Safeguarding Pupils Walking, Cycling or Scooting to and from School Alone

Autumn 2024

Purpose

There are no laws concerning the age or distance of children walking to and from 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 the 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 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 the relevant authorities should we believe a child’s welfare is at risk.

Pupils in Nursery, Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One

Our agreed school policy is that no pupil in these year groups should walk to or from school on their own.

In addition, staff are to hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided they are 16 years old or above. 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 are requested to keep the school informed of any changes in arrangements. If no one arrives to collect a child, they will remain in school and parents and named contacts will be telephoned.

Pupils in Key Stage Two

Pupils in Year 3 and 4 are to be accompanied or collected by parents or a named adult.

Pupils in Year 5 and 6 may walk home alone however the following guidelines should be adhered to:

- 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 busy roads, walking through secluded areas is to be discouraged.
- Parents 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 should be dressed appropriately.
- Children should preferably walk in a group and not alone.
- There should be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival.

- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed time frame, parents must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken, which may include contacting the emergency services.

Parents should inform the school if they wish their child to walk home by completing the online form on the Reach More Parents App, located in the 'Form' tab.

Behaviour

Pupils must be responsible for their behaviour at all times; this includes before and after school.

Should pupils' behaviour not be acceptable parents will be asked to accompany their child until the child has proved they can be trusted again.

Adoption, Approval, Sign Off

Signed	**Bridgitte Holmes**
On behalf of	**Headteacher**
Date	**Autumn Term 2024**

Document Control

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