



Walking Home Policy

For pupils in Year 5 and Year 6, who **live within walking distance to school and are able to walk a safe route**, we feel that you as parents may decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking from school alone. Many parents of children in year 6 give their permission to support their children with their transition to secondary school.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk home from school, you should assess any risks associated with the route to school as well as your child's confidence. There are many ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. One way is to follow them a few times on their journey, so you know how safe and sensible they are. We have found this to be a very good indicator of whether a child is ready for the responsibility of walking home alone; indeed, we have had parents not allow their child to walk home after doing this very exercise. It is also strongly advised that children who are walking without an adult or older sibling, have a cheap mobile phone that they are able to use if they need help. All mobile phones brought into school need to be handed into the office immediately in line with our safeguarding and mobile phone policies. There is also a phone agreement form to fill in, which must be signed by both you and your child.

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

- Do you trust them to walk straight to school or straight home, using the agreed safe route?
- Are there roads to cross on the route and how busy/safe are those roads?
- Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend or group of 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?
- Do they understand about keeping themselves safe and not to make any dangerous choices, either by themselves or with a group of friends?

Should you decide that the time is right for your child to be given such responsibility, please inform the office in writing by email in advance of you are allowing your child to walk home as we cannot allow the child to leave the building without written parental permission. The email must state when the date your child is to start and if it is every day. If it isn't every day, it is best practice to put a note in the homework diary on the day as a double reminder for both staff and child. Please note that if there is any doubt as to whether a child has permission for that day, we will call you to double check.

If your child is attending a club, please make sure that you put in the email that you also give permission for your child to walk home afterwards.