

Dear Parent,

Bike safety at CCS.

We are really pleased that so many of our students choose to cycle to school each day, as it is a mode of transport that has multiple benefits for students' health and well-being as well as the environment in general. However, we grow increasingly concerned about the erratic and dangerous behaviour of a small number of cyclists that we would like to draw your attention to.

Cycling on site

Please remind your child that they should dismount at the pedestrian gate at the school perimeter and push their bike to the bike sheds. Similarly, at the end of the day, students should push their bike to the gates and then mount when it is safe to do so. This is especially important between 8:20 and 8:45, and 3:15 and 3:30, when our pedestrian footfall is at its highest.

Helmets

Whilst we have no plans to make cycle helmets compulsory for students who cycle, we strongly advise that students wear a helmet to and from school and at all times that they are cycling. We also advise that students regularly have their bikes serviced to ensure roadworthiness, and lock their bikes in school with a sturdy lock that has a good security rating.

Dangerous behaviour to and from school

It has been brought to our attention that some individuals, wearing CCS uniform, have exhibited extremely reckless and dangerous cycling behaviour outside of school. This includes students deliberately weaving in front of moving vehicles so they cannot safely pass; students suddenly pulling out in front of vehicles, forcing the drivers to stop abruptly; students riding three- or four abreast on roads, making it impossible for drivers to pass; performing 'wheelies' at speed in the road or on pavement around groups of pedestrians; and pushing and shoving other cyclists, including those younger than themselves. Whilst this behaviour is not happening on school premises or during school hours, the safety and well-being of our students both in and out of school is our number one priority and we will be looking to identify these students and work with parents and, as necessary, the police to try to address these concerns.

By considering the above, we can hopefully make the journey to school much safer and more enjoyable for all road users, including pedestrians. It would be a shame for the reputation of all cyclists, most of whom cycle in a safe and sensible manner, to be tarnished by the inconsiderate behaviour of a small few.

Caroline Chisholm School

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Secondary: 01604 669200 **Primary:** 01604 669210 **Website:** www.ccs.northants.sch.uk

Principal: David James **Vice Principals:** Andrew Fisher Katherine Patterson Gary Wakefield

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The Wooldale Centre for Learning, Wootton Fields, Northampton NN4 6TP