



Barrowby Church of England Primary School

Travelling to and from School Alone Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Parents are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend regularly, but this in itself does not disallow independent travel.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

2. Pupils in Foundation stage or Key Stage 1

- 2.1 No pupil in Foundation stage or Key Stage 1 should walk or cycle to or from school on his or her own or be left on their own in or around the school premises either before or after school.
- 2.2 In addition, we will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided they are 14 years or above (however, if the professional judgement of the adult at school deems the older sibling is not to be suitable, they will not hand the child over).
- 2.3 Pupils will not be handed over to 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, preferably by email 24 hours in advance.
- 2.4 If an adult turns up to collect your child and we have not been notified, the adult will have to wait until we have verified his or her identity. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be placed into the After-School Club and parents will be contacted. Charges may be incurred if parents do not collect their child/ren.

3. Pupils in Key Stage 2

- 3.1 While there is no set age when children are ready to travel e.g. walk or cycle to school or home on their own. We believe that children in Years 3 and 4 should be brought to and collected from school, by their parent/carer and/or responsible adult.
- 3.2 With regards to pupils in Year 5, we believe that parents need to decide whether their child is ready for the responsibility of travelling to and from school alone.
- 3.3 From the Summer term of Year 5 and after completion of the Bikeability course pupils in Year 5 may:
 1. **Cycle** to school either accompanied by an adult or independently; and/or may
 2. **Walk** to school independently.
- 3.4 With regards to pupils in Year 6, we believe that parents need to decide whether their child is ready for the responsibility of travelling e.g. walking and/or cycling to and from school alone. In order to independently cycle to and from school pupils must have

completed the Bikeability Course, provided by the school and parents satisfied that their child/ren are independent cyclists.

3.5 Travelling to and from school is a valuable opportunity to further develop independence, learn road safety skills and supports with transition to secondary school.

3.6 Year 5 (from the summer term) and Year 6 children will be allowed to:

- **Cycle** to school independently after completion of the Bikeability Course and once parents have completed and submitted the [Cycle Permit](#).
- **Walk** to and from school independently once parents/carers have completed the [Permission Forms](#) and have received confirmation from school.

3.7 The best way to do prepare your child to either cycle or walk to school independently is to encourage your child to cycle to and from school accompanied. When walking with your child/ren from a young age, teach them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate crossing the road as well as developing a host of other skills. This helps children gain experience and confidence to deal with traffic and finding their way on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

4. When walking teach your child to:

4.1 Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.

4.2 Always cross at a safe place; do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively, cross in a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Avoid parked cars or bends in the road.

4.3 Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming; cross while keeping an eye on traffic.

4.4 Look out for cyclists.

4.5 Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they can see the driver.

4.6 Remember that it is hard to judge the speed of a car so be cautious.

4.7 Never, ever, follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult. Speak to your child about what they should do if this should ever happen.

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

5.1 Do you trust them to walk straight home?

5.2 Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?

5.3 Are they road safety aware?

5.4 Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?

5.5 Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?

5.6 Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they did not want to do?

5.7 Would they know what to do if they needed help?

5.8 Would they know whom best to approach to get help?

5.9 **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.**

6. Obtaining Permission to Walk to and From School Alone

6.1 If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility then you must complete the 'Walking to and From School Alone Request' form. This can be downloaded from our school website or collected from the school office.

6.2 **Your child will be prevented from walking home unaccompanied by their parent/carer unless the Request form has been completed and a response from school issued giving you permission for your child/ren to Walk To and From School Alone.**

6.3 Where children walk to, or walk home from school alone, we would expect that a parent, or other responsible person, is at home when they leave and/or arrive.

6.4 Your child will be responsible for their behaviour whilst on the school premises either before, when they arrive; or after school, when they leave.

6.5 Should their behaviour not be acceptable their parent/carer or responsible adult will be asked to accompany them or collect them and their permission to Walk to and From School Alone may be revoked.

6.6 All children who have been given permission to either Cycle or Walk To and From School Alone will be added to a register.

6.7 Teachers will cross reference The Travelling To and From School Register, in conjunction with the Extra-Curricular Activity and After-School Club Registers at the end of the school day to ensure that those children who have permission and are not expected at another school activity are able to travel home alone.

6.8 Those children who are expected at an:

- **Extra-Curricular Activity:** will be denied permission to walk home alone on that day and collected by the adult responsible for the activity;
- **Wrap Around Care After-School Club:** will be denied permission to walk home alone and collected by a Wrap Around Care Supervisor and taken to the Old School Room.

7. Exemptions to Walking to and From School Alone

7.1 Your child will be expected to attend extra-curricular activities at the end of the school day that they have been signed up to and are to be collected after the extra-curricular activity at the designated time by an adult.

7.2 Your child will be expected to attend Wrap Around Care sessions booked in with the After-School Club and collection is to be arranged from the Old School Room by an adult.

7.3 If your child is attending a school visit which may overrun at the end of the school day e.g. arrive back after 3.15pm, collection is to be arranged at the designated finish time of the visit by an adult.

8. Travelling To and From School Policy Review

This policy is reviewed by the Head teacher, staff and Governors in accordance with Barrowby School's Policy and Review Cycle for approval by the Full Governing Body, every 3 years.

Last reviewed: January 2024

Next review: January 2027