



Policy for Collecting Children from School at the End of the Day
Advice for Safeguarding Pupils Walking To and From School
Alone

Policy administration

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There are no laws around age or distance of walking to school. A family's 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 relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

In setting our protocol for collecting children we have taken advice from:

The Department for Education who state that:

It is for each school to decide, and enforce its own pupil collection policy and request that parent/carers formalise collection arrangements in writing.

The school is not responsible for a child's safety on his or her way home.

The NSPCC who state:

Children under eight can't judge the speed and distance of moving vehicles. They still need help when crossing roads.

It is on this basis that our **Policy for collecting children from school at the end of the day** and

Advice for safeguarding pupils walking to and from school alone has been formulated.

Policy for collecting children from school at the end of the day

All Pupils

- Permission and arrangements for children leaving the school at the end of the day will be confirmed in writing by the parent/carer.
- All children **must** be collected from After School Clubs by an adult unless written permission is given for the child to walk home.
- If a child is to be collected before the end of the school day, the school is to be notified, where possible, on the same morning.
- If the person who normally picks a child up is not doing so then a note or telephone call to school to inform us who is to pick up that day must be made.
- If the parent/carer or alternative nominated adult is going to be late to collect their child, they should let the school know as soon as possible. We will keep children in school until their arrival.

Pupils in Foundation Stage or KS1 (Years 1 & 2)

- All children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 should be picked up from the school site by a known adult or siblings provided they are 16 years old or above.

The following procedures will be followed for any child who is not picked up:

- The child will remain with the class teacher for up to 5 minutes.
- After 5 minutes the child should be taken to the School Office. The administrative team in the School Office will contact the parents by telephone.
- If other contacts are given, they will be also be contacted.
- If no contact can be made with the emergency contact or parents the school will continue to try and make contact for a reasonable amount of time.
- After 4.30pm, if we have not been able to make contact then Social Services will be contacted for advice.
- NO CHILD WILL EVER BE LEFT ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES UNATTENDED.

The following procedure will be followed if any child is picked up by an allegedly impaired person.

- If the person picking up a child is, in the judgment of staff, impaired (under the influence of drugs or alcohol) and unable to adequately care for the child, the staff will not release the child to that person
- The child will be taken to the School Office and the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or a Senior Member of Staff will offer to call a relative or friend to pick up the person and child.
- If no contact can be made then Social Services will be contacted for advice.

Advice for parents for safeguarding pupils walking to and from school alone

Walking Home Alone

We **advise** parents to think about whether your child is ready to walk to and from school and assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence.

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. Work with your children to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

We would advise that you make sure that your child is able 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 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.
- Never, ever, follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult. (A safe adult is someone who has been previously agreed upon by you and your child to be safe.)

Pupils in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

There is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own. It very much depends on their maturity and confidence. Knowing that children under the age of eight can't judge the speed or distance of moving vehicles **we would expect** Year 3, 4 and 5 children to be brought to and collected from school unless parents advise us, in writing, of their decision to allow their child to go home independently.

Please see permission slip below. If we have no note then children must be picked up from the playground.

Permission for pupils to walk to and from school unaccompanied

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school a.s.a.p

Name of Child: Class:

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking to/from school (delete as appropriate) on regular basis.

I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change.

I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in the 'Advise on Safeguarding Pupils Walking to and from School Alone'.

Signed: Date:

Print Name: