



Waingels College - School of the future

Principal: Ann Keane-Maher

Ktagg/gblunt/letters/2012/cycle safety

1 June 2012

Dear Parents /Carer

I am writing to raise awareness of, and to seek your support with, ensuring the safety of our children on their journey to and from School.

In the UK each year there are upwards of 17,000 cyclist casualties and tragically over 100 cyclists are killed. The vast majority of those killed or seriously injured suffer head injuries. These are caused by a lack of awareness and concentration resulting in a collision with a car.

I have recently received a number of phone calls and letters from concerned local residents and motorists about the safety of our children riding their bicycles to and from school. Many have been seen riding without helmets, and in some cases riding five and six abreast across the middle of the roads approaching Waingels, blocking traffic and putting themselves in danger. Several motorists have spoken of near misses and of it 'only being a matter of time' before there is a serious injury or worse, a fatality. I'm sure it goes without saying that this is a deep cause for concern, and I believe is something that the whole community can and should unite in addressing.

In School we recently launched a cycle safety campaign in assemblies. During that assembly we re-enforced our clear expectations for all of our students who choose to cycle to School.

By cycling onto the Waingels College site, students agree to the following:

- cycle to school on a road-worthy bicycle
- wear a cycle helmet on the journey to and from school
- ride in a safe and considerate manner
- carry a cycle permit (available at each zone office)

In School, we will continue our safety campaign by enforcing our cycle rules stringently. This will undoubtedly be unpopular with a small minority of students who refuse to follow the rules. Students may find their bicycle confiscated or indeed clamped if it is brought onto site in an un-road-worthy condition. Confiscated and clamped cycles will be returned only to parents and on the understanding that rules are followed in future or an alternative means of travel be used.

Where rules are ignored, despite clear and repeated instructions, permission to ride a bicycle to school will be withdrawn.

If you would like to know more about cycle safety, please follow the link on our website where you can find relevant information from the [highway-code](#). In addition, there is a link to a national cycling proficiency qualification called '[bike ability](#)' which aims to improve the awareness of cyclists as well as improving their skills. Courses are available for children and adults alike, so it is never too late to get involved and may be an excellent way to promote cycle safety for your children.

Thank you for your support in this vital safety matter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gareth Blunt', followed by a circular stamp or mark.

Gareth Blunt
Vice-Principal