INTRODUCTION
In recent years, the journey to and from school has changed – increased pressures on time and lifestyle have resulted in significant increases in the number of journeys to school by car. The reasons for increased travel by car are varied and are associated with:

- Distances that students travel to school
- Distances that parents travel to work after school drop off
- Increasing pressures of time
- Increase in car ownership
- Increased traffic and fears about road safety
- Increased fears about personal safety
- Habits and preferences

St Mary’s Parish School supports a Travel Smart philosophy that encourages students and their families to choose proactive and environmentally friendly ways of travelling such as walking, cycling, using public transport or car-pooling.

OBJECTIVES
- Build a school culture that supports Active Travel by motivating, encouraging and educating students on travel choices
- Provide safer environment around the school during pick up and drop off time by reducing the number of vehicles and increasing safe driver behaviours
- Improve walking and bicycle routes and infrastructure in and around the school
- Define the educational precinct that encourages curriculum based activities non-reliant on motorised transportation
- Define communication and consent in relation to curriculum based activities within the educational precinct
- Build awareness of effective travel choices
- Build parents trust in their child’s ability to travel to and from school safely

POLICY AIMS
The aims of the St. Mary’s Travel Smart Policy are to promote:

- student’s awareness about the impacts of high car usage on our environment and community
- increased road safety and reduced traffic congestion around the school by reducing the number of car trips to school
- Active Travel options
- independent travel choices by acknowledging the influences of the ‘car culture’
- removal of barriers, both actual and perceived, to walking, cycling and using public transport for school journeys
- an understanding of travel options to the school community

VALUES
Responsibility, Protection, Safety, Trust

RATIONALE
This policy aims to educate and protect students, as far as reasonably practicable, from the road risks by serving as the link to:

- the school, the household and the local community in relation to the issues for transport
• environmental issues contributing to the positive school culture and image
• events and activities to and from school
• important curriculum based educational programs

POLICY

General
1. St. Mary’s supports a Travel Smart Policy. That is, students and teachers are encouraged all year round to use alternative means of transport to:
   a. travel to and from school
   b. participate in curriculum based activities
   c. build events/activities that support the Travel Smart philosophy
2. The school will work to define preferred routes to school (PRTS)
3. All reasonable efforts will be made by the school to ensure that the policy increases children’s involvement in road safety awareness
4. To ensure that Travel Smart coordinators and educators exist within the school to guide, develop and maintain the Travel Smart philosophy
5. Encourage liaison between the school, local infrastructure and planning departments in the local council and the state road authority to ensure that:
   a. signage deterioration or vandalism is reported
   b. effective relationships are developed and maintained to support the Travel Smart philosophy

Education and Curriculum
1. The Travel Smart culture is woven into the school curriculum both formally (via fixed curriculum) and informally (via fluid curriculum) focussing on three key areas:
   i. Health
   ii. Safety
   iii. Environment
2. St Mary’s shall collaborate with staff, students and parents (where required) of the school to develop and monitor programs which complement health, safety and environment in relation to the Travel Smart philosophy
3. St Mary’s provides Travel Smart education and support to:
   a. all students commencing at the school
   b. the junior grades via road safety awareness programs
   c. the middle and upper school grades via a formal Bike Education program
   d. encourage the concept independent and safe travel choices from grade 3 onwards
   e. all staff through formal On Road Bike Education Instructor Training
   f. all parents through the offer of On Road Bike Education Training
4. St Mary’s understands that the school environment is made up of a transient population and provides the forum to allow for cross-pollination of knowledge and experiences in relation to a Travel Smart culture
5. The school supports:
   a. educational programs
   b. resources
   c. options to assist the school based delivery of the Travel Smart program

Travel Smart Support – School responsibilities
St Mary’s shall ensure that:

1. it develops a Travel Smart program that incorporates the following categories:
a. road safety orientation  
b. focus on independent travel to and from school  
c. events and activities (ie ride/walk to school days)  

2. a Travel Smart Coordinator is appointed to oversee the development and implementation of Travel Smart initiatives in the school  

3. new families are notified of the Travel Smart philosophy  

4. curriculum based activities within the educational precinct supports the Travel Smart philosophy at all times  

5. it regularly reinforces and promotes Travel Smart behaviour to the whole school community through newsletters, parent portal, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities  

6. it collaborates with staff and students to develop and monitor classroom programs which complement education and curriculum in the area of Travel Smart  

