Collecting from School Policy
Sept 2026

There are no laws around 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/ carers are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend regularly, but this does not disallow independent travel. **However as a school we are responsible for the welfare of our pupils and therefore must 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.

Pupils in Foundation Stage, KS1 and Lower KS2
Our agreed school policy is that no pupil in Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, year 3 or year 4 pupil should walk to or from school on their own.

In addition, staff are to hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided they are 16 years old or above. Pupils will not be handed over to other adults/children unless the school has been informed by the parent/ carer that they have made this arrangement. Please ensure a request such as this is passed on to the school.

If no one arrives to collect a child, they will be kept in school and parents/ carers or named contacts on the emergency contact sheets will be contacted. For parents or carers who repeatedly fail to collect their child on time from school, a letter will be sent and meetings with the parent/carer should be set up to address this.

Pupils in Years 5 & 6

There is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own.

Parents/ carers of children who wish their children to walk home unescorted by an adult, at the end of the school day, must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Children must be in **years 5 or 6.**
- It is the parent's/ carer's responsibility to check the route that their children 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 are to be discouraged.
- Parents/carers must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of how to stay safe on the walk home. It is parent's/ carer's responsibility to ensure they are sufficiently happy that their child can undertake the proposed journey safely.
- During winter months and/or inclement weather, children must be dressed appropriately.
- There must be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival.

- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed time, parents/carers must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken, which may include contacting the emergency services.

The school must be informed by parents/ carers completing an online form if they wish their child to walk home, which is shared with parents/ carers. Pupils are to be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given.

Pupils must also be responsible for their behaviour at all times, this includes before and after school. Should their behaviour be of concern, they will be asked to be accompanied or collected by parents/ carers.

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