

BADDOW HALL INFANT SCHOOL



Road Safety Policy

Ratified by Governing Body: Date July 2022

Signed: Nick Banister-Dudley

Review Date: July 2025

Road Safety Policy

Introduction

This policy statement for road safety is intended to form an agreed approach to addressing issues that relate to Baddow Hall Infant School. As such it can be seen as a corporate statement and a reference point for informing practice against which performance can be measured. The main entitlements and responsibilities are encompassed within. This policy has evolved through a review of the previous policy and has been developed by the Headteacher in consultation with the staff and governors.

Rationale

Why have a road safety policy?

"The car has given us increased freedom to travel - we now make our journeys, to more destinations more often – for work, education and recreation. It is clear that the freedom and personal mobility that we now enjoy may not be sustainable in future. We need to consider whether all of our current car journeys are absolutely necessary. By using alternative means for some journeys we can help to reduce congestion and pollution and increase our fitness without compromising safety. Whilst effecting a modal shift away from the car we still need to protect children and young people and raise awareness of the need for safe behaviour."

Essex County Council Transport and Operational Services Department

Aims

- To ensure that pedestrian and vehicular access to the school site is as safe as possible.
- To ensure that children and parents have a safe journey to school.
- To ensure we develop a healthy attitude towards road safety skills amongst the children.

Objectives

- To provide clear access to the site with appropriate, safe paths, roads, gates signs and other items of "street furniture."
- To provide clearly marked entrances and routeways for different types of traffic whilst on site.
- To endeavour to encourage a sufficient number of crossing patrols.
- To provide training for children with regard to off site travel.

Strategies

Road safety is taught through a variety of methods. They might include formal taught lessons in the classroom thematic assemblies or practical sessions out and about in the village of Great Baddow.

Inclusion

Baddow Hall Infant School is an inclusive school, "one in which the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well being of every young person matter."

Cross Curricular Links

Road safety work undertaken with the children in school can be used to enrich and inform other areas of the curriculum and forms part of a cross curricular approach to learning. Computing can be used, to design, create and change information used for this purpose. Various programmes are available for use.

Learning and Teaching

It is the role of the Headteacher and class teacher to organise the class for the teaching of road safety and to choose appropriate groupings. For more information, refer to the Learning and Teaching Policy

Section 1: Road Safety

Access to the school site - safety implications

All parents and staff at Baddow Hall Infant School are aware of the problems associated with the location of the school site within a busy residential area, at the end of Hall Close and adjacent to a commuter route with a number of major roads. The problems are compounded by the relatively high proportion of parents that bring their children to school by car, increasing the traffic congestion at busy times. Part of the problem may be difficult to change as many children live areas some distance from the two schools making access difficult without a car.

The Car park

The car park at the front entrance to the schools is relatively small in size. Parents are not permitted to park in the school car park unless given permission by one of the headteachers. The two schools (Baddow Hall Junior School in conjunction with Baddow Hall Infant School) may designate certain people, who because of particular disabilities (eg blue badge holders) may be given permission to park in the Car Park. Parents are discouraged from parking in Hall Close and are reminded of the parking restrictions that are clearly displayed. Consideration should also be given by parents to our neighbours when parking by not blocking pavements or obstructing driveways in New Road.

Arriving and Leaving School

We ask parents and carers that children arrive for School between 8.40am and 8.45am (this time period is designed to coincide with the Junior School who are expected to go straight in to class from 8.35am. At the end of the day at 3.15pm, or after clubs children are handed over to parents/ carers on a "one by one" basis to ensure pupil safety.

The School takes no responsibility for the care of children on school premises before 8.40AM and after 3.15PM unless:

- The children are involved in an extra-curricular activity or the children are attending a before or after school club.
- The children are involved in any other official school activity.

Late arrivals

Children arriving after 8.45AM should report to reception and then they will be escorted to their classroom. Where a parent is late in collecting their child; the teacher should then take the child to the office and inform either the Administrative Assistant or the headteacher. A member of staff should then try to contact the parent through the home, emergency and mobile telephone numbers.

Parents who are late in collecting their child should:

Inform the school if possible that they will be late

Collect their child from the school front entrance reception area and report to the school office or the Headteacher before taking their child from the premises.

