



*"Working Together, Learning Forever"*

## **POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING PUPILS WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE**

### **Pupils in Nursery-Y4**

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. Pupils attending Breakfast Club must be handed over at the door to staff, please do not leave them outside the school premises. In addition, we will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings (not from our school of primary age). Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made this arrangement. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups they will be kept in school and parents contacted.

### **Pupils in Y5 & Y6**

Pupils in Y5 & 6 may walk to/home from school **with written permission**. In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should assess any risks associated with the route, distance and your child's confidence and level of maturity. Work with your children to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness. For those living outside our catchment area and a significant distance from the school, serious consideration needs to be given to allowing your child to walk to and from school alone.

There are lots of ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. Children who are driven to school do not have the opportunity to develop road awareness and are therefore more vulnerable when they start to walk to school independently. Walking to school is a great opportunity to learn road safety skills. The best way to do this is to walk with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic and way finding on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

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*Headteacher*

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Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Use defined crossing points and the lollipop person; 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.
- 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, such as a grandparent or trusted neighbour.)

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 have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?
6. Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they didn't want to do?
7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. 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 complete the agreement form below. **Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given 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 them to accompany or collect them until they have proved 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.**

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### **Walking to and from school – Years 5 and 6**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We understand that parents may wish to allow their child in Years 5 and 6 to walk home from school unaccompanied, with the informed decision that they are responsible for their child's safety on their way to and from school, even when they are not physically present.

As you will appreciate, the safety of pupils is our main concern, and so I would like to share the following points:

- Pupils in Years 5 and 6 may walk to and from school with written permission from parents/carers (see the Walking Home agreement).
- Parents are responsible for informing the school immediately should their child be unwell or otherwise unable to attend school. This includes informing the school prior to taking their child for any early morning medical examinations (e.g. doctor or dentist) which may cause their child to miss registration in the morning and arrive in school later than 8.50 am.
- We understand that you may wish for your child to carry a mobile phone if walking home unaccompanied, and this will be permitted. For safeguarding reasons, mobile phones must be switched off and handed to the class teacher each morning to be stored securely. All property must be clearly named.
- Pupils in Y5 & Y6 will need to be picked up from after school clubs by a responsible adult from Autumn half term to Spring half term, due to the dark evenings.

If you wish for your child to walk home unaccompanied, please complete the form below. If you wish to discuss this topic further, please feel free to contact your child's Class Teacher.

Kind regards,  
Mark S. Thompson  
Headteacher

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## **Walking to and from school agreement**

Child's Name: .....

Class:.....

- ✓ I give permission for my child to walk to and from school unaccompanied each day.
- ✓ I understand that my child is my responsibility outside of school hours (walking to and from school).
- ✓ I understand that if my child brings a mobile phone to school, it must be handed to the class teacher during registration for safeguarding reasons.
- ✓ I understand that the mobile phone will be the responsibility of my child at all other times.
  - ✓ If my child attends after school clubs, I agree to pick them up between Autumn and Spring half terms.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Relationship to child: .....

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