



School Guidance and Procedures for Walking to and from school alone

There are no laws around age or distance of walking 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 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 following:

The DfE guidance states 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 their way home.

NSPCC:

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

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

All children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 must be brought to and collected from the school site by a named adult. If a parent chooses for their child to be collected by an older sibling (for example), it is recommended that this person is at least of high school age and understands their responsibility for keeping the child safe. Parents must contact the school office to give permission for this arrangement.

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. We expect Year 3 and Year 4 children to be brought to and collected from school by a named adult. If a parent chooses for their child to be collected by an older sibling (for example), it is recommended that this person is at least of high school age and understands their responsibility for keeping the child safe. Parents must contact the school office to give permission for this arrangement.

Parents/carers of children who wish their children to walk home unescorted by an adult must adhere to the following guidelines:

Children must be in Year 5 or 6.

1. It is the parents/carer's responsibility to check the routes that their children may walk home in order to make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey. Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas are to be discouraged. A single route should be agreed.
2. Parents/carers must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of road safety and stranger danger. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure they are sufficiently happy that their child is capable of undertaking the proposed journey safely.
3. There should be someone at home to meet the child on arrival.
4. If a child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe, parents/carers must immediately notify the school so that appropriate action can be taken, which may include contacting the emergency services.

5. The school must be informed by parents/carers completing the google form (attached) if they wish their child to walk home. Pupils will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing.
6. **Pupils** must be responsible for their behaviour at all times on their journey to and from school. If school is notified of a child's unacceptable behaviour on the journey to and from school, then this information will be passed on to the child's parents.
7. If any incident involves external agencies (for example the police) school will support any investigation or enquiries.
8. Should a child's behaviour not be acceptable the school may ask for the child to be accompanied or collected by parents/carers for a specified amount of time.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility parents should consider the following:

- Do you trust them to walk straight home?
- Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with friends?
- Are they road safety aware?
- Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
- Would they know what to do if they needed help

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Google form

<https://forms.gle/NRBXDB2UUz6g9hbG7>