

# Skateboarding and Scootering Policy Guidelines

## Why does your school need this policy?

Scooters and skateboards are increasingly popular forms of transport to school. While learning to ride a skateboard or scooter can be an important part of play, risk taking and development, approximately 177 New Zealand children are hospitalised each year for skateboard and scooter-related injuries, and more than 6000 children receive less serious injuries.

Development and implementation of this policy will also help your school demonstrate its commitment to National Administration Guideline (NAG) 5, the provision of a safe physical environment for students.

## Preventing injuries to children

Skateboarding and scootering injuries can be prevented by wearing helmets and other protective gear, appropriate road safety behaviours, and having a safe environment to skateboard and scoot. Wearing a correctly fitted helmet that meets an approved safety standard can prevent head injuries, and can save children's lives. Wearing other protective gear including elbow and knee pads when skateboarding and scootering, and wrist guards when skateboarding, has been shown to prevent fractures of the limbs. The safest place to ride a skateboard or scooter is on the footpath, and children should use pedestrian crossings to cross roads. Footpaths need to be smooth and well maintained, and crossings need to be safe for children. Ensuring that skateboards and scooters are safely stored can also help reduce injuries.

More information on how to prevent child skateboard and scooter-related injuries is available from:

- **Safekids New Zealand: [www.safekids.org.nz](http://www.safekids.org.nz) ; Child skateboard and scooter injury prevention position paper and fact sheet**
- **New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA): [www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz) ; NZTA online scooter safety tips**

## Skateboarding and Scootering Policy

### Goal:

Scooter and skateboard safety are important aspects of road safety education, which is a shared responsibility between the school, parents and caregivers. This policy will support the school's overall road safety policy, help reduce children's risk of injury, and support their wellbeing.

### Purpose:

1. To support road safety awareness at all levels throughout the school
2. To encourage road safety and injury prevention behaviours among children as they travel to and from school
3. To encourage parents and caregivers to model and reinforce road safety messages taught at school

### Guidelines:

Every child travelling to or from school on a skateboard or scooter will:

- always wear a safety standard approved, and appropriately fitted helmet
- ride on the footpath only
- give way to people walking on the footpath
- cross roads safely, on foot, at pedestrian crossings and school road patrol crossings where available

Children riding scooters and skateboards will be required to complete the school's scooter/skateboard contract.

Children in Year 4 and below will not be permitted to ride scooters and skateboards unless accompanied by an adult.

Children riding scooters and skateboards will be encouraged to wear shoes.

Children riding scooters and skateboards will be encouraged to wear knee and elbow pads.

Children riding skateboards will also be encouraged to wear wrist guards.

Scooters and skateboards should not be used in school grounds, and should be stored in the appropriate area.

# Skateboarding and Scootering Contract

Our school scootering and skateboarding policy states:

Every child travelling to or from school on a skateboard or scooter will:

- always wear a safety standard approved, and appropriately fitted helmet
- ride on the footpath only
- give way to people walking on the footpath
- cross roads safely, on foot, at pedestrian crossings and school road patrol crossings where available
- be accompanied by an adult if in Year 4 or below

## Parent statement:

My child \_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to scooter or skateboard to school. I will ensure they wear a correctly fitting and standards approved helmet, and that they follow good road safety behaviour. I will ensure an adult accompanies my child to school if they are in Year 4 or below.

Name of parent \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Child statement:

I want to scooter or skateboard on my way to and from school. I will wear a helmet, ride carefully on the pavement, give way to people on the footpath, and get off my scooter or skateboard to walk across the roads.

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Discussion Points for Boards of Trustees

When your Board is considering whether or not to develop and implement a scooter and skateboard policy as part of your road safety policies, you may want to discuss the following points:

### School travel routes

- Do you want to encourage or discourage children to scooter or skateboard to school? Is the environment on frequently used school travel routes appropriate for children to scooter or skateboard? Are there any high risk hazards including footpath maintenance, traffic volumes and speed, or crossing points?

### Supervision

- Do you want to require parents and caregivers to supervise children on scooters or skateboards until they reach a certain age?

### Storage and security

- Where are appropriate storage sites for scooters and skateboards? What are the security issues and responsibilities?

### Integration with walking school buses

- Do you want to integrate children on scooters or skateboards into walking school buses? How will you manage speed and appropriate supervision?



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*Safekids Aotearoa's mission is to reduce the incidence and severity of unintentional injuries to New Zealand children aged 0 – 14 years*