

# **COOKSTOWN** **HIGH SCHOOL**

## **POLICY FOR ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION**

### **Road Safety Education Officer Service**

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*The general aim of education is to contribute towards the development of all aspects of the individual, including the aesthetic, creative, critical, cultural, emotional, intellectual, moral, physical, political, social and spiritual development for personal and family life, for working life, for living in the community and for leisure.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The ethos of Cookstown High School endorses the maintenance of a safe, stable and caring learning environment in which students, parents and staff work together to develop self-respect and respect for others. This policy document reflects the aims and objectives of this school, taking into account the guidance received from DOE Road Safety Education Officers.

The school has consulted with staff, parents and governors on this policy.

## **MORAL AND VALUES FRAMEWORK**

Cookstown High School values all of its students equally. The school will strive, in partnership with those in parental responsibility, to educate students in the proper and safe use of roads, promoting safe behaviour and practice as well as an attitude that respects those dangers which will be encountered on or near roads.

The school acknowledges the diverse backgrounds of its students and that they will, therefore, be faced by a wide variety of risks. Since perception, expressive language and understanding are critical to this "life skill", lessons will endeavour to meet the needs of students particularly challenged in these areas.

The teaching of Road Safety Education will not solve all of our community's road safety problems but without a carefully planned programme, our young people will be ill-equipped when confronting the many issues and situations which arise on or near our roads.

## **KEY AIMS OF THE ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMME:**

- To place the student at the centre of a programme that helps them to understand the impact of road safety upon their lives;
- To equip students with the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to make informed choices and decisions about their own behaviour as pedestrians, passengers or drivers on or near roads;
- To encourage parental responsibility;
- To make students aware that actions have consequences and that their behaviour should reflect this;
- To enable students to communicate their views and feelings about road safety using appropriate language;

- To develop self-confidence and awareness in students so that they can give correct information and cope adequately with inaccurate information and detrimental peer pressure;
- To engage students in risk-assessment exercises relating to road safety issues in hypothetical and real situations.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

School age deaths and serious injuries in our province fall into the main categories of:

- ❖ drivers
- ❖ pedestrians,
- ❖ passengers in vehicles,
- ❖ cyclists

Cookstown High School will endeavour to make its contribution to community efforts aimed at reduction of road related deaths and serious injuries through the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy.

## **THE ROLE OF ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION**

This school acknowledges that Road Safety is of prime importance to everyone connected with the school and the community it serves.

Rule 7 of “The Highway Code” clearly identifies those with parental responsibility as being responsible for the task of deciding upon young peoples’ road safety readiness.

Road safety is, therefore, primarily influenced by:

- ❖ Parents
- ❖ Parental attitudes
- ❖ Young peoples’ experiences in society

Cookstown High School believes that it is important for parents and young people to realise that their behaviour has implications for themselves and others.

## **ORGANISATION OF THE ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

Road Safety is best addressed through a combination of subject specific and cross-curricular approaches. This approach will ensure that Road Safety Education is a regular and normal part of a student’s education at Cookstown High School.

Tasks and experiences will be in keeping with the majority of students whilst taking particular account of the mobility, visual and auditory needs of all students in practical situations.

Road Safety Education will be taught as part of the **Learning for Life and Work / Personal Development Programme** across both Key Stage 3 and 4. The school recognises that the Northern Ireland curriculum lists Road Safety as a compulsory

element within the Personal Health concept of Learning for Life and Work and will deliver accordingly.

Cookstown High School accepts the importance of **Road Traffic Studies (Life Skills)** in promoting a positive and understanding attitude to the use of the road and to other road users. This, we believe, to be a suitable non-exam course, in consultation with the Road Safety Education Officer.

The Driver Training Programme offered by the Road Safety Education Office will be considered for all students aged over 17 and who are able to obtain a Provisional Driving Licence.

### **STAFF TRAINING**

Cookstown High School recognises the need to develop whole staff awareness of our students' needs and strategies for ensuring that those needs are met. As issues and opportunities are identified, staff will engage in training for Road Safety Education.

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The school will seek to ensure that the Road Safety Education programme is relevant and accessible to students, regardless of age, culture, disability, gender, religion or social class.

All students will be taught together through lessons appropriate to their age and development.

### **EVALUATION**

Review of Road Safety Education procedures and provision will take place after the first full year of implementation and thereafter as required.

*See below for Appendix 1 and Appendix 2*

## **APPENDIX ONE:**

At Cookstown High School we are students who:

- ❖ Wait in an orderly manner and follow the teachers' and drivers' instructions when leaving school by taxi or bus;
- ❖ Ask **known** adults for help when we are on or near roads;
- ❖ Know that the wearing of seatbelts, where available, is the safest way to travel on all school-related outings whether in buses, taxis or cars.
- ❖ Are advised to bring bicycles on to school grounds only if we are wearing suitable cycle helmets;
- ❖ Exercise care and restraint when taking our cars to school as well as parking in designated areas within the school grounds.

## **APPENDIX TWO:**

### **ROAD SAFETY PROBLEMS SPECIFIC TO OUR SCHOOL**

The Governors appreciate the efforts of Parents and Staff whose care and consideration help to maintain a safe environment for the whole Cookstown High School community.

All Governors, Parents, Teachers and Students should, however, be aware of the following:

- ❖ The dangers present at “Arrival and Home Times” when the school buses and taxis drop off and collect students.
- ❖ The dangers of students being on the school premises in the mornings before normal arrangements for supervision are in place;
- ❖ The necessity for students to leave the site punctually at the end of the school day or an after-school activity and be supervised appropriately thereafter;
- ❖ The implications for unsecured students in cars involved in road traffic collisions;
- ❖ The importance of encouraging students to use school crossing patrols in place on routes to and from school;
- ❖ The importance of using only the designated car-parks for dropping off and collecting students;
- ❖ The car-park close to Coolnafranky House is designated for the use of staff only and should not be accessed by parents;
- ❖ Students who bring their own cars onto the school premises should park near Block 3 (Lower Building);
- ❖ Parents should not use the back avenue near to the SELB Bus Depot to park and wait to collect students at the end of the school day. This avenue is designed as a two-way thoroughfare and any parking there restricts access.
- ❖ All vehicles driving in the grounds must do so with due care and attention to pedestrians. Speed limits displayed must be adhered to.
- ❖ The narrow drive around the Upper Building and Coolnafranky House should not be frequently used. It may be used for emergency vehicle access.

We acknowledge the assistance of DOE Road Safety Branch in the formulation of this policy.