



**Safeguarding Policy
Walking to and from School
Unaccompanied
2021-22**

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Prepared by:	Head Teacher – H Gregory
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Introduction.

There are no laws around how old a child must be before they can walk to school unaccompanied or how far they are allowed to walk. 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 judgment for parents to decide when children can play out on their own, walk to the shops or walk to 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 Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 or 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 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. 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 brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings.
- The Nursery has its own collection arrangements which are shared with parents.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and 6)

There is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own. It very much depends upon their maturity and confidence. Therefore, as regards to pupils in UKS2, we believe parents need to decide whether a child is ready for this responsibility. In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school, you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. You should work with your child to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

You should 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 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 letter or by completing the consent form.

Your child will be prevented from walking home unless permission has been given. 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, parents will be asked to accompany or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again.