Opposite Ride

Game overview

Introduces shared-path behaviours like passing safely and looking ahead. Also adds a riding variation to your school bike track, teaching hazard awareness and riding the track in the opposite direction.

Learning Focus

- Understanding how to pass another rider safely
- Learning how to identify hazards
- Riding the track in a different direction to normal

Variations

- Use cones or chalk to guide riders through trickier spots
- For those less confident on a bike give them the opportunity to ride around the bike track in the opposite direction with out having anyone coming towards them

Game Type:

Bike control and looking

Time

10-20 minutes

Play area

School bike track or wide surface i.e. court area

Group size

Whole class or small groups

What You Need

- Bikes or scooters
- Helmets

Safety Checks

- If your school bike track has ramps we recommend you 'close' them for this game
- Recommend you only do Steps 2 & 3 if your track is wide enough for two riders to pass at the narrowest points or make this a 'single file' zone
- Remind students to slow down around corners or when approaching other riders
- Spread riders out before starting if the group is large

How to Play

STEP 1: Ride the track in reverse

- Students ride the usual track in the opposite direction
- Ask them:

  "What's different about this way?"
  "Where do you need to slow down or steer more carefully?"

STEP 2: Ride side by side (track must be wide enough)

- Pair students up and have them ride slowly, side by side.
- Focus on maintaining personal space, staying in control, and riding predictably

STEP 3: Ride in both directions

- Split the group in half. One group rides clockwise, the other anti-clockwise.
- Practice shared path behaviours:
  - ➔ Keep left
  - ➔ Make eye contact
  - ➔ Pass safely
  - ➔ Encourage communication between riders

Teaching tips:

- Great for spicing things up for students who've "done it all" on the track
- Use open-ended questions to build observation skills
- Frame as a "real-world" skill: riding on shared community paths or footpaths