Road Safety Education at Point Clare Public School

Environmental context

Point Clare Public School is located on Takari Avenue and bounded by Brisbane Water Drive and Scott Street within a residential area. Brisbane Water Drive is a major thoroughfare where traffic flow is constant during the day, peaking before and after school.

There are three pedestrian access gates on Takari Avenue. There are no crossing facilities available on this road. The drop-off and pick-up zone as well as the bus zone is located in this street. School staff supervise afternoon bus duty and the exit of students travelling by bicycles from the school grounds.

There is a staff carpark and a hall carpark on Takari Avenue. The staff car park entrance is used by staff and delivery vehicles. Parents, carers and students are not permitted to use the driveway entrance. The hall carpark has a disabled parking space.

There is one pedestrian access point located in Scott Street. The students cross a bridge to use this access point to and from school.

Students travel to school by all means available except by train.

There is limited parking directly outside the school on all surrounding streets. This contributes to a major safety concern for all people accessing the site by car.

A whole school approach to road safety education

Road safety education at Point Clare 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
Road Safety Education at Point Clare Public School

Curriculum

Point Clare 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 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. using the traffic lights on Brisbane Water 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 at Palmdale.
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
- designating one gate in Takari Avenue for entry and exit by bicycle and skateboard riders
- identifying and promoting designated waiting areas for pedestrians and bus travellers
- providing a teacher/s to undertake afternoon bus supervision duties
- 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 and ferries 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
- highlighting new traffic environments/facilities outside and near to the school, as they are installed
- reducing misbehaviour on buses by using the guidelines Managing School Student Misbehaviour on Buses Information for Bus Operators and School Principals, NSW Department of Transport. The school enforces a ‘red card system’ for any students who have misbehaved on a bus.
- 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 students 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, including parent teacher nights, P & C meetings, road safety committee meetings
- newsletters, take home notes, fact sheets, RTA pamphlets/stickers
- the school website, excursion permission notes, assemblies
- school parliament
- school foyer/library/community venues/on the school fence
- the distribution of the RMS Kindergarten Orientation Packs at Kindergarten Orientation
- community events, eg. school fete
- 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
- reinforcement of safe travel behaviours as a pedestrian, car and bus passenger on the bottom of parental permission notes for students travelling on school related activities
- safe use of bicycles, foot scooters, skateboards and rollerblades by students to and from school
- school guidelines for the use and storage of bicycles, foot scooters, skateboards and rollerblades by students for travel to and from school, and to and from sport/excursions
- 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 Point Clare 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
- 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 *Wheeled devices rider’s agreement* with your child/ren and completing and returning the *Wheeled device rider’s permission note* to the Principal prior to your child riding to school
- ensuring that children play safely on all wheeled devices 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
- participating in the school’s road traffic committee to raise awareness of road safety issues and safe parking practices
Road Safety Education at Point Clare Public School

Review and evaluation

This Road Safety Education Statement was written on 30 August, 2012.

Parent
Amanda Cashion

Principal
David Harris

The document is due for review in 2014.

Future considerations:

- maintaining signage to assist with risk management within school grounds eg. signposting the car park driveway to restrict pedestrian or unauthorised access, staff only
- developing and highlighting wet weather travel procedures for before and after school periods
- closing school driveway gates from 9.00am-3.00pm to restrict vehicular movement on site before and after school/as students arrive and depart
- parent traffic committee considering a parental volunteer system for pick-up and drop-off.
- recognising and rewarding students who demonstrate safe travel behaviours, through stickers and certificates
- ensuring safety guidelines are met when private motor vehicles are used by staff and students to transport students to sporting events or excursions.
- Ensure that for any school special event that safe parking directions are included in promotional material
- translations of road safety information in mandarin language
- messages designed by students promoting safe road use – eg traffic committee competition.
- Developing bicycle licenses for riders to school