7. it incorporates educational programs that support Travel Smart  

8. students and teachers are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model appropriate Travel Smart behaviours to the entire school community  

Preferred Routes to School:  

1. St Mary’s shall endeavour to have available upon request (for parents and students), suggested non-motorised travel routes to and from school  

2. St Mary’s shall ensure, that where motorised travel is be utilised to/ from school/excursions it provides access to information of approved:  
   i. bus routes to and from Williamstown  
   ii. train routes to and from Williamstown  

Approved Partners in providing travel arrangements for students/teachers  

1. The school appoints an approved and registered bus provider in line with Travel Smart philosophies to utilise in events/excursions/camps to provide maximum safety  

2. St Mary’s will ensure that it provides consenting procedures in support of travelling:  
   i. to and from school  
   ii. to and from excursions  
   iii. to and from excursions within the educational precinct  

Training – Students and Parents/Teachers  

1. St Mary’s will ensure that:  
   a. It partners with relevant bodies/parents to provide relevant and practical educational programs to students  
   b. It partners with relevant and accredited bodies to provide training and education to parents and teachers in support of:  
      i. Travel Smart behaviours  
      ii. curriculum based programs supporting Travel Smart as the preferred option of travel  
   c. It offers teachers dedicated time to absorb the requirement of the resources and  
      i. allows for links into curriculum  
      ii. encourages networking with other teachers  
      iii. provides opportunity to partner with parents
Travel Smart and education based learning—St Mary’s Educational Precinct

1. St Mary’s provides a clear and concise boundary that supports curriculum based education and parallel learning within and outside the school grounds by defining this as the educational precinct. The educational precinct is defined as the St Mary’s Parish boundary (maps available online and at the school office).

2. In the event that curriculum based learning occurs within the educational precinct:
   i. adequate communication / forewarning will be provided via the classroom teacher, newsletters and the parent portal
   ii. online permission / consent is required
   iii. will support Travel Smart methods of transportation

Parental / Care Giver Responsibilities

1. Parents/Care Givers of students at St Mary’s have a responsibility and obligation to:
   a. take full responsibility for any travel to and from school
   b. understand the Travel Smart values
   c. support their children in adopting Travel Smart behaviours
   d. safeguard their children in travelling to and from school via non-motorised travel means
   e. develop a communication plan with their child in the event of an incident and ensure that:
      i. the primary responsibility of communication is between the parent and the child before and after school
      ii. the school is absolved of direct responsibility in the event of an incident during a period of unsupervised travel to and from school
      iii. the school is notified prior to 9.30am via phone, email/app of absence from school as a result of unforeseen illness or unsupervised travel incident
   f. ensure that a communication plan is adopted for children travelling to and from school unsupervised between the child and the parent and notify the school if:
      i. the student has experienced any incidents preventing them from attending school prior to the commencement of the school day
      ii. their child understands the importance of the adopted communication plan
      iii. their child is provided with access to relevant contacts/tools to execute the plan in a timely manner
   g. comply with the schools consenting procedures in support of travelling:
      i. to and from school
      ii. to and from excursions
      iii. to and from excursions within the educational precinct
   h. model and reflect Travel Smart behaviours when overseeing travel to and from school, attending school excursions, sports days and other Travel Smart supported school activities
Supporting Travel Smart and personal ‘equipment’

1. In supporting and encouraging non-motorised travel, St Mary’s:
   a. defines, provides and encourages the use of the three supervised school crossings that surround the school boundaries
   b. encourages students that travel by bike or scooter to enter the school grounds:
      i. dismounted from bikes and scooters for school yard safety reasons
      ii. to enter the school grounds via the Parish Gate (Cecil Street) or via the Mclean Reserve Main Gate only
   c. provides a bike/scooter zone that allows students/teachers to ‘park’ bikes and scooters in an enclosure
   d. encourages students to take their Travel Smart ‘wheels’ home every day at the conclusion of the school day
   e. ensures that the schools grounds are accessible and supervised for Travel Smart travellers and students from 8.30am – 3.45pm
   f. ensures that the school collaborates with local council authorities to provide appropriate parking facilities that supports direct and safe pedestrian access into the school grounds
   g. promotes personal responsibility (students and their parents) for the care, maintenance and safety of all non-motorised equipment used to support travel to and from school in addition to Travel Smart curriculum based activities.

Related Resources:
1. www.travelsmart.gov.au
2. Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Related School Documents
• St Mary’s Parish School Travel Plan
• Parents as Partners in Catholic Education