



Safeguarding Pupils Walking to and from School Policy

OVERVIEW

Parents/carers are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend regularly but this in itself does not disallow independent travel. There are no laws around age or distance of walking to school. A families' guide to the law states:

“There is no law prohibiting children from being out on their own at any age. It is a matter of judgement for parents/carers to decide when children can play out on their own, walk to the shops or school”.

Is it Legal? A parent's guide to the law' by the Family and Parenting Institute (June 2011)

However as a school we are responsible for the welfare of our pupils and therefore have to consider what we believe is good practice in ensuring the safety of our pupils. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

OBJECTIVES

1. Clearly outline the drop off/collection procedures to the school community.
2. Ensure that each child is safe when on the school grounds.
3. Ensure that no child is unaccounted for at any time.
4. Each teacher is up to date on child drop off/collection procedures and arrangements.
5. The school community is aware of the appropriate drop off/collection procedures.

STRATEGIES

1. Pupils in Reception, Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and KS2 (Years 3, 4 and 5)

There is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own. Our policy is that pupils in Foundation Stage to Year 5 are to be accompanied or collected by parents/carers and parents/carers must adhere to the following guidelines:

- No pupil should walk to and from school on their own and no pupil in Foundation Stage or KS1 should be left on their own on the school premises either before school or after school.
- In addition staff are to hand over pupils to only named adults or older siblings provided they are of secondary school age or older (**Appendix 1**). Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made this arrangement.
- Parents/carers are requested to keep the school informed of changes in arrangements. If no one turns up to collect a child, they will be kept in school and parents/carers and named contacts on the emergency contact sheets will be contacted.
- This includes pupils who attend extra-curricular clubs or events after school.

2. Pupils in KS2 (Year 6)

Parents/carers of children who wish their children to walk home unescorted by an adult, at the end of the school day (3.20pm), must adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Children must be in Year 6**
- It is the parent's responsibility to check the route that their children may walk home in order that they may make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey.
- Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas is to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed.
- Parents/carers must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of the '[Green Cross Code](#)' and '[Stranger Danger](#)'.
- It is parent's responsibility to ensure they are sufficiently happy that their child is capable of undertaking the proposed journey safely.
- During winter months and/or inclement weather, children must be dressed appropriately.
- Children should preferably walk in a group and not alone.

- There must be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival.
- Any child must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes of the end of the school day.
- Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this stage.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe, parents/carers must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken, which may include contacting the emergency services.
- The school must be informed through written confirmation (**Appendix 2**) by parents/carers if they wish their child to walk home.
- Pupils are to be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing.
- Pupils must also be responsible for their behaviour at all times, this includes before and after school. Should their behaviour not be acceptable they will be asked to be accompanied or collected by parents/carers until they have proved they can be trusted again.
- This includes pupils who attend extra-curricular clubs or events after school.

OUTCOMES

This policy will ensure that parents/carers and the school work together to ensure the safety and of pupils as they make their journey to and from school.

Date approved: Summer 2021

Date of next review: Summer 2024

Appendix 1

Request for permission for a sibling under the age of 16 to pick up a brother or sister at the end of school.

This includes pupils who attend extra-curricular clubs or events after school.

Child/Children's Name/s Year/s.....

Dear Parent

From time to time you may find it necessary for someone else to pick up your child/children from school.

In order to ensure the safety of all children in our care, we are unable to hand your child/children over to any sibling under the age of 16, unless you have discussed this with school and completed the information below.

I request my child is/children are collected after school by a sibling under the age of 16

.....(insert their name/s)

Signed:Parent/Carer

Date:

Appendix 2

Year 6 Going Home Arrangements

This includes pupils who attend extra-curricular clubs or events after school.

Child's Name Year 6

I would like my child to walk home from school unaccompanied

I can confirm I have read and understood the **Safeguarding Pupils Walking to and from School Policy**

I accept responsibility for my child once they have left the school premises

Signed: Parent/Carer

Date: