



Walking to and from school alone policy

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Approved by:	The headteacher	
Written by:	Nicola Alburg	September 2025
Next review due by:	The headteacher	September 2028

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.

In addition, as a school we have a duty of care for the safety and well-being of our children and therefore this policy is to help advise parents/carers in the decisions they make for their children in relation to safety to and from school. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Pupils in Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5

We would highly recommend that pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 are still brought to and collected from school by an adult (person over 18). We also understand that there may be circumstances that prevent parents who work or who have appointments that make it difficult for parents to achieve this every day.

However, the primary driver in making such decisions is always the safety and well-being of our children. Where it is not possible for an adult to bring or collect a child in Years 3, 4 and 5, parents and carers may give consent for this duty to be carried out by an older sibling, providing:

- They are 15 and over;
- A parent/ carer judges them to be responsible enough to complete this task safely;
- The route to school is within a safe walking distance and the parent/carers judges the route safe;
- The older sibling and the child are going straight home;
- The older sibling is responsible for no more than two children.

If your child is attending an extra- curricular, after-school club, then we request that all children attending these sessions are collected by an adult on time.

For pupils in Year 6, we believe that if children **live within walking distance to school and are able to walk a safe route** then you as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and from school alone.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should assess any risks associated with the route to school and assess your child's confidence. There are many ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey.

Children who are walking to and from school without an adult may bring a mobile phone to school. However, we ask that the following expectations are met:

- To maintain a high level of safeguarding and in line with the Smartphone Free Childhood Campaign, our **preference** would be for children not to bring smartphones to school and that parents instead give their children a basic, 'brick' phone for the purpose of texting/making phone calls when walking to/from school.
- All phones must be switched off and handed in to the class teacher by the child.
- When arriving at school before handing the phone to their teacher and leaving at the end of the day once their phone has been returned to them, all phones must be in school bags. They should not be visible on the playground and will be confiscated if used at school.
- Phones should not be given to children if they are simply meeting an adult at the car park.

When deciding whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and/or from home you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight to school or straight home, using the agreed safe route?
2. Are there roads to cross on the route and how busy/safe are those roads?
3. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend or group of friends?
4. Are they road safety aware?
5. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
6. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
7. Do they understand about keeping themselves safe and not to make any dangerous choices, either by themselves or with a group of friends?

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, please complete the form linked below.

[Year 6 permission to walk to/from school](#)