

Safeguarding Pupils Travelling To & From School Policy

There are no laws stipulating at which age children are permitted to travel to school, or specifying a maximum distance they may travel. 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 that their children get to school and attend regularly, but this in itself does not prohibit 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.

Pupils in Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception), KS1 (Years 1 & 2) and Lower KS2 (Years 3 & 4)

Our agreed school policy is that no pupil in Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2 should travel to or from school on their own, or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school. 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 advise parents to keep the school informed of any changes in arrangements either by letter, by writing in the 'End of Day Book' or by phoning the school office. 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 school to collect younger siblings.

Pupils in Upper Key Stage KS2 (Years 5 & 6)

In deciding whether your child is ready to travel independently to school, you should assess (a) any risks associated with the route and (b) your child's confidence. Work with your children to build up their independence while travelling 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.

Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross the main road with the lollipop man. Where there is no designated crossing 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 your child to go with them or tries to physically get close to them, then scream, "Help! This is not my dad!" or "Help! This is not my mum!" and run away.
- Be aware of alternative routes to and from school.
- To know what to do in an emergency.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to travel 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?
9. Would they be able to choose an alternative route to get home?

If you are not confident about how your child would react, then you should seriously consider not allowing them to travel 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 at the end of this policy. Your child will be prevented from travelling 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 to accompany or collect them until they have proved 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.

Author	Creation Date
St. Michael's CE Primary School	Autumn 2016
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Longhoughton CE Primary School Governors	October 2016, Summer 2019
Signed	

PERMISSION FOR PUPILS TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL UNACCOMPANIED

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school.

Name of child: _____

Class: _____

Relationship to the child: _____

I wish to inform you that my child will be travelling unaccompanied on a regular basis. (please tick)

- ☐ To school
- ☐ Home from school

I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change. I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in the 'Safeguarding pupils travelling to and from school alone Policy'.

Signed: _____

Print name: _____

Date: _____