



Grange Primary School
Pursuing excellence for every child

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POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING PUPILS WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE

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 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.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Child (NSPCC) recommend that no one under 16 should be left to care for a younger child. At Grange Primary School we follow this guidance to safeguard our children.

Pupils in Foundation Stage or KS1

Our agreed school policy 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 16 years old or above. 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 arrangements, in writing or by updating the online form available from the school website. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups they will be kept in school and parents contacted. If we are unable to contact parents/person with parental responsibility within a reasonable space of time, please be advised that Social services will be contacted.

Pupils in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

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. As parents, you are responsible for deciding whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking home alone. **We would still highly recommend that pupils, at least in year 3 and 4, are both brought to and collected from school.** Should you decide that your child has the maturity and skills necessary to walk independently and unaccompanied then permission must be given via the relevant paper form or the electronic form available from the school website.

After School Clubs

All children **must be** collected promptly from after school clubs by an adult unless written permission is given for the child to walk home.

Nominated Adults

Parents are asked to provide the school with a list of nominated adults who they give permission to collect their children from the school. Children will not be allowed to go with any adult who is not on the list provided and signed by the person who has parental responsibility for the child(ren).

Guidelines:

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.

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 use the crossings, the lollipop crossing or designated crossing spaces such as the islands in the middle of the road to ensure safe crossing where possible.
- Alternatively cross in a place where they can see clearly in all directions. Avoid parked cars or bends in the road.
- Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming; keep looking and listening for traffic as they cross.
- 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 who 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 them to go with them or tries to physically get close to them, then they should scream, "Help! This is not my dad!" or "Help! This is not my mum!" and run away. If the person grabs them, they should kick, punch, and hit as hard as they can, making as much noise as they can.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility then you must inform the school by completing the walking home alone slip (also available from the school website). 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 not be acceptable you will be asked them to accompany or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again.

In an emergency situation where you are unable to collect your child from school or are running late please telephone the school on 01472 232030 to let us know. We will not let your child go home with another adult unless you have notified us by telephone.

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

THIS MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO SCHOOL

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Permission for pupils, in **Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6)**, to walk to and from school unaccompanied

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school. Until this slip is received your child **will not** be allowed to walk from school on their own.

Name of child: _____ Year: _____ Class: _____

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking to/from school on their own.

Date you are expecting the child is to start walking home alone: _____

I will notify the school immediately, in writing, should this arrangement change.

I understand that by giving permission my child will be dismissed at 3.20pm to walk home alone every day. If other arrangements are agreed, on a one off, then it is the child's responsibility to implement these. (i.e. meeting grandparent at gates, waiting for parent on playground).

I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in 'policy on safeguarding pupils walking to and from school alone'.

Signed _____ (parent/carer with parental responsibility) Date: _____

(Name print) _____

Nominated Adults who have permission to collect a child from school



All parents must complete the list below to identify the adults (*must be over the age of 16*) who are allowed to collect your children from school on a regular basis. If you have more than one child in school please put all your children's names on one form.

Should there be any additions or changes to the nominated adult form it is a parent/carer (with parental responsibility) responsibility to inform the school, in writing, so that necessary changes can be made. Please note that this updated form will override any previous forms we have unless the box is ticked.

Child(ren)'s Name(s): _____ Class: _____

Class: _____
Class: _____
Class: _____

Nominated Adults:

Name	Relationship

It is a parent's responsibility to notify the school office in writing of any changes to this list as soon as possible.

☐

Please tick this box if the amendments are in addition to the Nominated Adults list that we already have in school.

Signed: _____ (parent/carer with parental responsibility) Date: _____

Name: _____

Date ratified by the Governing Body:

July 2025

Date last reviewed:

May 2025

Next review date:

May 2028

Virtually signed by Chair of Governors: S. Ryley Date: July 2025