



To the families of any child who rides a bicycle

26<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parent, Guardians and Carers

It is fantastic that increasing numbers of students are cycling to school. However, following a recent flurry of complaints, from residents, passing motorists and our own staff, it can only be a matter of time before a serious accident happens.

Not all children who cycle to school do so irresponsibly, but a substantial number are currently doing so. I would imagine that the same is true outside of school journeys as well.

Please support us in talking to your child about how they ride their bicycle. In particular:

1. When meeting up to ride to school, cyclists should be aware of other road users and pedestrians. Six or seven bikes together are a formidable obstacle to somebody trying to get past.
2. Ignoring traffic instructions. A red light means stop! Some of our children are weaving in and out of cars, off and on pavements, and riding in a reckless manner. Even if the cyclist is fine, a car trying to take avoiding action can lead to an accident.
3. Around the school entrance, cyclists are dodging in and out of the traffic putting both themselves and others at risk.
4. Check the bicycle - do the brakes work?
5. Can your child be seen? The days are slowly growing longer but we still have gloomy mornings and evenings. Lights would be great or at the very least there are all sorts of reflective strips that are effective.
6. Wear a helmet. The mindset of teenagers is hardwired into a belief that they are indestructible; sadly, they are not. A helmet can save a life or injury.

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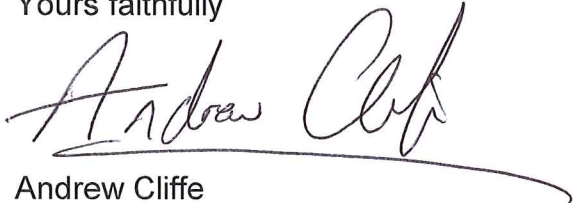


Chimney House Alliance

Failure to co-operate with these simple guidelines will result in consequences and we will monitor next week to see if there is an improvement.

I cannot afford to be complacent and simply hope for the best when everyone's safety is being put at risk on a daily basis.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Cliffe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Andrew Cliffe  
Headteacher