



Why Our School Should Choose Cycle Right

A practical guide for teachers proposing Cycle Right to their principal

Helping pupils develop safer cycling habits, support curriculum goals and build confidence through an accessible, well-organised programme.

THE SCHOOL CASE AT A GLANCE

8 hours Stage 1 delivery	School-based Classroom and schoolyard	Equipment provided Bicycles and helmets
2 instructors During delivery	Up to 30 pupils In schoolyard sessions	10 pupils max On-road groups with 2 instructors

Cycle Right is Ireland's national cycle-training standard, produced and facilitated by Cycling Ireland in collaboration with the Department of Transport and the Road Safety Authority. For primary schools, Stage 1 provides eight hours of structured learning, combining practical cycling skills, road-safety education and progressive development.

It gives our school a practical way to support pupil safety, wellbeing and independence while keeping delivery manageable and cost-conscious.

The strongest reasons to bring Cycle Right to our school

1. It develops practical road-safety skills

Pupils practise bicycle control, observation, signalling, road positioning and relevant Rules of the Road. They learn to recognise hazards and make safer decisions. These are useful skills for journeys to school, local travel and future independence. The programme helps pupils understand both how to ride and how to behave responsibly around traffic and other road users.

2. It supports curriculum learning and pupil wellbeing

Cycling offers practical learning that can complement Physical Education and SPHE within the primary Wellbeing curriculum. Pupils develop fitness, coordination, balance, control, spatial awareness, confidence, independence, decision-making and personal responsibility. The programme supports physical development and wider wellbeing through active, engaging learning.

3. It welcomes pupils with different levels of experience

Pupils do not need to arrive as confident cyclists. Instructors assess pupils and support progression at an appropriate level. Children who are not ready for road sessions can continue developing in a controlled environment, so pupils with different abilities and experience can participate meaningfully.

4. It fits into the normal school day

Cyclopath works with the school to prepare a timetable around class schedules, breaks and school activities. Stage 1 is delivered over multiple visits, with classroom and schoolyard learning and on-road activity only where appropriate. Bicycles, helmets and instructors are provided, and training takes place at school, so there is no need to arrange buses or transport pupils to another venue.

5. It is professionally managed

Delivery is provided by two Garda-vetted, safeguarding-trained and insured adults. Schoolyard sessions are structured and supervised. Only pupils assessed as ready take part in on-road sessions. On-road groups are limited to 10 pupils with two instructors for close supervision and support.

6. It offers clear value for money

Cycle Right Stage 1 benefits from national funding support. The Department of Transport subsidy is already reflected in Cyclopath's quoted price, so the school receives a final price to pay Cyclopath. Eligible non-DEIS schools may apply separately for Green-Schools support; any approved grant is paid directly to the school. Availability and eligibility must be confirmed with Green-Schools. A school-specific quotation can set out the price and relevant funding information. Bicycles, helmets, instructors and structured delivery are included, reducing the need to buy equipment or arrange separate instruction.

A manageable school project: Cyclopath plans the delivery timetable with the school, provides bicycles and helmets, and coordinates instruction at the school.

What would the school need to organise?

Question	Answer
Which pupils?	Generally 3rd to 6th class. Starting in 4th class can help establish a consistent annual programme.
How long?	Eight hours, delivered over multiple school visits.
How is it timetabled?	Cyclopath prepares a timetable with the school around class times, breaks and other activities.
Where?	In the classroom and schoolyard, with supervised on-road training only for pupils assessed as ready.
Do pupils need bicycles?	No. Bicycles and helmets are provided. Pupils may use a suitable personal bicycle if they prefer.
How many pupils?	Up to 30 pupils together during schoolyard sessions, with two instructors.
Who supervises?	Two Garda-vetted, safeguarding-trained and insured adults are present during delivery.
What about road sessions?	Only pupils assessed as road-ready participate. On-road outings are limited to 10 pupils with two instructors.
How much does it cost?	Costs vary by location, school type and funding eligibility. Cyclopath provides a school-specific quotation showing the final price the school pays.
Is funding available?	The Department of Transport subsidy is included in Cyclopath's quoted price. Eligible non-DEIS schools may also apply separately to Green-Schools. Any approved Green-Schools grant is paid directly to the school.
What does the school provide?	Suitable classroom and schoolyard space, preferred dates and a school contact to coordinate arrangements. Cyclopath will confirm timetable and delivery details with the school.

Evidence that it makes a difference

At St Peter's NS, Dublin 7, 26 pupils took part in Cyclopath's eight-hour cycling programme. At the beginning, 14 pupils could cycle; by the end, the other 12 had learned to cycle. The school reported stronger road-safety knowledge and confidence. It rated the instructor's class control, interaction with pupils and knowledge of the programme as Excellent.

"12 children learned how to cycle, having never cycled before. All learned valuable knowledge of road safety and rules. Growing levels of self-confidence for all, a great success."

St. Peter's NS, Dublin 7 | 2025/2026

The course did not include an on-road journey. It shows that pupils can make meaningful progress through structured classroom and schoolyard training, which can suit schools starting with a controlled, on-site programme.

A practical proposal for our principal

I propose that our school introduce Cycle Right Stage 1 for a suitable class group, ideally beginning with 4th class. The programme would:

- Develop practical cycling and road-safety skills.
- Support learning in PE and SPHE and promote physical activity, confidence, independence and wellbeing.
- Include pupils with different cycling abilities and experience.
- Fit within our normal school day using a timetable prepared with Cyclopath.
- Take place primarily on school grounds, avoiding transport arrangements.
- Provide bicycles, helmets and two qualified instructors.
- Use small, supervised groups for any on-road training.
- Benefit from available national funding and clearly explain any separate Green-Schools application.
- Provide structured cycling education without requiring the school to purchase or maintain a fleet of bicycles.

Suggested next step

Ask the school's programme coordinator to request a school-specific quotation and proposed timetable. The school can review the arrangements before deciding whether to book.

About Cyclopath Cycling School

Cyclopath delivers school cycling programmes across Louth, Meath, Monaghan, East Cavan and North Dublin City and County. School staff can ask their programme coordinator to contact Cyclopath for a proposal tailored to the school.

This guide is designed to support a school's internal discussion. Programme details, delivery arrangements and funding eligibility should be confirmed for the individual school before booking.