

LARNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
**ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION**  
**POLICY**

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The ethos of Larne Grammar School is centred on 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 account of the guidance received from DOE Road Safety Education Officers.

Road Safety Education Officer Service

Department of Environment

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1.2 Larne Grammar School values all of its students equally. It recognises the challenges of modern life. The school will strive, in partnership with those with parental responsibility, to educate students in the proper and safe use of roads, promoting safe behaviour and practice, as well as fostering an attitude that respects those dangers which will be encountered on, or near, roads.

1.3 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”, the school will endeavour to meet the needs of students who are challenged in these areas.

1.4 Given this situation, one of the focuses of the school’s Road Safety Education Programme will be to encourage all of our students to develop their self-esteem and confidence to enable them to make critical and informed decisions regarding road safety now and in later life.

1.5 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.

**2. Key aims of the Road Safety Education Programme**

2.1 To place the student at the centre of a programme that helps them to understand the impact of road safety upon their lives.

2.2 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.

2.3 To encourage parental responsibility.

2.4 To make students aware that all actions have consequences and that their behaviour should reflect this.

2.5 To help students develop respect for themselves and others by encouraging positive role modelling within the school environment.

2.5.1 To enable students to communicate their views and feelings about road safety using appropriate language.

2.6 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.

2.7 To engage students in risk assessment exercises relating to road safety issues in hypothetical and real, locally based situations.

2.8 To endeavour to make a contribution to community efforts aimed at reduction of road related deaths and serious injuries through the N.I. Road Safety Strategy.

**3. The Role of Road Safety Education**

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

3.2 Rule 7 of “The Highway Code” clearly identifies those with parental responsibility as being responsible for the task of deciding upon young people’s Road Safety readiness.

3.3 Road Safety is, therefore, primarily influenced by:

- Parents
- Parental attitudes
- Young people’s experiences in society

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- 3.4 Larne Grammar School believes that it is important for parents and young people to realise that their behaviour has implications for themselves and others.
- 4. Organisation of the Road Safety Education Programme**
- 4.1 Road Safety is best addressed as a cross curricular theme across subjects. This approach will ensure that Road Safety Education is a regular and normal part of a student's education at Larne Grammar School.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Road Safety Education will be taught as part of the **Personal Development Programme** across both Key Stage 3 and 4. The school recognises that the new curriculum lists Road Safety as a compulsory element and will deliver it accordingly. It will also be included in the Tutorial programme in Sixth Form.
- 4.4 The opportunity to avail of driving lessons will be considered for all students aged over 17 and who are able to obtain a Provisional Driving Licence. The school will facilitate pupils by allowing them to avail of driving lessons during 'study' periods.
- 5. Staff Training**
- 5.1 Larne Grammar School recognises the need to develop whole staff awareness of our students' needs and strategies for ensuring that those needs are met.
- 5.2 Those members of staff who will be driving the school minibus will be required to provide confirmation that they hold the appropriate licence. Staff members required to drive will be afforded the opportunity to complete the necessary tests to obtain the correct licence.
- 5.3 Larne Grammar School has adopted a "Use of School Minibus" policy and staff are made aware of the policy on an annual basis or when commencing work in the school.
- 6. Equal Opportunities**
- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 In respect of Road Safety Education (included in the LLW programme in Years 8 to 10), we will ensure that students from rural/farming locations and those from residential areas have all got valuable lessons to learn from our programme.
- 6.3 All students will be taught together through lessons appropriate to their age and development.
- 7. Evaluation**
- 7.1 A review of Road Safety Education procedures and provision will take place after the first full year of implementation and thereafter as required.

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**Appendix One Pupil Code**

At Larne Grammar School we are students who:

- Line up quietly and follow the teachers' and drivers' instructions when leaving school by taxi or bus;
- Use the Puffin Crossing when crossing the Lower Cairncastle Road;
- Help our friends or younger children when they are near roads;
- 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.
- Always stay behind the leading teacher and in front of the rear teacher when walking on school visits or outings;
- Are advised to bring bicycles on to school grounds only if we are wearing suitable cycle helmets;
- When arriving at school, dismount our bicycles at the pedestrian gate and walk them to the cycle park provided and repeat this procedure when leaving school.
- Exercise care and restraint when taking our cars to school as well as parking in designated areas inside and outside the school grounds.
- Abide by the requirement of our driving insurance policies in respect to the carrying of passengers when driving our cars.

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**Appendix Two Road Safety Problems Specific to Larne Grammar School**

The Governors, Senior Leadership and Staff of Larne Grammar School are very aware of their responsibilities in safeguarding the pupils of the school. This includes taking all reasonable actions to provide for the adequate safeguarding of pupils with regard to Road Safety, including the introduction of measures to improve the safety of pupils crossing the road during the school day. Such measures include:

- The implementation of a regularly reviewed Road Safety Education Policy.
- Campaigning for the installation of a crossing point on the Lower Cairncastle Road. A Puffin Crossing was finally installed in February 2015.
- A Road Safety briefing for Year 8 pupils as part of the Induction process.
- The Principal highlights the issue of Road Safety as part of his start of year talks to each of the seven year groups.
- Safety crossing the Lower Cairncastle Road is frequently discussed in Junior and Senior Assemblies.
- Crossing lights are in operation.

A number of Road Safety issues are unique to Larne Grammar School and, whilst the geography of the school means that it is impossible to remove the risk to pupils altogether, the Governors, Senior Leadership and Staff will endeavour to ensure that the risk is effectively managed.

All Governors, Parents, Staff and Pupils should be aware of the following:

- The dangers present at “Arrival and Home Times” when the school buses, cars and taxis collect students.
- The dangers associated with crossing the Lower Cairncastle Road when going to and from Technology classes, PE or Games classes and during an evacuation in the cases of fire etc.
- The warning lights activated at busy times to encourage all drivers to maintain an appropriate slow speed while travelling on the Lower Cairncastle Road and the Mill Brae.
- The buttons provided on both sides of the Lower Cairncastle Road, which will activate the warning signs for drivers.
- The importance of parking clear of the yellow zigzag lines at the school entrance and complying with other traffic arrangements designed to maintain the safety of students at Larne Grammar School.
- The dangers of students being on the school premises in the mornings before normal arrangements for supervision are in place.
- The risk to pedestrians of cars entering the school grounds to leave and collect pupils at the busy times.
- The necessity for students to be collected punctually at the end of the school day and supervised appropriately thereafter.
- The importance of encouraging students to use school crossing patrols in place on routes to / from school.