



Claverley CE Primary **school**

Walking to and from school alone Policy

Date policy last reviewed: February
2024

This policy has been developed within the spirit and context of our Mission Statement:

'Encourage one another, and build each other up' (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*) to make the ***best*** of the lives we have been gifted by God by **b**elieving we can change things for the better; **r**especting our environment and each other; **s**upporting our friends and community and **t**aking every opportunity to learn.

POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING PUPILS

WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE

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.

We are a Rights Respecting School and we follow the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

(UNCRC) which is an international human rights treaty that grants all children and young people (aged 17 and under) a comprehensive set of rights. This means that they are a child until their 18th birthday.

In addition, we will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings who are on the school data form provided they are 18 years old or above. 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. 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.

Pupils in Foundation Stage (Reception) and KS1 (Years 1 & 2)

Our agreed school policy is that pupils in Foundation Stage or Years 1 and 2 should NOT walk to or from school on their own or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school.

If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents contacted.

Pupils in Year 3 and 4

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 should be brought to and collected from school by an adult (person over 18).

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

If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents contacted.

Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6

For pupils in Year 5 and 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. For pupils in Year 5, this can start from the summer term in preparation for encouraging independence in Year 6.

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

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. One way is to follow them a few times on their journey, so you know how safe and sensible they are.

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 attached form.

How to complete the form

(1) Circle yes or no for each statement (please note that if you circle 'no' for any of the statements, your child may not be ready to walk to or from school)

(2) Read the information and if you agree, please sign and date if you want your child to walk home alone

(3) Please hand the form into the office – for safeguarding purposes, the form needs to be submitted prior to any independent travel

(4) If at any time you need to change the arrangements, please ensure you let us know in writing.

Claverley CE Primary

Permission to walk to and/or from school alone

Child's name _____ Year group _____

- The route from school is within safe walking distance **yes/ no**
- I consider the route from school to be a safe route **yes/ no**
- My child does not need to cross any busy/main roads **yes/ no**
- My child does need to cross a busy/main road(s) and I have taught them to cross safely at a crossing. **yes/no**
- My child is aware of the potential dangers regarding roads/ traffic and how to avoid dangers and stay safe **yes/ no**
- My child understands and follows the green cross code **yes/ no**
- My child understands stranger danger **yes/ no**
- My child knows what to do if they need help **yes/ no**
- My child knows what to do in an emergency **yes/ no**
- I acknowledge that there will be other risks **yes/ no**
- When walking home – my child will go straight home **yes/ no**
- When walking home, a responsible person will be at home to supervise them **yes/ no**

Please tick relevant boxes

- I have read and understood this policy on safeguarding my child walking to school.
- I have read and understood this policy on safeguarding my child walking home from school alone.
- I fully understand that it is my responsibility to ensure my child gets to and from school safely including getting to school on time. If circumstances change then I will communicate this with school.
- I fully understand that if they are at an extra- curricular activity/After School Provision they should always be collected by an adult.

Signed _____ Date _____