



Godalming Junior School

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. If you have any concerns you should contact our Designated Child Protection Officers, Adam Samson, Jonathan Poole or Karen Sutton

WALKING HOME POLICY

Governors' Committee Responsible:	Safeguarding Committee
Governor Lead:	Ben Nicholls - Chair
Nominated Lead Member of Staff:	Mr Adam Samson - HT
Status and Review Cycle:	Non-Statutory - As required

This policy represents the agreed principles for children walking home from school. This policy has been agreed by all staff and governors within the school.

Introduction:

The purpose of the policy is:

- To raise awareness and provide a clear procedure for children walking home from school
- To inform parents of their roles and responsibilities when giving authorisation for their child/ren to walk home from school
- To inform the parents of the schools role and responsibility

Parents of children who wish them to walk home unescorted by an adult, at the end of the school day must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Parents must have registered with the school that they are prepared for their child/ren to walk directly home from school at the end of the day
- It is advised that the children walking home should be in Year 5 and 6
- It is the parent's responsibility to check the route that their children may walk home in order that they make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey e.g. the crossing of fast roads and walking through secluded areas is discouraged. A single route must be agreed and changes made in light of roadworks etc if necessary
- Parents must be certain that their child/ren have an awareness and understanding of the 'Green Cross Code' and 'Stranger Danger'. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure they are sufficiently happy that their child is capable of undertaking the proposed journey safely
- During winter months and/or inclement weather, children must be dressed appropriately
- Children should preferably walk in a group and not alone
- Children should know their home phone number (plus an emergency contact)
- Children may have a mobile phone that is kept in the school office and has been arranged with the school. **This should only be used in emergency or to confirm picking up or home arrangements**
- It is recommended that there is someone at home to meet the child on arrival
- It is advised that the journey should not be longer than a 30 minute walk
- Children should be vigilant and aware of their surroundings and not distracted using phone devices whilst walking home
- Parents must sign the Walking Home Confirmation Form before the arrangement for the child/ren walking home has been initiated
- Parents are responsible for the well-being of their child/ren once the child/ren have left the school site if the WHCF has been signed and returned to school. School will retain the original with a copy being sent home