



# Shelley First School

Together we succeed



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## Pupils Walking To and From School Alone

We are aware that there are several pupils in various year groups who are now walking to and from school alone. Whilst there is no legal age limit for a child walking to school alone, and every child is different, we would not advise pupils walking to or from school unaccompanied before they are in Year 5. However when you decide your child is able to walk to/from school alone we encourage you to take account of the guidance below when making this important decision.

We recommend that you consider whether your child is ready to walk to and from school alone and assess any risks associated with the route your child will be taking and also how confident your child is.

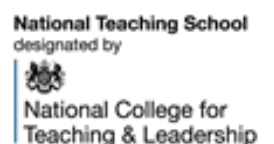
There are lots of ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. Children who are driven to school do not have the opportunity to develop road awareness and are therefore more vulnerable when they start to walk to school independently. Walking to school is a great opportunity to learn road safety skills. The best way to do this is to walk with your child/ren from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and self-assurance to deal with traffic and way finding on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross in a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Avoid parked cars or bends in the road.
- Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming and cross while keeping an eye on traffic.
- Look out for cyclists.
- Remember that drivers may not see a child, even if the child can see the driver.
- Remember that it is hard to judge the speed of a car so be cautious.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:

- Will they follow instructions to walk straight home?
- Will they behave sensibly when with a friend?
- Are they road safety aware?
- Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?



- Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?
- Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they didn't want to do (scream, shout, kick or fight)?
- Would they know what to do if they needed help?
- Would they know who best to approach to get help?

If you are not confident about how your child would react then we would advise leaving it a little longer before you allow them to walk alone.

We request that if your child will be walking to or from school unaccompanied then we are informed of this in writing. If we have no written confirmation then children must be picked up from school.

Your child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst on the school premises either before or after school. Should their behaviour not be acceptable you will be asked to accompany or collect them.

Please complete the reply slip below and return to the school office to ensure our records are up to date.

Many thanks

Debra Knowles

Headteacher

**Permission for pupils to walk to and from school unaccompanied**

To be completed by parent or guardian.

Name of Child: .....

Class: .....

I give permission for my child to walk to/from school on the following days:  
(please tick where appropriate):

Day	AM ✓	PM ✓	After School Club ✓
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change.

Signed: ..... (Parent/Guardian)

Date: .....

Print Name: .....