Journey to and from school

The school encourages parents to walk their children to and from school. Parents who feel that they live too far away from school to walk are encouraged to park their car a distance away from the school and walk the remaining section of the journey. There are/will be certain 'safer' road crossing points that we will encourage both children and their parents to use. Parents waiting for children are able to wait for their children on the playground, thus preventing people congregating directly outside the school gates thereby blocking exits.

Cycling to and from school

Pupils may cycle to and from School, provided that they are accompanied by their parents / carer at all time throughout the journey. Cycle storage facilities are available on site. For obvious health and safety reasons, bicycles and scooters must not be ridden anywhere on the School site unless it is part a school based activity such as cycle training. If necessary the school will send messages to parents via text or through the Newsletter reminding parents / carers that cycling is not permitted on the School site

Informing parents

Communication is vital in informing parents about new developments and policy modifications. It may also be necessary to remind people about aspects of policy when the need arises School newsletters are the usual instrument for communicating issues such as informing parents about 'Walk to School Week' and other events.

Road safety and out- of -school activities

The Educational Visits policy must be consulted.

All Health and safety requirements will be met in line with the national guidance for the management of outdoor learning (OEAP). An online risk assessment is made before each visit. This aims to identify and reduce any area of risk considered likely. The person responsible for leading the visit completes the risk assessment.

Children may only be taken out on the approval of the headteacher. Parents are informed of all out-of school activities that are due to take place with arrangements for supervision being explained. Permission is always sought in writing from the Parent or Guardian for all educational visits.

Road Safety on school visits

Children will be instructed on appropriate behaviour prior to the visit. Road safety issues will arise if the children are dropped off / collected by the coach on a public highway or busy car park or where children need to walk along the pavement and/or cross roads during the course of the visit.

Adequate adult supervision will be provided, the safest route will be followed and safe crossing places will be used whenever possible. When walking along the pavement children will walk in pairs wherever possible. Adults will be evenly spaced along the group, walking on the outside of the pavement allowing them to ensure that the children in their view do not get too close to the kerb. Adults must also be at the front and rear of the party. Wherever possible, the crossing of roads is avoided. Where a crossing has to take place, a Risk Assessment (online risk assessments) for that crossing must have been undertaken before the visit. Zebra, pelican or other crossing points are used wherever possible. When reaching a safe place to cross, whether or not such a crossing point is present, children will be told to stop and wait.

When the road is clear- children will be reminded to use the Green Cross Code and, supervised by an adult, cross in a 'crocodile' if it is safe to do so, looking and listening at all times. One of the adults in the party will stand in the road to ensure that the children walk a straight line and to watch for oncoming traffic.

Visits by coach

Only reputable coach companies are to be used and working seatbelts must be fitted. Adults will sit throughout the coach rather than being grouped together in one place. Children must remain seated while the coach is in motion and seatbelts must be worn. When disembarking, it is necessary for at least two adults to leave the coach first to receive children as they themselves leave. The children then disembark under the direction of the teacher in charge.

Staff, Governors, Parents or Carers using their vehicles to transport children

Parent helpers' insurance cover must be valid and sufficient for the purpose. The office will check both driving licence, insurance and where applicable MOT cover prior to the visit. The school's insurance policy covers staff, parents and governors comprehensively during these visits. Vehicles to be used must have diagonal or lap seatbelts for all children being transported. It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that they are worn. Seatbelt height regulations (eg booster seats) must be observed.

Road Safety Education

As part of the Personal, Social and Health Education at Baddow Hall Infant School it is intended to provide opportunities for the children to develop knowledge (of themselves and others) and life skills which will enable them to assess situations in an effective manner.

Walk to school week

The school participates in 'Walk to School' week and encourages the children (and their parents) to walk to school during that week. There are several activities that the children undertake, at home and at school.

Assembly

Assemblies can be used to introduce and heighten awareness of road safety issues and initiatives, such as 'Walk to School'.

Health and Safety

Every effort will be made to ensure the safety and well-being of the pupils during road safety activities/lessons. For further information regarding other specific equipment or activities, refer to the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy document will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis and any necessary revisions incorporated.