



St Anne's Catholic Primary School.



## **POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING PUPILS WHEN: WALKING HOME FROM SCHOOL ALONE/Permission for KS2 Child to be collected by a young person less than 16 Years of age.**

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 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.

### **Pupils in Foundation Stage or KS1**

Our agreed school policy is that **no pupil in Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1** 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**.

### **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 upon their maturity and confidence. Therefore as regards pupils in KS2 we believe that you as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for this responsibility. **We would still highly recommend that our children are still brought to and collected from school by an adult, in particular in years 3 and 4. We also recommend that no KS2 child is collected by anyone under the age of 16 years.**

### **Parental request for child to walk home from school alone.**

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk home from school you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. Work with your children to build up their independence through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

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 or from school independently.

### **Teach your child 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; 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 (scream, shout, attract attention)?
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 slip 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 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.**

**This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:**

- **Safeguarding**
- **Child Protection**
- **SEND**
- **Dismissal and Early Collection**
- **Late Child Collection**
- **EYFS**

---

**St Anne's Catholic Primary School**

**Permission for pupils to walk home from school unaccompanied**

**Person with parental responsibility (PR) to complete and return this reply slip to school**

Name of my child:

Year:

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking home from school 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 'policy on safeguarding pupils walking to and from school alone'.

I accept full responsibility for my child's safety and wellbeing in making the decision that my child should walk home alone from school.

Signed.....

Date: (d/m/y)

(Name print).....

PR? Yes/No

**St Anne's Catholic Primary School**

**Permission for a young adult – (under the age of 16 Years) to collect my KS2 child from school.**

**Person with parental responsibility (PR) to complete and return this reply slip to school**

Name of my child:

Year:

I wish to request that my child be collected from school by \_\_\_\_\_ aged  
\_\_\_\_\_ on regular/daily basis.

Their relationship to my child is:-----

I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change.

I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in 'policy on safeguarding pupils walking to and from school.

I accept full responsibility for my child's safety and wellbeing in making the decision that my child should be collected from school by the individual named above who is under the age of 16 Years.

Signed.....

Date: (d/m/y)

(Name print).....

PR? Yes/No

