



Annie Lennard Primary School

**COLLECTION/ WALKING FROM
SCHOOL ALONE POLICY**

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 his or her 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 **14 years old or above (Year 10)** (however, if the professional judgement of the adult at school deems the older sibling not to be suitable, they will not hand the child over). Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made this arrangement.

We also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements, preferably by letter. If someone turns up to collect your child and we have not been notified, the adult will have to wait until we have verified his or her identity. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents contacted. If the child is not collected within 30 minutes and we have failed to make contact with the child's carer, we will consult with children's services. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings.

Pupils in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

While there is no set age when children are ready to walk home on their own, we believe that pupils in year 3, 4 and 5 should be still brought **to and collected** from school and this is our school policy.

We will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided they are **14 years old or above (Year 10)** (however, if the professional judgement of the adult at school deems the older sibling not to be suitable, they will not hand the child over). Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made this arrangement.

We also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements, preferably by letter. If someone turns up to collect your child and we have not been notified, the adult will have to wait until we have verified his or her identity. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents contacted. If the child is not collected within 30 minutes and we have failed to contact the child's carer, we will consult with children's services. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings.

All children in all year groups should be brought to school in a morning, no child should be left unsupervised on the school playground/ premise. The playground is **not** overseen by staff in a morning it is parents' responsibility to supervise their children until the bell goes and they are safely in the building.

Year 6 from Spring Term

Pupils in Year 6, we believe that you as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking from school alone.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk 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 while walking from school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

There are many ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. Children who are driven to and from school do not have the opportunity to develop road awareness and are therefore more vulnerable when they start to walk from school independently.

Walking from school is a great opportunity to learn road safety skills. The best way to do this is to walk with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic and finding the way on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older

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 did not want to do?
7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. Would they know whom 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 inform the school by completing 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 to 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.

Permission for pupils to walk from school unaccompanied

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school ASAP

Name of child:

Year: 6

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking 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 fully understand that once I give permission for my child to walk to and from school alone, the school is not responsible for my child's actions or whereabouts once they are not on the school premises.

Signed.....

Date:

(Print Name).....