



Living life to the full

Henley-in-Arden

C of E Primary School

Children walking or cycling to and from school alone Policy

Approved: March 2024

To be Reviewed: March 2026

Introduction

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure their child arrives safely and promptly to school each morning. Whilst walking or cycling to and from school it is understood that parents ensure that their child takes the safest route possible and is accompanied at all times by a responsible adult.

However, in Years Five and Six, parents may decide that their child is capable of independently walking or cycling to and from school. If this is the case, parents make the informed decision that they are responsible for their child's safety on their journey to and from school, even if they are not physically present.

It is advised that parents ensure their child is fully conversant with road safety and if they are cycling, that the bike is road worthy and appropriate safety gear is used. Parents will be asked to notify school if their child is coming to and from school independently.

- It is the responsibility of the parent to assess the route on which their child will walk to and from school and to ensure they are confident their child has the ability to walk to and from school safely. Crossing busy main roads and walking through secluded areas is discouraged.
- It is also advised to the parents that their child knows their own home phone number and other emergency contacts and either has a mobile (these can be stored in the School Office in the daytime and collected at home time) or money for a pay phone should they need to call home in an emergency.
- Safeguarding is paramount and parents need to ensure their child is fully aware of stranger danger and how to report any concerns to an appropriate adult.
- Should a parent wish to allow their child to walk or cycle to and from school unaccompanied by an adult, it is essential that parents inform the school and the 'travelling alone' consent form is completed, so that a register can be compiled of key children to identify should a child not arrive at school/home at the appropriate time. This register will be kept in the Year Five and Year Six classroom and a further copy in the school office.
- It is recommended that **ONLY** children in Years 5 and 6 be allowed to walk or cycle to and from school unaccompanied by an adult and only then if the parent is confident that it is safe for them to do so. However individual cases will be discussed with parents.



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Walking or cycling to school

As the responsible body receiving children from home at the start of the day, the school ensures that morning registrations are taken in each class. If a child is found to be absent and no prior notice of such absence has been received from the child's parent, the school recognises a clear responsibility to contact the parent to ascertain the reason for absence or highlight that a child has not attended morning registration. This will be done by 9.30 am each morning. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that school is informed should their child be unable to attend school for any reason in accordance with the school attendance policy. If upon contact, it is confirmed that a child has left home with the intention of walking or cycling to school but has not arrived and therefore an issue of a missing child is noted, the school will contact the police immediately. The school's designated person for safeguarding will then be immediately informed and safeguarding procedures for child protection/children missing procedures will be followed. If a child is attending a club before school and does not arrive on time for registration for that club, a senior member of staff will be advised and parents will be contacted immediately, especially where that child is known to walk or cycle to school alone. If a child is due to attend Discovery Den in the morning and makes their way to school independently, it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that Discovery Den is informed should their child be unable to attend for any reason. As before, if upon contact, it is confirmed that a child has left home with the intention of walking or cycling to school but has not arrived and therefore an issue of a missing child is noted, the school will contact the police immediately. The school's designated person for safeguarding will then be immediately informed and safeguarding procedures for child protection/children missing procedures will be followed.

Walking or cycling home from school

If a child has left the school to walk home but does not arrive home when expected and direct contact with the child has not been established, the parent should contact the school in the first instance to seek clarification from the responsible adult who dismissed their child as to the time they left school. However the school may not be contactable after home time and therefore it will be parent's responsibility to notify the police. There must always be an appropriate adult at home to meet the child on their arrival. Parents need to be aware when walking or cycling home the school will not know if a child arrives home as planned. Hence the parent needs to ensure adequate safety protocols are in place should an emergency/accident arise.



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Please return to the school office.

CONSENT THAT MY CHILD MAY WALK AND CYCLE TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE

I confirm that _____ who is in Year _____ at Henley in Arden Church of England Primary School may walk or cycle to and from school alone.

I confirm that I have read and understood the school's walking or cycling to and from school alone policy.

In the event of an emergency please contact:

_____ (PARENT)

Contact Numbers:

Home: _____

Mobile: _____

I will notify the school immediately of any changes to the emergency contact details.

Signed: _____ Date: _____