



# Walking Home Policy 2026-2027

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<b>Electronic copies of this plan are available on the website Mereside Primary Academy Blackpool</b>	<b>Mereside Primary Academy</b>
<b>Date of next review</b>	<b>March 2027</b>
<b>Person responsible for review</b>	<b>J. McDonald</b>



# Mereside Primary Academy

## Walking Home Alone Policy

### 1. Purpose and Philosophy

At Mereside Primary Academy, our primary concern is the safety and well-being of our pupils. While we encourage independence as students prepare for secondary school, we must ensure that transition is managed safely. This policy outlines the requirements for pupils to walk to and from school without adult supervision.

### 2. Age Restrictions

- **Early Years & Key Stage 1:** Pupils in Nursery through Year 2 will **not** be permitted to walk home alone under any circumstances. These pupils should be collected by a responsible adult.
- **Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4):** These pupils are **not** permitted to walk home alone under any circumstances. It is school policy that these pupils should be collected by a responsible adult or a sibling over the age of 14.
- **Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6):** Parents may request permission for their child to walk home alone. This is not an automatic right and is subject to the "Safe Passage" criteria below.

### 3. Safe Passage Criteria

Before granting permission, parents and school staff should consider if the child:

- Is confident in crossing busy roads and understands the Green Cross Code.
- Walks a direct, well-lit route with a clear understanding of personal safety.
- Carries a way to contact home (see Section 5 regarding mobile phones).
- Knows what to do if they are approached by a stranger or if they encounter an emergency.

### 4. Parental Responsibility and Consent

The legal responsibility for the child's safety on the journey to and from school rests with the parent/carer.

1. **Written Permission:** Parents must complete a **Walking Home Alone Consent Form** ([Google Form](#)).
2. **Notification of Changes:** Parents must inform the school by 14:30 if the child is being collected instead of walking.
3. **Emergency Contact:** Parents must ensure the school has at least two up-to-date emergency contact numbers.



## **5. Mobile Phone Policy**

To support safety, Year 5 and 6 pupils walking alone may bring a mobile phone to school under the following conditions:

- Phones must be switched off and handed to the class teacher/school office upon arrival.
- Phones are stored in a secure location and returned at the end of the day.
- The school accepts no liability for loss or damage to personal devices.

## **6. School Discretion**

The Headteacher reserves the right to refuse or rescind permission for a child to walk home alone if:

- There are significant safeguarding concerns.
- The child's behaviour during the journey brings the school into disrepute.
- Severe weather or local environmental hazards make the journey unsafe.