



# Willenhall Community Primary School

## Safeguarding Pupils Travelling To and From School

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### 1. Responsibilities of Parents and the School

There are no laws around the 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. 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. Pupils in Foundation Stage or KS1

Our agreed school guidance is that no pupil in Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 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 we will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided they are 14-years old or above. Named adults are those listed as contacts in your child's school record. You can access your child's record via the school office if you need to confirm who is recorded as a contact for your child. 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 arrangement, preferably by letter (or using the attached form). If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups they will be kept in school and parents will be contacted. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in our school to collect younger siblings.

The Nursery has its own collection arrangements which are shared with parents.

### 3. Pupils in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

There is no set age at which children are ready to walk to school or home on their own. It very much depends upon their maturity and confidence. Therefore as regards pupils in KS2 we believe that you as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for this responsibility. We would still highly recommend that pupils in year 3 and 4 at least are still brought to and collected from school. If you decide that you wish for your child to continue to be collected from school, then

the guidance regarding named adults, detailed in the section above, will be followed.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. Work with your children to build up their independence while walking to school, through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

There are lots of ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. Children who are driven to school do not have the opportunity to develop road awareness and are therefore more vulnerable when they start to walk to school independently. Walking to school is a great opportunity to learn road safety skills. The best way to do this is to walk with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic and way finding on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross at the intersection where there are traffic lights; do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively cross in a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Avoid parked cars or bends in the road.
- Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming; cross while keeping an eye on traffic.
- Look out for cyclists.
- Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they can see the driver.
- Remember that it is hard to judge the speed of a car so be cautious.
- Never, ever, follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult. (A safe adult is someone who has been previously agreed upon by you and your child to be safe, such as a grandparent or trusted neighbour). And if that person tries to convince him to go with him or tries to physically get close to him, then scream, "Help! This is not my Dad!" or "Help! This is not my Mum!" and run away. If they grab him, tell your child to kick, punch, and hit as hard as they can.

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, 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 then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to walk on their own.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility then you must inform the school by letter or by completing the slip below. Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing.

Your child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst on the school premises either before or after school. **Should their behaviour be unacceptable you will be asked to accompany them or collect them until they have proved that they can be trusted again.**

**IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU LET US KNOW IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY.**

# WILLENHALL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## 4. Permission for pupils to walk to and from school unaccompanied

**The person with parental responsibility must complete and return this form to school**

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking to / from school on a regular basis.

I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change.

I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in 'GUIDANCE ON SAFEGUARDING PUPILS TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL'.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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

# WILLENHALL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## 5. Permission for named person to collect pupil from school

The person with parental responsibility must complete and return this form to school

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to inform you that I give permission for the person named below to collect the child/ren listed above from school:

**Full name** of person who can collect the child: \_\_\_\_\_

Their relationship with child: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number for the person collecting the child: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish us to add this person as a contact to your child's school record? *(We may contact this person in event of an emergency if we are unable to contact parent/carer)* **YES / NO**

This person is over the age of 14

This permission is for an ongoing period starting from: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ **OR**

This permission is for specific date(s) (Enter dates): Start: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ End: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

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