St John's Church of England Primary School

Walking Home Alone Policy

Gather, Grow, Go - The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13: 31-32)

SAFEGUARDING PUPILS WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE

The NSPCC states, “There’s no legal age limit for a child to stay home or go out alone, but it’s against the law to leave a child alone if it puts them at risk.”

Although there is no legal age regarding walking home alone, we as a school are responsible for the welfare and safety of our pupils, therefore we must consider what we believe is the right age for children at St John’s to be given this level of independence.

Pupils in the Early Years or KS1
We do not feel that a child in the Early Years or Key Stage 1 should walk to or from school on their own. We will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings, provided they are 16 years old or above and that are authorised to collect on Arbor.

Pupils in KS2 (Years 3, 4)
In line with NSPCC guidance if you do not have an adult to collect your child we feel that it is ultimately up to parents and carers to decide whether they feel it is appropriate for a sibling to take responsibility for accompanying a pupil home.

Factors that parents and carers should take into account include:

- the maturity of all the children involved
- the length and nature of the journey home
- the behaviour of all the children involved
- the relationship between the children collecting or being collected.

Please ensure whoever is collecting your child is authorised to collect on Arbor.

Pupils in upper KS2 (Years 5, 6)
We believe that it is the responsibility of parents and carers to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and from school alone.

The NSPCC parent and carer guidance for ‘going out alone’, gives clear points for parents and carers to consider when you are making this decision. For example:
Can your child deal with risks?
Will they behave responsibly?

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/3271/home-or-out-alone-guide.pdf

Some questions to ask yourself. Does your child:

- Pay attention to traffic when crossing the road and never become distracted?
- Always cross at the appropriate crossing where there are traffic lights?
- Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming?
- Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they can see the driver?
- Know not to converse with strangers?
- Know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
- Know what to do if they needed help?

If you would like your child to travel to or from school alone, please complete and return the form below.

Permission to Travel Home Alone

As children reach year 5 and 6 they gain more confidence and independence and may feel that they would like to travel to and from school alone. We are willing to allow this with parent/carer consent.

We remind parents that whilst we ensure your child's safety at school, we are not responsible for them once they have left the school premises. We therefore would ask that you talk to your child about keeping themselves safe and their behaviour travelling home alone, and remind them that certain dangers can be present whilst walking home alone or catching a bus.

Please sign and date the form below if you wish to give your consent for your child to travel home alone.

I give consent for my child to travel home alone from St John's Church of England Primary School at the end of the day.

Child's Name

_____

Child's Class

_____

Parent/Carer
Signature_____

Parent/Carer Name _____

Date _____