



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

Autumn 2020

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, or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school.

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, preferably by letter. If no one turns up to collect a child, they will be kept in school and parents and named contacts will be telephoned. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings.

Pupils in Key Stage Two

For pupils in Year groups 3, 4, 5 & 6 there is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own.

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

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

- Children must be in Year 5 or 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



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the journey. Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas is to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed.

- 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 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 (15:30 hrs.). 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 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 SIMS parent App Lite which is issued at the beginning of every Autumn Term.

Pupils will be prevented from walking home unless this permission is received in writing or via the App.

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 be accompany their child until the child has proved they can be trusted again.



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Adoption, Approval, Sign Off

Signed	
On behalf of	Behaviour, Safety and Welfare Committee
Date	Autumn Term 2020

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