

DRAFT

Mill Strand
Integrated
School
& Nursery

Walking Home Policy

DRAFT

DRAFT

Contents

1. Introductory Statement
2. Nursery and Foundation Stage
3. Key Stage One
4. Key Stage 2
5. Parent guidelines

DRAFT

DRAFT

1.0 Introductory Statement

Although there are no specific laws around age or distance of walking to school parents/ carers are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school safely and attend regularly, 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.

2.0 Pupils in Nursery and Foundation Stage.

Our school policy is that no pupil in Nursery or Foundation Stage (Years 1 and 2) 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, staff are to hand over pupils to adults named on our school data collection forms. Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent/ carer that they have made this arrangement. Parents/ carers are requested to keep the school informed of any changes in arrangements, preferably by contacting the class teacher in writing via seesaw. If no one turns up to collect a child, they will be kept in school and parents/ carers or named contacts on the emergency contact sheets will be contacted. If in the event we cannot contact a parent or named emergency contact, in a reasonable timeframe, the school may have to contact an outside agency such as social services.

3.0 Pupils in KS1 (Years 3 and Year 4)

3.1 Year 3

Our policy is that pupils in years 3 are to be accompanied or collected by parents or named adults. However children in Year 3 may walk home with an older sibling from Key Stage 2 (Year 5,6 or 7) in the final half term of the year to assist transition to Year 4 when children may walk home when accompanied by an older sibling. The school recognises that not all children reach the same level of maturity at a given age so parents must contact our Head of Key Stage 1 (Mrs Doherty) before completing a 'walking home from school agreement' as the decision to allow Year 3 children to walk with a sibling will be one of mutual agreement between parents and Head of Key Stage.

3.2 Year 4

As a school we understand the importance of smooth transition through Key Stages therefore in Year 4 our policy is that children may walk home from school when accompanied by an older sibling provided their parent has completed and signed the walking home agreement. However as a school we recognise there may be differences in children's development and when the school deems this to be inappropriate for reasons such as but not limited to special educational needs, a child's awareness of road safety, a child's emotional state, exceptionally bad weather that may be hazardous or worries about a child's ability to seek help if a problem occurred during the walk home a member of the Pastoral Care Team will contact parents to make them aware of this and may advise that in the interest of safeguarding and child protection a child must be collected by a named adult.

DRAFT

DRAFT

If/when this decision occurs it will be re-evaluated on a half termly basis in conjunction with the child's parents.

4.0 Key Stage 2

Pupils in Key Stage 2 are permitted to walk home if parents complete and sign the Mill Strand walking home from school agreement. As is the case in Key Stage 1, we recognise there may be differences in children's development. When the school deems it inappropriate for a child to walk home alone for reasons such as, but not limited to, special educational needs, a child's awareness of road safety, a child's emotional state, exceptionally bad weather that may be hazardous or worries about a child's ability to seek help if a problem occurred during the walk home a member of the Pastoral Care team will contact parents to make them aware of this and may advise that in the interest of safeguarding and child protection a child must be collected by a named adult. If/when this decision occurs it will be re-evaluated on a half termly basis in conjunction with the child's parents.

5.0 Guidance for Parents

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

- It is the parent's/ carer's responsibility to check the route that their children may walk home in order that they may make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey.
- Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas are to be discouraged.
- A single route must be agreed.
- Parents/carers must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger.
- Parent's/ carer's must be 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.
- There must be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival.
- Any child must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes of the end of the school day (1530hrs). Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this stage.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe, parents/ carers must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken, which may include contacting the emergency services.
- The school must be informed by parents/ carers completing the walking home agreement. Pupils will not be allowed to walk home unless this permission has been given in writing.
- Pupils must also be responsible for their behaviour at all times, this includes before and after school. Should their behaviour not be acceptable they will be asked to be

DRAFT

DRAFT

accompanied or collected by parents/carers, this will be re-evaluated on a monthly basis

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, kick or fight)?
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 in these situations your child should be collected by a parent or named adult until you can confidently answer yes to the above

Agreed :
Reviewed:

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT