

Our Ref: JP/JAS

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024



Dear Parent/Carer

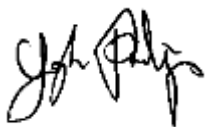
As a school, we encourage pupils to cycle and walk to school where possible, as it provides valuable daily exercise and helps them lead an active, healthy lifestyle.

We do however also want to ensure that all pupils make safe journeys to and from Wednesfield Academy. If your child cycles to school, then they must be wearing a helmet. From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 we will check that pupils who ride to school do so wearing a helmet.

I would like to make clear, that this is a rule with the sole intention of increasing your child's protection when riding their bike. As a school we will purchase spare helmets for the pupils to use if they do not have a helmet themselves. We understand that some students may perceive wearing a helmet to not be fashionable, but we would rather they stay safe on the roads. This is because there is empirical evidence based on the real-world hospital and Police data, as well as biomechanical studies, that confirms wearing a helmet while cycling is beneficial, regardless of age and crash severity, and whether in collisions with others or not. For more information on studies researching the effectiveness of bike helmets please click on the following link: [Effectiveness of bicycle helmets and injury prevention: a systematic review of meta-analyses | Scientific Reports \(nature.com\)](#). If your child wears religious headwear we still encourage parents to see if they are able to wear a helmet but appreciate that this may not always be possible.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals then the school can help support the purchase of a helmet for them, and we are able to lend a bike helmet for all pupils when needed. Please email [postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk) or call and speak to your child's Head of House on 01902-558222, if you would like support with this.

Yours faithfully



Mr Phillips  
Headteacher



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