

St John's Church of England Primary School

Walking Home Alone Policy



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

Date agreed and ratified by Governing Body: January 2022

SAFEGUARDING PUPILS WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE

The NSPCC states 'Just like staying home alone, there is no legal age limit for a child going out alone'

When a child feels ready to walk to school and home alone it would be the responsibility of the parent/carer to judge the situation.

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 listed on the pickup sheets.

Pupils in KS2 (Years 3, 4)

At St John's we believe that pupils in years 3 and 4 should be brought to and collected from school by a designated carer of 16+ years.

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/1103/out-alone-keeping-child-safe.pdf>

Some questions to ask yourself

Does your child:

- Pay attention to traffic when crossing the road and never becomes distracted?
- Always crosses 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?

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 and we are willing to allow this with parents/carers 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.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Williamson

Headteacher

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 _____