

20 August 2014

Nigel Jones
fyi-request-1834-00ca677e@request.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Jones

Thank you for your email of 23 July 2014 asking for information about road and rail safety, either as part of the curriculum or as guidance in schools. Your request has been treated in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Your questions and the Ministry's responses are as follows:

1a) What recommendations or policies are set in place by the MoE for State Funded schools for the education of Road and/or Rail Safety to students, as either part of curriculum or as additional guidance that schools should/must follow?

1b) Could you provide any documents related to such policies/guidance provided to schools.

Schools use the framework of the New Zealand Curriculum to decide which learning programmes best meet the needs of their students. The New Zealand curriculum can be found at the following link: <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/The-New-Zealand-Curriculum> and the Te Marautanga o Aotearoa can be found at the following link: <http://tmoa.tki.org.nz/Te-Marautanga-o-Aotearoa>.

There are a number of learning areas such as English, Mathematics and Social Studies where road and rail safety can be a focus.

Schools are required to provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students. This is outlined in National Administration Guideline 5(a), found at the following link: <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/theMinistry/EducationInNewZealand/EducationLegislation/TheNationalAdministrationGuidelinesNAGs.aspx>.

The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) has a number of online rail and road safety resources that align with the New Zealand Curriculum. NZTA worked collaboratively with the Ministry of Education to develop the resources, which can be found at the following link: <http://education.nzta.govt.nz/resources/primary/rail-safety>. These are available free and downloadable in a variety of formats. The resources are designed to engage students in safe road and rail use, based around the theme of citizens sharing this common space.

“Safe Behaviour on Buses” is a voluntary programme that has been developed to help schools and bus operators manage the risk of unsafe behaviour, and support safe school bus travel. More information on this programme can be found at the following link:

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/Schools/SchoolOperations/SchoolTransport/SafeBehaviourOnBuses.aspx>

2) Under what circumstances are Road and/or Rail Safety Education programmes taught (either by schools, or external parties) to students in schools assessed during the regular Education Review Office assessments?

The Terms of Reference of an Education Review Office (ERO) review may include management’s response to health and safety concerns, and areas of non-compliance. With regard to rail safety, the ERO may recommend a barrier should be erected between a rail network and a learning institution or extra lighting is installed.

3) Is the Ministry aware of any schools refusing participation in Rail Safety Programmes run by external groups such as TrackSAFE, KiwiRail or Rail Operators/Regional Councils (such as TransDev, TransMetro, Auckland Transport, Wellington Regional Council, etc)? If so, why and could you please provide documentation/correspondence.

(Specifically, for query 3, I'm interested in either correspondence from schools themselves, programme operators, or concerns raised by the general public directly to the Ministry in the last 24 months).

Schools are self-managing and therefore decide their own learning programmes in accordance with the needs of their students. Schools are required to provide a safe learning environment for students, and ERO reviews may evaluate a school’s health and safety performance. The Ministry is not aware of decisions schools make regarding whether or not they participate in rail safety programmes. A check with Ministry curriculum staff, and a check of the Ministry’s official correspondence database, has not revealed any correspondence specifically about railway safety programmes in the past 24 months. If such correspondence exists it may have been directed to individual schools.

I trust this information satisfies your request.

Under sections 19 and 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this response.

Yours sincerely



Graham Stoop
Deputy Secretary
Student Achievement