

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



Principal: S Cumper
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Dear Parent/ Guardian



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Keeping Our Children Safe Online

We would encourage all School Parent Guardians to have an open and honest conversations with their children about the dangers that may be online. When your children go outside to play, you ask them who they are playing with and what they are doing. As a school we believe that Parent/Guardians need to consider doing the same thing when their children engage online. Are they speaking to somebody within a game or on social media that is a genuine friend of theirs, or is it an adult impersonating a child? Our colleagues at Parenting NI and the PSNI have made a video for how parents can talk to their children about what they are doing online. Link to video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cqxUcOPs_M

Scooters and Bicycles in School

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School recognises the many positive benefits of pupils Cycling and Scooting to and from school. We encourage the children (and their Parents/Carers) to take advantage of the improving weather and make their way, or at least part of the way, to school on foot.).

Some of the benefits of cycling to school include:

- Improving health through physical activity
- Establishing positive active travel behaviours
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community
- Reducing environmental impact of the journey to school

To make cycling and scooting to and from school a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:

- ✓ Ride sensibly and safely and to follow the Highway Code
- ✓ Take responsibility for checking that their bicycle is roadworthy and regularly maintained
- ✓ Behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling
- ✓ Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using bicycle lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate

❖ We strongly recommend the wearing of Cycle Helmets by all Children at HMPS

The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle to and from school safely rests with the Parents/Guardian and Harding Memorial Integrated P.S. has no liability for any consequences of that decision or for the security of any Bicycles or Scooters that have been left on School Premises.

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School would formally request that all Scooters and Bicycles are “secured by a lock” when they are left in the School Playground.



<https://www.brake.org.uk/get-involved/take-action/mybrake/knowledge-centre/advice-for-parents-and-families/walking-with-children#:~:text=Make%20sure%20hand%2Dholding%20is,understand%20the%20 dangers%20of%20traffic.>

Walking is good for our bodies and good for the planet, it's also a great way to spend time with children and talk about important road safety issues. When parents walk with their children it gives the whole family a chance to exercise, experience the world around them and spend time with each other, talking and learning about roads. When your child is old enough to start walking with you, talk to them about how they must always hold your hand. Make sure hand-holding is your number one rule. If your child is likely to pull away from you, use safety reins or a wrist strap. Keep children on the inside, away from traffic, in case they trip. **As you walk, teach young children the words and ideas they need to understand the dangers of traffic.**

Many children aged eight or over are able to learn to use roads independently, although some take longer to reach this stage. When you and your child decide it is safe to allow them to walk independently, teach them and keep reminding them about the importance of crossing safely using the Green Cross Code (stop somewhere safe where you can see, listen, look right, look left, look right again, keep listening, and only cross when you are sure it is safe. Help children to plan the safest possible route for their journey to school, the park, shops or their friends' houses.

End of School Pickup Arrangements

- Please remember that all P1, P2 and P3 children should be collected by an adult from their individual school entrance and exit areas at the end of the school day.
- If you have changed the person collecting your child – you **MUST** notify the School Office in advance of the school finishing time. This is an issue that is causing school significant concern as we are increasingly having young children not sure about who is collecting them from school.
- Obviously the Health and Wellbeing of the children in our care is our Primary Concern.
- **No child from Primary 1 to Primary 3 will be allowed to leave school without a Parent/Guardian being identified by School Staff**
- **Please note that we will not release a child from P1 – P3 to the care of any adult without prior communication from Home**
- We would expect any pupil from Primary 4 to Primary 7 to come back into school if they have not been collected by a recognised Parent/Guardian. Please note our message to our P4- P7 Pupils is **"If In Doubt – Come back into school and we will make contact with your Home"**