



Pensby High School

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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

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Dear Parents / Carers,

At this time of year, the clocks having gone back, the evenings are darker. The safety of your child is obviously very important, and I am writing to ask you to speak to your son/daughter about basic road safety and consider the clothing worn by your child when they are walking or cycling on dark mornings/nights. It is a stark reality that 76% of pedestrian fatalities occur in dark conditions. Just this week a member of staff was driving home and only just saw a Pensby student as he had no light on his bicycle and was wearing all black which made him really difficult to see.

At night, the distance at which a pedestrian can be seen by a car driver differs greatly depending on clothing colour and reflective materials. A pedestrian can be seen at approximately 26m in dark clothing, increasing to approximately 38m in light clothing and 57m or more if reflective materials are worn. I would ask for your support in ensuring that your child 'does the bright thing' and wears bright or reflective clothing in order to be visible when walking or cycling in the dark.

In addition, if your child is cycling, please ensure that they have the correct lights and reflectors in according with the law. Any cycle which is used between sunset and sunrise must be fitted with the following:

- white front light
- red rear light
- red rear reflector
- amber/yellow pedal reflectors – front and rear on each pedal.

The lamps may be steady or flashing, or a mixture, for example steady at the front and flashing at the rear. A steady light is recommended at the front when the cycle is used in areas without good street lighting.

It is also worth children carrying a torch in the dark as street lighting can be poor in some areas.

Finally, please remind pupils to stay off their mobile phone when they are walking in order that they can remain alert to their surroundings.

It seems timely as the nights draw in to remind you to consider the safety of your child.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Gauntlett
Assistant Headteacher