

Denefield School Cycling to School Policy

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Date of next review	March 2029
Review cycle	Triennial
Policy owner	Safeguarding Lead/Headteacher
Location of Policy	Website
Policy Status	Non-Statutory

Cycling to School Policy

Purpose

Denefield School actively encourages healthy, sustainable travel. This policy supports students who choose to cycle to school by setting clear, consistent expectations that prioritise safety, responsibility, and respect for students, staff and our community.

Summary

Permitted: Traditional bicycles powered by human pedaling (“push bikes”).

Not permitted: Electric bikes (e-bikes/EAPCs), scooters, electric scooters (e-scooters), mopeds, motorcycles, whether legal on UK roads or not, are not allowed to be brought by students onto the school site or for travel to school under this policy. This is to ensure the safety of students, staff and the public on and off the school site. Electric bikes and scooters stored on site also increase the security risk for the school due to their high value and desirability.

UK Law: a summary

- Cyclists must follow the Highway Code and road traffic laws, including obeying traffic lights and signs and riding on the road (not on pavements unless explicitly designated as shared use).
- After dark, cycles must be fitted with appropriate front and rear lights and reflectors (as per Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations).
- Privately owned e-scooters are generally not legal to use on public roads, pavements, or cycle lanes; only approved rental e-scooters in designated trial areas are permitted.
- Some e-bikes (EAPCs) can be road-legal if they meet specific criteria; however, Denefield’s policy prohibits all electric bikes on site regardless.

Eligibility to Cycle (also see lighting, visibility and equipment)

Students may cycle to school if they:

- a. Use a permitted push bike in safe working order (roadworthy brakes, tyres, chain, and steering)
- b. Wear a cycle helmet that fits correctly and is fastened securely (strongly recommended)
- c. Wear high-visibility and/or reflective clothing to enhance visibility (strongly recommended)
- d. Demonstrate a good understanding of road safety (see below)
- e. Use appropriate lighting and reflectors
- f. Agree to dismount before entering the school site and to secure their bike in the designated cycle storage.

Road Safety Expectations

All student cyclists must:

- Ride on the road or in designated cycle lanes/paths. Do not ride on pavements unless they are signed as shared-use for cyclists.
- Obey all traffic signals and signs, including traffic lights and pedestrian crossings.
- Be courteous and predictable: signal clearly, maintain awareness of pedestrians, drivers, and other cyclists, and avoid riding in large, obstructive groups.

At junctions and traffic lights:

- Approach in the correct lane and position for the direction of travel.
- Make eye contact where possible and signal intentions early.
- Do not pass large vehicles on the inside at junctions.

At roundabouts:

- Take the appropriate lane and a clear road position; signal early and clearly.
- Be prepared to dismount and walk if a manoeuvre feels unsafe.
- Overtaking and filtering: Only when safe and legal; be especially cautious near lorries, buses, and at junctions.
- Headphones/phones: Do not use while riding; they reduce awareness and increase risk.
- Ride single-file where necessary for safety and to avoid obstructing other road users.

Training:

- The school recommends Bikeability level 2/3 (or equivalent) for confidence in on-road cycling, roundabouts, junctions, and traffic lights.

Lighting, Visibility, and Equipment

- **Helmet:** strongly recommended while cycling to and from school to minimise risk of head injury.
- **High-vis/reflective:** strongly recommended in daylight; mandatory in poor light or darkness.
- **Lights** (mandatory after dark and in poor visibility): white front light and red rear light—steady or flashing, clean, and working. Red rear reflector and amber pedal reflectors.
- **Recommended extras:** bell, mudguards, reflective ankle/wheel elements, and sturdy lock (D-lock or gold-rated chain).
- **Condition:** bikes must be well-maintained; the school may inspect and advise if a bike is unsafe and may confiscate if it is considered necessary by staff.

On-Site Rules (Arrival and Departure)

- Dismount before entering the school site.
- Walk the bike directly to the designated cycle storage areas.
- Securely lock the bike to the provided stands using a good-quality lock.
- No riding bikes anywhere on school grounds at any time.
- No storage of bikes in non-designated areas or inside buildings.

Security: students are responsible for securing their own bikes. The school cannot accept liability for loss or damage to cycles or accessories on or off site.

Consequences

If a student brings a prohibited vehicle onto the school site, it may be impounded for safety reasons. Parents / carers/carers will be contacted and required to collect the vehicle.

Repeated or serious breaches (e.g., unsafe riding, ignoring traffic laws, riding on pavements, failing to dismount on site, missing lights in darkness) may result in a ban on cycling to school for a fixed period or for the remainder of the academic year.

Conduct, Respect, and Community

- Be considerate of pedestrians, especially near school gates, local shops, bus stops, and narrow pavements.
- Do not block footways or driveways when parking or gathering with bikes.
- Represent Denefield positively by modelling safe, legal, and courteous cycling.

Parent/Carer Role

- Ensure your child's bike is roadworthy and appropriately sized.
- Provide and check helmets, lights, reflectors, and high-vis.
- Discuss safe routes and rehearse complex junctions or roundabouts as needed.
- Consider formal cycle training (e.g., Bikeability).

Monitoring and Sanctions (see appendix 3)

Staff may monitor arrival/departure and conduct spot checks for safety equipment. Where concerns arise, the school will contact parents / carers/carers.

Sanctions may include verbal/written warnings, temporary or permanent cycling bans, and, for prohibited vehicles, impoundment with parental collection.

Serious or persistent unsafe behaviour may also be addressed in accordance to the school's behaviour policy.

Appendix 1

Quick Checklist for Students

- ✓ Push bike (no electric assist) and roadworthy
- ✓ Helmet on and fastened
- ✓ High-vis/reflective clothing
- ✓ Lights and reflectors (use in low light/dark)
- ✓ Know your route, junctions, roundabouts, and signals
- ✓ Dismount at the gate and lock up in the designated area

Appendix 2

Procedure if a student brings an electric bike or scooter onto the school site

- 1) Duty staff will request that the site team padlock the vehicle.
- 2) The student will report to reception to request their bike / scooter is released.
- 3) Reception staff will note the name of the student and contact the site team for release.
- 4) The parent/carers of any student whose name is recorded more than once will be contacted and a resolution will be discussed for alternative transportation to school, e.g. push bike, bus, walking.
- 5) Continued breach of the school rules will result in the bike being confiscated and parents/carers requested to collect it. The school may sanction the student in line with the Behaviour and Discipline policy.

Appendix 3

Procedure if a student cycles dangerously to or from school

- 1) A member of staff will discuss the issue with the student and parents / carers will be contacted to raise safety concerns.
- 2) Continued dangerous cycling will result in a temporary ban on bringing a bike onto the school site.
- 3) Dangerous cycling following a temporary ban will result in a complete ban. Denefield School reserves the right to withdraw permission from any student to bring a bike onto the school site in order to protect the student's safety, the safety of other road users and the safety of members of the school community.