

## Daily traveller

November 25, 2005

### Collision Caused Casualty

Last Tuesday, a primary aged pupil was seriously injured outside his school at a quiet junction.

School Crossing Patrol Officer Marla Coombs, who witnessed the accident, stated 'It was getting dark and I was on patrol outside the school when I saw Gerald ride straight out onto the road without looking. It was hard to see him at first as he didn't have his lights on.'

The car that collided with Gerald was travelling under the speed limit but failed to see Gerald until it was too late. Police have confirmed that the driver was not at fault.

As a result, the eleven year old spent the night in hospital with minor head injuries.

Eleven year old Gerald Ryder, who has been cycling to and from school for the last year, had been cycling without a helmet and suitable equipment.

Gerald's sister Casey, 8, said 'he doesn't wear his helmet because he doesn't like his hair getting messed up!'



Studies have shown firstly that the use of a snug fitting helmet, securely fastened so as not to obscure the rider's vision, can significantly reduce the severity of head injuries. Secondly, cyclists should be encouraged to wear bright coloured, fluorescent or reflective clothing to make sure they can be seen by other road users.

Gerald was released from hospital on Wednesday morning but is believed to be suffering from shock. The school is now ensuring all parents are aware of how to get their children cycle trained. Local Road Safety officers offer specialise training and support for cyclists of all ages. For more information visit the TfL Website:

[www.tfl.gov.uk/cycles](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/cycles)

Name

Date

## Newspaper Report

Write your own newspaper report about a journey that went wrong. Think carefully about how your article can explain to readers how to avoid having a similar accident.

By

