mind the advice in the Highway Code, the statistics from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the hazards outlined above, I would urge you to ensure that your child wears a cycle helmet both to and from school. I would also be grateful if you could discuss road safety and the potential dangers of irresponsible cycling with your child to ensure that they are equipped with the knowledge to keep themselves safe whilst cycling to school.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J Watson