

STUDENT TRAVEL POLICY

This policy is applicable to all students, staff and parents at The Wellington Academy.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Responsible position:	Approved by:
Deputy Premises Manager	Headteacher
Version number:	Date approved:
3.0	April 2021
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2 Years	April 2023

RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

Policy Name	Date Issued
Health & Safety Policy	May 2018

REVISION RECORD

Date	Version	Revision Description
Jan 2013	1.0	Written in line with current legislation
April 2019	2.0	Review and updated.

INTRODUCTION

The policy relates to students who use their own transport (excluding bicycles) to come to the Academy during the day and is designed to support the Academy to:

- Identify relevant issues
- Develop appropriate policies and procedures to overcome the issues
- Enhance the welfare and safety of students and maintain the academy's positive public image

It also details the support given to students travelling from further away in order to minimise own vehicle use and to attract more students.

RATIONALE

When considering the context of bringing a car, moped or motorcycle on site, the Academy and all of its users have a duty to:

- Ensure the health and safety of all that use the Academy
- Respect and protect the property of both the Academy and its users
- Assess and then minimise potential risks to which they and their property may be exposed
- Follow established criteria and guidelines

Key Factors to consider are:

- The Academy has in excess of 1,000 students, staff, parents and visitors using the site
- Once authorised, liability for parking on site remains with the individual concerned
- Limited parking facilities on-site

In assessing these factors, the Academy needs to ensure the safe and legitimate driving of cars, motorbikes and mopeds whilst on site, as well as seeing that parking on site is authorised (both for students and staff) and those driving and parking on site are aware of their responsibilities and of the responsibilities of others.

Current trends

It has been common practice in many post 16 students of legal driving age to use their own transport to and from the Academy. This number has increased considerably in recent years which can be attributed to a number of factors including:

- Increased numbers of students completing Year 12 which has led to more students of driving age being enrolled in the Academy
- Post 16 students joining the Academy from outside the normal catchment area

The number of students driving to and from Academy will vary depending on factors, such as the capacity to afford their own transport, the availability of public transport, and access to suitable parking facilities on-site.

Need to be concerned about young drivers?

Most young drivers are careful, safety conscious and considerate when driving. However, they are one of the most vulnerable road user groups due to their inexperience and a distinct pattern of behaviour relating to youth culture and lifestyle. Furthermore, research shows that travelling with teenage passengers constitutes an increased risk for young drivers.

The reality is that:

- In their first year of driving, young people are about three times more likely to be killed or injured than older, more experienced drivers
- Crash risk significantly increases as the number of passengers increases

Relative to older drivers, young drivers:

- Are inexperienced (which research shows is the single most important risk factor)
- Have poorly developed cognitive and perceptual skills
- Have a tendency to drive more often and for longer distances in all conditions
- Believe that their level of driving skill is much greater than it actually is
- Have a belief in their own invincibility that results in a tendency to take more risks, including a propensity not to wear seat belts and to speed
- Have less well-developed hazard-detection skills
- Often drive for reasons of sensation seeking
- Many young drivers rationalise their risk-taking by talking down or avoiding talking about the possible outcomes, and blaming outside factors for their driving indiscretions
- Travelling with teenage passengers constitutes one of the greatest risks for young drivers and, the more passengers, the greater the risk
- The fatal crash risk is increased five times when two or more passengers are carried
- The increased risk with passenger's present is greatest when young male passengers accompany young male drivers and is thought to be largely the result of distraction and increased risk taking
- Friends and peers are generally a negative influence on the behaviour of young drivers, particularly young male drivers as it is thought there is an increased tendency by the young driver to take risks in response to peer pressure
- Distractions caused by social interaction among peers are likely to play a role in increasing driver inattentiveness
- The mere physical presence of a 16-24 year old passenger is more likely to stimulate the driver to engage in risky and anti-social behaviour

In this context, we all have a responsibility to look at all possible ways of improving the safety and well-being of our students.

Students are not permitted under any circumstances to transport other students in private cars in connection with any Academy activity or function whether held during normal Academy hours or at other times.

While it is clear that students who drive to the Academy are not permitted, even with the permission of a parent/guardian, to transport other students to an Academy activity or function, carrying student passengers to and/or from the Academy daily is a separate issue.

The following check-list is to be used:

- Requirements regarding parent/guardian permission for a student to drive to Academy
- The use of vehicles during the Academy day
- Are there any days when students are not permitted to park in the Academy grounds
- Requirements regarding student drivers carrying other students to and from the Academy

- Expectations regarding driver behaviour when travelling to and from the Academy
- Communication strategies that will be used to ensure drivers, passengers and parents are aware of the Academy policy and requirements

The Academy takes pride in maintaining a positive image within the local community. With an increasing number of our students driving to and from the Academy, it is important they recognise that any careless and unsafe driving reflects poorly not just personally but also on the Academy.

Members of the Academy community are requested to inform the Academy if they are aware of any students who are driving in a reckless or dangerous manner or who are not adhering to road rules. Any reports made will be taken seriously and investigated. If student drivers have been found to put themselves and other road users at risk, appropriate sanctions will be carried out and if necessary the police notified. Concern for our students' safety and welfare are paramount and we ask that the whole Academy community works together to achieve this end.

The Academy will allow the riding and parking of motorcycles and mopeds on its site within the designated parking areas being the cycle area near the Radio station building/The Bridge. In terms of safety, the Academy does not permit any of its students below sixth form to arrive on site via moped or motorcycle.

Academy requirements for use of own transport by students:

1. Students are required to adhere to the site speed limit of 5 mph and all road rules, driving in a safe and responsible manner.
2. Students are only to use their own transport for travelling to and from Academy, **not** around Academy grounds during the day.
3. Students may only park in the designated student parking area, the Radio station building/The Bridge /area outside Sports Centre.
4. The Academy takes no responsibility for damage to cars, mopeds or motorcycles whilst on the Academy grounds.
5. If any of the above requirements are not followed, the student will have an appropriate sanction applied which may include but is not restricted to; a warning, removal of a strike, withdrawal of the student's right to park at the Academy.

BOARDERS

Boarders are not allowed cars, motorcycles or mopeds on-site. Boarders are not allowed to be passengers in cars driven by students or use other student's mopeds without parental consent and permission being granted by the Director of Boarding.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

The Sixth form Bursary is to be used in part to subsidise the minibuses which bring students in from key areas not included on a conventional bus route (e.g. Pewsey). The amount of subsidy is dependent on the number of 6th formers using the transport.

The Bursary is also to be used to subsidise the cost of bus passes for students travelling in from various distances with a higher percentage contributed for those travelling from further away.

Each of these policies are designed to minimise the use of a student's own vehicle and also to support students wishing to come to the Academy who cannot justify the cost of transport.