

### **Walking home from school - Pupils in Upper KS2 (Years 5 and 6)**

While there is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own, we believe that pupils should be still brought to and collected from school, and this is our school's preference. However, with regards pupils in Year 5 and 6, we believe that you as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and from school alone.

When deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. You might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight home on safe predetermined route?
2. Are they road safety aware e.g. looking both ways, looking out for cyclists, crossing at dedicated crossing points?
3. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
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 and what actions to take?
6. Would they know what to do if they needed help and who is best to approach for help?

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, then you must complete the annual online form. Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been received.

Your child is responsible for their behaviour whilst in and representing the school. Should their behaviour be deemed unacceptable you may be asked to accompany them or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again.

Please bear in mind that if they are attending an after-school club you will need to confirm separately how they will be getting home.

Where children walk to, or walk home from school, alone, we would usually expect that a parent, or other responsible person, is at home when they leave or arrive. If the child will be leaving from, or returning to, an empty house, we would expect that this is only for a short period of time and that the child knows how, and can, access emergency adult support if needed.

**IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE, PLEASE ENSURE YOU LET THE SCHOOL KNOW IN WRITING.**