

# Sandbrook Community Primary School

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## CHILDREN WALKING TO/FROM SCHOOL ALONE AND COLLECTION OF CHILDREN AT HOMETIME POLICY

### Introduction

Parents take full and due responsibility and care to ensure that their child arrives safely at school each morning. Where children walk to school it is understood by the school that parents ensure that their child takes the safest route to school as is possible and that they are accompanied to school by a responsible adult.

Parents are advised to talk to children about road safety even if children are accompanied to school by an adult.

In Year 6, parents may decide that their child is capable of walking to or from school without an adult, particularly if they live very close to the school and do not need to cross any major roads.

The following guidelines set out the school's advice, policy and procedures should parents' wish to consider allowing their child to walk to or from school without an adult.

### Walking to School Without an Adult

- Although it is up to parents' discretion how children travel to school each day, the school recommends that all children in Year 4 and below are accompanied by an adult on the way to school and that Year 5 & 6 children only travel without an adult if the parent is fully satisfied that it is safe for them to do so.
- Parents/carers are asked to inform the school by completing and returning the permission form if their child will be regularly walking to school alone so that a register can be compiled should they not arrive at school at the appropriate time in the morning. **(See Attached)**
- The school recognises a clear responsibility to contact parents if their child has not attended morning registration and no contact has been made by the parent to the school to inform the school of absence due to illness or other reason. The school will therefore ensure that registers are checked and will then make attempts to contact the parent/carer to ascertain a reason for absence or to highlight that a child has not attended registration.
- Contact will be sought with the parent/carer within 1 hour (maximum) of registers being taken and an absence without reason being noted by classroom staff. Where a child has left their parent with the intention of walking to school but has not arrived and the school has made contact with the parent/carer and an issue of a missing child is therefore noted, the school will immediately contact the police to report a missing child. The school's designated safeguarding lead will then be immediately informed and safeguarding procedures for child protection will be followed.

- Parents are responsible for informing the school immediately should their child be unwell or otherwise unable to attend school.

### **Home time**

Parents who are collecting children from classes in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 should wait near the classroom or cloakroom door and wait for the teacher to call them to collect their child. Year 5 and Year 6 classes are led out into the playground where they will be collected by parents from their teacher. Parents must not take their child without informing the teacher. It is important that both teacher and child know which adult will be collecting the child at the end of the school day so please inform the school in advance of any changes. If a change is made without informing the school, it will be necessary to contact the parent for confirmation.

**The school day ends at 3.15pm and children are expected to be collected promptly.**

### **Walking Home from School Without an Adult**

- All children from Nursery to Year 4 must be collected at the end of the day. Children in Year 5 & 6 may go home on their own only if the parent has made an approved request to the school (see attached). If the school has concerns about a particular child's ability to travel safely or if the child lives too far away, permission for the child to travel home alone may be refused.
- Parents therefore must make an informed decision that they are confident that their child is able to walk home sensibly and must be aware that they are responsible for their child's safety on their way from school even when they are not physically present.
- Parents are advised to consider the following before deciding whether to request permission for their child to walk home alone:
  - How long is the journey?
  - Are there any roads to cross and, if so, does your child know how to cross them safely?
  - What time will your child be walking home? (It is recommended that children do not walk home in the dark or in failing light)
  - Are you confident that your child is aware of safety rules around stranger danger?
  - Does your child have some friends to walk home with? If so, are you confident that they will walk together sensibly?

**The school maintains a register of children who have permission to be dismissed by a member of staff at the end of the school day to walk home alone.**

- If a child has left the school to walk home alone but does not arrive home, the parent should contact the school in the first instant to seek clarification from the responsible adult as to when the child left the school site.
- If the parent feels that a period of time has passed and their child has not arrived at home and that this is unusual or causing concern the school recommends that the parent/carer calls the school to report their concern. The school can then offer assistance in using contacts to search for their child. It is recommended that the police are informed if the child is not traced within half an hour of this action being taken or indeed as soon as the parent or school deems police involvement is necessary.

This policy will be monitored by the governing body and revised as appropriate, and not less than two years from the date of its adoption. Any incidents of concern relating to this policy will be referred to the Chair of Governors by the head teacher.