



Safeguarding Policy

Walking to and from School

Unaccompanied

Created/Revised:	November 2021
By:	R Birtwhistle
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Introduction

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 to decide when children can play out on their own, walk to shops or school.' Parents are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend regularly, but this in itself does not disallow independent travel. However, as a school we are responsible for the welfare of our children and therefore have to consider what we believe is good practice in ensuring their safety. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Early Years / Key Stage 1 / Lower Key Stage 2

- Our agreed school policy is that no pupil in Early Years, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 should walk to or from school on their own or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school.
- We will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided they are over 16 years old.
- Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless a parent has informed the school. We also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements, preferably by letter.
- If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents contacted. We will not allow older siblings in school to collect younger siblings.
- Nursery has its own arrangements that are shared with parents.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 & 6)

There is no set age when children are ready to walk to and from school on their own. It very much depends on their maturity and confidence. In regards to UKS2 pupils, it is up to the parents to decide if their child is ready for this responsibility. When deciding parents should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. Work with your child to build their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross at the intersection where there are traffic lights; do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively 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; cross while keeping an eye on the traffic.
- Look out for cyclists.
- Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they 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:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
3. Are they road safety aware?
4. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?

5. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
6. Would they know who best to approach to get help?

If you are not confident about how your child would react, then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to walk on their own. If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility then you must inform the school by completing the attached form.

Your child will be prevented from walking home alone unless we have permission in writing. 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 them until they can be trusted again.

IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE PLEASE ENSURE YOU LET US KNOW IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY.



Permission to walk to and from school unaccompanied
Year 5 and 6 only

Child's Name:.....

Year Group:.....

Class Teacher:.....

- I wish to inform school that my child will be walking to / from school on a regular basis.
- I will notify school immediately should this arrangement change.
- I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in 'Policy on safeguarding pupils walking to and from school unaccompanied.'

Signed:.....

Name:.....

Date:.....