



St Therese West Wollongong
A Catholic Parish Primary School | Diocese of Wollongong

Love can do all things

Road Safety Policy

Growing God's garden through welcome, hospitality and kindness.



Preamble

At St Therese Catholic Primary School we believe that a road safety policy provides a framework of common understanding for students, staff, parents/carers and the community who interact with the school to provide a safe environment.

Our Catholic School is founded on the person of Jesus Christ and is committed to educate in Gospel values - especially in hope, love, justice and care for others in the community. As a school we strive to reflect the spirit of our patron saint, St Therese, to Grow God's garden through welcome & hospitality, joy & kindness.

The main intention of this policy is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our students who use the services and facilities of this school. We do this by assessing the risks in the road environment around our school, developing practical school management procedures and ensuring that curriculum that pertains to all road safety issues is taught to our students.

Environmental Statement

St Therese Catholic Primary School is bordered by the Princes Hwy to the north and west, Powell St to the east and the Illawarra Grammar School (TIGS) to the south. The close proximity of a 1000+ high school greatly impacts on the amount of traffic movement in Powell St, while the Princes Hwy is the main route out of Wollongong to the south. As such, the safe entering and exiting of students from the school is of great importance to all stakeholders. The traffic is particularly heavy in Powell St from 8.30am - 9.00am and from 2.45pm - 3.15pm as it is at these times that children are walking to and from school, are being dropped off/picked up by private transport and buses are arriving/departing.

For a number of years, the school has been involved with the 'Safer Routes to School' program. The combined support and efforts of school and home brought about the installation of a children's crossing, appropriate street signage and a crossing supervisor in 2002. A speed camera has been installed on the Princes Hwy just to the south of our school.

There are two sets of traffic lights on the highway at Mt Keira Rd and Powell St. In Powell St, there is a combination of bus stops, no stopping signs and 'kiss and drop' zones.

Aims

At St Therese Catholic Primary School we aim:

- To provide quality road safety information to the students that develops attitudes, behaviours and values promoting responsible road use.
- To have procedures and practices in place that maximise the safety of students when they arrive at and depart from school.

Curriculum Statement

At St Therese Catholic Primary School our staff will develop and implement effective road safety education programs within the K-6 PD/H/PE key learning area. Our programs will make use of the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) *Move Ahead with Street Sense* materials and address the following road safety issues for our students:

- passenger safety;
- bus safety
- pedestrian safety; and
- safety on wheels (bicycles, scooters, roller-blades and skateboards).

School Management Procedures

At St Therese Catholic Primary School, the staff will maximise the safety of students:

- **Arriving at School:**
 - Prior to 8.30am, all students and parents are to enter the school via the school office and sit on the Years 1/2 verandah. Supervision begins at 8.30am with students permitted to play on the back playground at this time.
 - After 8:30am students are to enter via the main pedestrian entry point next to the school office. If parents are parked in the top car park they may escort students into the playground through the top gates via the basketball court.
- **Travelling home by bus (1):** Students assemble in the Basement and are escorted to buses in the bus zone on the western side of Powell St.
- **Travelling home by bus (2):** Students assemble in the Back Playground and are escorted to buses in bus zones on the Princes Hwy and eastern side of Powell St.
- **Travelling home with parents in private vehicles:** Students assemble in the Back Playground and wait until collected by an adult.
- **Walking home accompanied by an adult:** Students assemble in the Back Playground and wait until collected by an adult. Students crossing Powell St may walk through the Office Carpark and cross at the children's crossing.
- **Walking home unaccompanied by an adult (1):** Students assemble in the Back Playground and are escorted across the Princes Hwy at the Mt Keira traffic lights.
- **Walking home unaccompanied by an adult (2):** Students crossing Powell St are to exit via the office pedestrian gate and cross at the children's crossing. These students exit the school independently.
- **Buses for excursions:** are to pick up and drop off students from the bus zone. Students are to wait with teachers inside the school grounds until the arrival of the bus. When excursions return after school hours students are to alight from bus and be met by waiting parents/carers. When latter are not yet present, students are to wait inside the school grounds. If this is not possible, they are to assemble with the teacher and wait.
Where students are required to leave the grounds on activities e.g. cross country, picnics, they are to leave under the supervision of a teacher, walk on the footpath and to wait for the teacher or staff member to accompany them cross any streets as required.
- **Bicycles:** Students are permitted to ride bicycles provided they have signed and completed a Student Bicycle User's Agreement.

Members of the community at St. Therese Catholic Primary School will be informed via newsletters, information booklets and parent take-home notes on the importance of:

- modelling safe road user behaviour;
- parking vehicles safely inside/outside the school, observing all parking signs and children's crossing;
- ensuring that children are protected whilst travelling to and from school;
- reinforcing the safety messages taught at school;
- supervising the travel of young students;
- identifying and reporting safety issues in and around the school;
- contributing to the solving of road safety issues that are of concern to the school community.

Discretionary Basis

The Principal reserves the right to vary the policy in the event of unforeseen and exceptional circumstances.

Kiss and Drop Zone

There is a *No Parking* zone at the front of the school on Powell St between 8:00am and 9:00am on school days. The school operates a Kiss and Drop arrangement in this zone and we strongly prefer families to use this arrangement.

Guidelines for safe and efficient use of the Kiss and Drop Zone are:

- Passengers may be set down in this space, but the driver must remain with the vehicle.
- Move to the northernmost available set down point
- Ensure that your child(ren) exit the vehicle on the kerb side only
- Ensure bags and other equipment are easily accessible; and

- Please stay in the driver's seat to maximise the efficiency of the 'Kiss and Drop'.

Visitor Parking

Limited short term visitor parking is available at the top gate of the school, in the parish carpark.

All visitors must sign in and out at the school office on arrival at/departure from the school.

School Security

Entry gates to the school will be open from 8.30am – 9.00am and from 2.45pm – 3.30pm. Any students or visitors to the school outside these hours must enter via the School Administration office.

Adoption Date: _____/_____/_____

Review Date: _____/_____/_____