

POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING PUPILS

WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE

Year Five and Six



There is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own. It very much depends upon their maturity and confidence. Therefore, we believe that you as parents/carers need to decide whether your child is ready for this responsibility.

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 to school and back home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly and safely when they are out with friends?
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 feel that your child is ready to walk alone then please read the following:

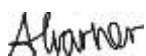
- We understand that you may choose to give your child a mobile phone for safety reasons. We would also ask that our mobile policy is adhered to and not breached due to social media, safeguarding and other school policies that are in place. Mobile phones must be switched off at school and handed to the class teacher (please ensure your child's name and class is on the mobile phone) and not used when walking as this is a distraction.
- We would also ask that your child does not pick up or walk with any younger siblings (as your child will not be responsible for them and you will still need to bring them in)
- It is the parent's/carer's responsibility to check the route that your child may walk in order that they may make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey, such as not allowing crossing of fast roads, discouraging walking through secluded areas. A single route

must be agreed with you and your child so that you know where they will approximately be.

- Parents/carers must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger.
- When walking back home from school, there must be someone at home to meet your child on their arrival. Not having a person over 16 present at home upon arrival would be a cause for concern and would be treated accordingly, in line with our safeguarding procedures.
- All children who attend after school club must be collected by a responsible adult (unless school have agreed alternative arrangement and the relevant form is completed).
- When walking home after school, if any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe (within a maximum of 30 mins), parents/carers must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken.
- Your child should not walk with any medicine or medical equipment as we need to follow our correct procedures. Also, we are unable to give your child any medicine or your medical equipment to take home. We would ask you as the parent/carer to go into the office during school hours to sort out any medicine and / or medical equipment and fill relevant forms.
- In the event the child will be absent from school, you will still need to inform the school in line with our policies and procedures. This must be no later than 8.45 am.
- If your child is late you must walk them to school and sign them in.
- Your child is representing our school and therefore must behave according to our policies and procedures. If we have concerns around their behaviour or safety we will not allow them to walk unattended.
- We would ask that you regularly communicate with your class teacher including attending parents evening and parents' events.
- If for any reason the arrangements change, please notify the school immediately.

If you would like to discuss this with a member of the team please feel free to arrange a convenient time with us. If you and your child feel ready for them to walk to and from school, please complete and return the slip to school.

Best wishes



Angela Garner

Head Teacher Moorland Primary School



Walking to and from School - Consent Form

I give permission for my child to walk to and from school independently (unaccompanied by an adult) and will ensure that the above arrangements are met.

Please tick:

- In the event my child will be absent from school, I will inform the school by 8.45am
- I understand that the safety and wellbeing of my child is always my responsibility.
- I have read, understood and agreed "the walking policy".
- The walking permission can be withdrawn at any time especially if the wellbeing and safety of your child is at risk.

CHILD'S NAME:

Parent/Carer SIGNATURE:

PRINT NAME:

EMERGENCY CONTACT NO.

Date:

PERMISSION TO WALK LETTER PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL

Updated Sept 2024