



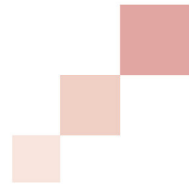
DULWICH COLLEGE  
SHANGHAI

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7<sup>th</sup> June 2010

WPC 035

Dear Parents,

As many of you are aware, Dulwich College Shanghai is a member of the Shanghai International Schools Association (SISA). This is a non-profit organisation that works closely with the Shanghai Education Commission, made up of member schools from the major International Schools in the city. As a group we have recognised that some issues affect all schools and we have been working collaboratively to find solutions to a number of problems, and to offer mutual support to one another. Recently we worked together to look in detail at bicycle regulations in Shanghai, liability insurance in schools and the increased security measures around schools. I would like to address each of these points separately.

### **Bicycle Regulations in Shanghai**

The SISA statement on this issue is as follows:

*Shanghai International Schools Association (SISA) has received information regarding bicycle riding in Shanghai and is sharing it in an attempt to be helpful to all its member schools. For safety purposes, the regulations in Shanghai allow for bicycles to be ridden on public streets only by children age of 12 years and above. This regulation is strictly enforced in Puxi, but is unevenly applied in Pudong. The immediate danger is that families may assume that local protections for bicycle riders may be the same as in their own country, but they are not. It is important to be aware that if a child under 12 is involved in any kind of accident on a public street or crossing, the parent may be held responsible. Sidewalks and bicycle paths along public roads are considered part of the public roads. In addition, as accident insurance is relatively new to China and there are not many precedents with these situations, your own accident or medical insurance company has the right to refuse cover in the event of violation of the local law. We hope that better understanding will result in better safety for younger children.*

It is important that our parents are aware of the regulations regarding Bicycles in Shanghai. From the College perspective, our priority is in ensuring that our children are kept safe and, to this end, we would like to encourage you all to insist that your children wear safety helmets whenever they are riding their bicycles. We are all aware of how dangerous roads in Shanghai can be and we regularly receive reports of accidents, many involving fatalities of cyclists. We have actually discussed the idea of making helmets compulsory for all children electing to cycle to school but the reality is that we have no jurisdiction over how parents elect to transport their children to school.

We would all be very grateful of your support in this regard. We will be expecting our staff to act as role models by wearing helmets whilst they are cycling and I would encourage our parents to do the same.

We have increasing concerns at the number of students traveling to school on motorised bicycles. I would personally recommend that parents do not allow their children to travel to school in this manner. If any of our students are found to be traveling to school on a motorised bicycle and without a safety helmet, we will be formally contacting parents to express our concerns.



Parents should note that petrol powered vehicles are regulated by tighter laws. All such vehicles require the driver to be over 18 years of age and to be in possession of a full driver's license. With this in mind, we have no alternative but to insist that our students under the age of 18 do not travel to school in this way. Students who are over the age of 18 and wish to ride petrol powered vehicles to school will be required to provide evidence to us that they are using the vehicle legally.

Our entire community should note that no cycling is allowed on the College site and staff on duty have been asked to enforce this rule rigorously.

### **Liability Insurance in Schools**

The SISA statement on this issue is as follows:

*Shanghai International Schools Association (SISA) has received a definition of the liability insurance regulations in China as they relate to schools. The regulations in China are much different than in other countries and the insurance industry in China has been operating for only a few years. In other countries school insurance may be responsible for accidents of students and staff on the way to school, in school, on school field trips and on the way home from school. In China this is not the case. Although each member school has liability insurance for accidents that occur during the school day, in China, these accidents are covered by school liability insurance only if the school is found to be negligent. The insurance provider determines if there has been negligence. Therefore, every parent should entake to provide their own medical insurance for their children and this personal medical insurance will be applied first for any accident on the way to school, in school, on school local field trips, in school sports of any kind, in school transport, and on the way home from school. It is important that all parents understand this difference in the local regulations and the fact that their personal medical insurance covers all accidents that occur during the school day.*

This is a very important issue, but is one of those issues that is very easy to overlook until it is too late. We are bound by particular insurance regulations in China and we wish to bring this information to your attention so that you can ensure maximum coverage of your children.

### **Increased Security Measures**

The SISA statement on this issue is as follows:

*Due to the recent number of random attacks on school children across China and from the high exposure that Shanghai has from EXPO, the government has asked each school to tighten security measures at the gate during the school day. Although there has not been a case in Shanghai of this kind, these measures will lead to more thorough inspection of each individual who wishes to enter the school. We hope you will understand the need for such tightened measures as we are working very hard to provide a secure environment for our students.*





You may have noticed that we currently have a Police presence at the start and end of school. This is an initiative taken by the local Police Force to offer us greater protection during the Expo period. The safety and protection of our students is always our main priority and I would like to draw your attention to a security measure that we are implementing with effect from Wednesday, 9th June. Our guards have been instructed to only allow entry to people presenting their College issued identity card. Please ensure that you and your family members have these with you at all times. Any person seeking access to our site who does not present the school issued identity card will be asked to wait at the gate whilst appropriate authorisation is gained. We are currently looking at a number of other security measures that are designed to support our commitment to improving health and safety and we shall be communicating these to you when they are finalised.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. As always, if you have any concerns regarding this, or any other school related issue, do not hesitate to contact me.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Friend'.

**Mr. Paul Friend**  
**Headmaster**

