



## THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr T Williams

8<sup>TH</sup> October 2025

### Urgent Communication Regarding Student Cycling Safety

#### Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to address a matter of significant concern regarding the safety and conduct of some of our students who cycle to and from school. Many Bishop's students cycle to school, and the vast majority do so in a safe and respectful manner with appropriate safety equipment (helmets). However, over the past few weeks, the school has received an unusually high volume of contact from members of the public reporting **instances of unsafe and dangerous cycling behaviour** involving our students in the local area. Whilst we encourage students to use active travel like cycling, the reported actions indicate a serious risk to safety, not only to the students involved but also to other students, pedestrians and other road users.

#### Specific Concerns Raised

The public feedback consistently highlights several dangerous and irresponsible activities, including:

- **Disregard for Traffic Laws:** Students failing to stop, ignoring pedestrian crossings, and cycling on the wrong side of the road.
- **Reckless Riding:** Students riding aggressively, riding without hands on handlebars, cycling whilst using mobile phones or performing stunts (wheelies) in active traffic areas (at times, down Ledbury Road).
- **Pavement Cycling:** Cycling illegally on pavements, forcing pedestrians to move out of the way.

#### Our Duty of Care and Community Responsibility

The safety of our students, your children, is our absolute priority, and we have a duty to ensure they act as responsible citizens when representing the school and your families in the community.

We will be reinforcing messages about road safety in school, however, we cannot enforce this alone. We need your crucial support to ensure this dangerous behaviour stops immediately before a serious accident or injury occurs.

If your child does cycle to school can I ask you to take the time over the next few days to have a serious conversation with your child about:

1. **The Law:** The importance of obeying all traffic rules related to cycling to and from school.
2. **Courtesy:** The need to respect pedestrians and other community members.

*Always Faithful with Christ*

3. **Visibility:** Ensuring their bicycles are roadworthy with functioning lights and brakes, particularly as the mornings & evenings become darker.
4. **Helmets:** Strongly encouraging or mandating the use of cycling helmets.

Any student identified by the public or staff as engaging in significantly dangerous cycling behaviour may be subject to the school's disciplinary procedures, which may include a temporary ban from cycling to school.

Our concerns and reports shared are linked to a small minority of students, however, a reminder to all students about safe conduct whilst travelling to and from school will support all in the local community. Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical issue. By working together, we can ensure our students travel safely and responsibly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Williams', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr T Williams  
Headteacher