



POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING PUPILS WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE

There are no laws around age or distance of walking to 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 we 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.

Pupils in Foundation Stage, KS1, Lower KS2 (Year 3 and 4) and Upper KS2 – Year 5

Our agreed school policy is that no pupil in Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, Lower KS2 and year 5 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, 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. Parents/Carers are to keep the school informed of any changes in arrangements, by letter. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents contacted.

Pupils in Upper KS2 –Year 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, in regard to the pupils in year 6 we believe parents/carers need to decide whether your child is ready for this responsibility. Pupils in year 6 can walk to school and home by themselves with written permission given by their parents/carers by letter to the Headteacher.