



## **Road Safety Policy**

Updated September 2024

At Briar Dene Childcare, the safety of children, staff, and visitors is our primary concern. We are committed to promoting road safety awareness and ensuring that children are transported safely during any nursery-related activities, including drop-offs, pick-ups, or outings. This policy outlines the practices and procedures to be followed to ensure safe road behaviour both within the nursery grounds and during excursions or travel.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure the safety of children while traveling to and from the nursery and during any off-site trips.
- Promote awareness of road safety among children and staff.
- Provide clear guidelines for staff, parents, and visitors to follow when in or around traffic areas.

### **General Road Safety Guidelines:**

#### **Arrival and Departure:**

**Drop-off and pick-up:** Parents are encouraged to park safely on the driveway and follow all road safety signs and guidelines when dropping off or picking up children. This includes parking in designated areas, not blocking driveways, and supervising children always while walking to and from vehicles.

**Supervision at entrances and exits:** Staff will ensure that children are safely escorted into and out of the nursery, using safe routes and crossing points when applicable.

**Awareness of surroundings:** Parents, carers, and staff should be vigilant when walking with children to ensure no traffic hazards, including vehicles or cyclists, pose a threat.

#### **Walking to and from the Nursery:**

Children will be escorted on foot to the nursery and picked up safely by an adult at the designated drop-off/pick-up point, this is the nursery driveway. Staff will use safe pedestrian crossings and encourage children to practice road safety, such as looking both ways before crossing. Children will always be closely supervised when walking near traffic and will never be allowed to walk alone near roads or unattended.

## **Road Safety During Excursions:**

### **Preparation for Outings**

All outings and trips involving road travel, whether by foot or vehicle, will be risk-assessed in advance to identify any potential safety hazards. Parents will be informed about the details of off-site trips, including the transportation method, route, and safety precautions taken. Prior to trips, children will be taught the basics of road safety, such as looking both ways before crossing, staying close to the group, and listening to adult instructions.

### **Transport to Off-Site Locations:**

If transport is required for an excursion, staff will ensure that all vehicles used are suitable, insured, and equipped with appropriate child safety seats and seat belts. Children will be seated in the appropriate child restraints, and staff will ensure that children do not move around while the vehicle is in motion. All adults involved in transporting children will be trained in child protection and road safety.

### **Supervision on Walks:**

During walks, staff will ensure that children are kept at a safe distance from roads and traffic, holding hands or using designated child safety straps where necessary. Staff will always walk on the side of the children facing oncoming traffic when walking along roads. Road safety messages, including stopping at the curb and looking both ways, will be reinforced with the children throughout the walk.

## **Promoting Road Safety Awareness with Children:**

### **Teaching Road Safety:**

Road safety education will be a regular part of the nursery curriculum, introducing children to essential safety rules in an age-appropriate manner. Children will be taught the importance of crossing roads at designated pedestrian crossings, looking both ways before crossing, and holding hands with an adult while walking near traffic. Staff will engage children with road safety games, songs, and activities to help them understand and remember these important rules.

### **Practical Road Safety Activities:**

The nursery may conduct role-playing activities or practice pedestrian skills with the children in a safe area (e.g., parking lot or playground) to help reinforce road safety behaviours. When possible, the nursery will invite local authorities (e.g., police officers) or road safety experts to visit the children and provide hands-on learning experiences.

## **Staff Responsibilities:**

### **Supervision During Pick-up and Drop-off:**

Staff will be present at the nursery gates to supervise the safe arrival and departure of children. They will ensure children are safely escorted to and from the building and that they are accompanied by a responsible adult. Staff will also remind parents to ensure children are safely buckled into car seats when being picked up.

### **Supervision During Outings:**

Staff will maintain a high ratio of adults to children when on outings to ensure that each child is closely supervised, particularly in areas where there is traffic. A designated “leader” will be assigned to ensure that all road safety procedures are followed, and a headcount will be taken regularly during the outing.

### **Emergency Procedures:**

In the event of a road-related emergency (e.g., an accident or injury), staff will follow the nursery’s **Emergency Procedures Policy**, including contacting emergency services and notifying parents immediately. First aid kits and mobile phones will always be carried on outings, and staff will have access to emergency contact information for all children.

### **Parental Responsibilities:**

#### **Road Safety at Drop-off and Pick-up:**

Parents and carers must adhere to the nursery’s guidelines when dropping off or picking up their children, including parking in designated areas and ensuring that children are safely escorted into the nursery.

Parents should ensure that their child is seated safely in a car seat and is wearing the appropriate safety restraints when being transported in a vehicle.

#### **Communication About Road Safety:**

Parents are encouraged to reinforce road safety education at home, supporting the messages taught at the nursery. Parents should notify the nursery if there are any specific road safety concerns or challenges, they wish to address.

At Briar Dene Childcare, road safety is a critical part of our commitment to providing a safe environment for all children. By following this policy and working closely with parents, children, and local authorities, we aim to promote safe road practices and ensure that children are protected when traveling to and from nursery or on outings. Through education and vigilance, we will continue to prioritise the safety and well-being of all children in our care.

**Review of Policy:**

This policy will be reviewed annually (September 2025), or as needed, to ensure that it remains relevant and effective in meeting the evolving needs of the children, families, and staff within the nursery.

| <b>Name:</b>   | <b>Position:</b>      | <b>Signed:</b> | <b>Date:</b> |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| David Birkbeck | Owner                 |                |              |
| Kayleigh Tydd  | Director              |                |              |
| Greg Bamber    | Nominated Individual  |                |              |
| Zoe Tydd       | Manager & DSL         |                |              |
| Abbie Lloyd    | Deputy Manager        |                |              |
| Jade Radcliffe | Second Deputy Manager |                |              |
| Pamela Lear    | Practitioner          |                |              |
| Diane Jones    | Practitioner          |                |              |
| Emily Gautrey  | Practitioner          |                |              |
|                |                       |                |              |
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