



# Walking home alone policy 2025

## **Purpose**

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who walk to and from school independently.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to pupils in Year 5 and 6 at Badbury Park Primary School.

## **Parental Consent**

**Written Consent** – Parents must provide written consent for their child to walk to and from school alone. Please find permission slip below.

**Emergency contacts** – Parents must ensure school has 3 up-to-date emergency contact information for their child.

## **Guidelines for children walking to and from school alone:**

- Children must be in year 5 and 6 and have written consent
- Route – children should follow a safe, well lit route
- Punctuality – children should get to school when the gates open. Children should leave school promptly and go straight home
- It is the parents responsibility to check the route that their child 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 is to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed.
- Parents must be certain that children have an awareness of road safety and stranger danger. It is a parents responsibility to ensure they are confident that their child is capable of undertaking the proposed journey safely.

## **Parent/Carer responsibility:**

- If parents/carers choose to let their child travel to and from school independently, they will be responsible for assessing the risks associated with the school route and their child's confidence
- Parents are responsible for the welfare of children before 8:30am and after 3:15pm
- Parents are required to work with their child to build up their independence, while walking to and from school together - through route finding, road safety skills and general safety awareness
- Parents should consider the suitability of the child walking to and from school alone
- During bad weather, children must be dressed appropriately
- Children should know their parent's phone number & home address

- There must be a way for parents to know the child has arrived safely at home
- If parents choose to give their child a mobile phone, it must be handed in to the classteacher to lock away on entrance to school
- After School Club collection – parents should indicate if children are allowed to walk home after an after school activity club at 4.15 pm
- When it is dark, children should not walk home alone
- Parents should use the appendix below to teach their child how to walk to and from school safely
- If a child should not arrive home at the expected time the parent/carer is expected to notify the school immediately
- Should your child's behaviour not be acceptable you will be asked to accompany or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again

**When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility consider:**

- Do you trust them to walk straight home?
- Do you trust them to behave sensibly with a friend?
- Are they road safety aware?
- Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
- Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asks?
- Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they didn't want to do (eg scream, shout & run away)
- Would they know what to do if they needed help?
- Would they know who 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.**

**School responsibility:**

- **Supervision:** staff will supervise pupils from 8:30am until 3:15pm
- **Education:** road safety and stranger danger will be taught as part of our curriculum
- **Record keeping:** school will maintain records of pupils with consent to walk to and from school independently
- **Registers:** School will call parents if a child does not arrive at school once the registers are taken
- The school is not responsible for the safety of children on their journey to and from school.

Date: January 2025

Review: January 2026

## Badbury Park Primary School

### Parental Consent for children to walk independently to and from school.

- I understand that the school has provided guidelines for safe travel and that my child is aware of these guidelines
- I have read and understood the school walking independently to and from school policy
- I confirm that my child knows how to keep him / herself safe and is able to deal with emergencies
- I wish to inform you that my child will be walking to / from school on a regular basis
- I will notify school immediately should this arrangement change
- I understand that this is my own decision and that the school is not responsible for my child before 8:40am and after 3:15pm

#### Emergency contact information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_ in Year \_\_\_\_\_  
to walk to and from school independently.

My child **can / cannot** walk home at 4.15 pm after an activity club.

Parent/Carer name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Carer signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 1

### Badbury Park Walking independently to and from school

#### - guidelines for children

Children must:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street, never become distracted
- Always cross at the traffic lights or an intersection or where you can see clearly in all directions & do not cross behind parked cars
- Look both ways before crossing – listen for traffic coming
- Look out for cyclists before crossing
- Remember that drivers may not see you, even if you see them
- Remember to walk across the road, don't run
- Buddy system: where possible walk home with a friend or in a group
- Stranger Danger: Do not talk to strangers or accept lifts from anyone
- If a stranger tries to convince you to go with them, or tries to get physically close to you, scream and shout 'help this is not my mum/dad' and run away
- You are still representing Badbury Park Primary School when walking to and from school and we expect good behaviour
- You are also responsible for your behaviour whilst on the school premises before and after school
- You need to know your parents phone number and your home address
- If I have a mobile phone, I will hand it into the teacher on arrival at school

I agree to follow these guidelines when I walk to and from school independently

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_