

# Children Walking to and from School Alone Policy

At St Andrew's CEVA Primary School, we provide Christian worship and Christian teaching. Spiritual and moral development are central to the life of our school and this will be reinforced in the school's Walking to and from school alone Policy where appropriate.

RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICY:	<i>Mrs Gentry Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead</i>
SIGNED:	<i>S.GENTRY</i>
REVIEWED:	<i>April 2021</i>
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	<i>September 2022</i>

## 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.**

**In addition, as a school we have a duty of care for the safety and well-being of our children and therefore this policy is to help advise parents/carers in the decisions they make for their children in relation to safety to and from school. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child’s welfare is at risk.**

### **Pupils in Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception), KS1 (Years 1 & 2) and Years 3 and 4**

Our agreed school policy is that pupils in EYFS or Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 **should NOT walk to or from school on their own** or be left on their own on or near the school premises (i.e. near the school gates) either before or after school.

In addition, we will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings who are on the school data form **provided they are 18 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 parents keep us informed of any changes in arrangements. If someone turns up to collect a 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 kept in school and parents contacted.

If the child is not collected within 45 minutes and we have failed to make contact with the child’s carer, we have a duty of care to refer to social services.

### **Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6**

For pupils in Year 5 and Year 6, we believe that if children **live within walking distance to school and are able to walk a safe route** then parents need to decide whether their child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and from school alone. **If a child is attending any extra- curricular activities or after school provision then we request that all children attending these sessions are collected by an adult on time.** Failure to collect children punctually from these activities could lead to activities being withdrawn. **We also request that children attending breakfast club are brought to school and signed in by an adult.**

When deciding whether a child is ready to walk to school alone, parents should assess any risks associated with the route to school and assess their child’s confidence. There are many ways parents can prepare their child to make an independent journey. One way is to follow them a few times on their journey, so parents know how safe and sensible they are. It is also strongly advised that children who are walking without an adult have a cheap mobile phone that they are able to use if they need help. All mobile phones brought into school need to be handed into a member of school staff immediately which is in line with our safeguarding policy.

**When deciding whether a child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and/or from home parents might want to consider the following:**

1. Do you trust them to walk straight to school or straight home, using the agreed safe route?
2. Are there roads to cross on the route and how busy/safe are those roads?
3. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend or group of friends?
4. Are they road safety aware?
5. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
6. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
7. Do they understand about keeping themselves safe and not to make any dangerous choices, either by themselves or with a group of friends?

**If parents decide that their child is ready for this responsibility, the attached form needs to be completed and returned to their class teacher or the school office.**

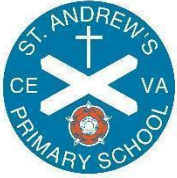
**How to complete the form**

- (1) Circle yes or no for each statement (please note that if you circle 'no' for any of the statements, your child may not be ready to walk to or from school).
- (2) Read the information and if you agree please sign and date if you want your child **to walk to school alone**.
- (3) Read the information and if you agree, please sign and date if you want your child to **walk home alone**.
- (4) Please hand the form into the office or to the class teacher. For safeguarding purposes, the form needs to be submitted prior to any independent travel.
- (5) If at any time you need to change the arrangements, please ensure you let the school know in writing.

**As part of keeping children safe and to support our families in the case of an emergency, we do request that parents provide us with a copy of the walking route.**

Parents who have completed and handed in the form will receive a letter from school to confirm that we have received the permission form for the child to either walk to school alone, walk home from school alone or both.

If the school has concerns about the Year 5 or 6 child's ability to keep themselves safe, a member of the safeguarding team will contact the parents to discuss the concerns. If school disagrees with the decision of the parent(s), the school has a duty of care to refer this to social services.



# St. Andrew's CEVA Primary School

## Permission to walk to and/or from school alone

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Year group \_\_\_\_\_

- The route to school is *within safe walking distance*.                      **yes/ no**
- I consider the route to school to be a *safe route*.                      **yes/ no**
- I have provided school with a map of my child's route to and from school. **yes/ no**
- My child does not need to cross any busy/main roads.                      **yes/ no**
- My child does need to cross a busy/main road(s) and I have taught them to cross safely at a crossing labelled on the map of the route.
- My child is aware of the potential dangers regarding roads/ traffic and how to avoid dangers and stay safe. **yes/ no**
- My child understands and follows the green cross code.                      **yes/ no**
- My child understands stranger danger.                      **yes/ no**
- My child knows what to do if they need help.                      **yes/ no**
- My child knows what to do in an emergency.                      **yes/ no**
- My child will have a mobile phone.                      **yes/ no**
- They will have my number, the school number and an emergency contact on their phone.                      **yes/ no**
- I acknowledge that there will be other risks.                      **yes/ no**
- When walking home, my child will go straight home.                      **yes/ no**
- When walking home, my child will not wait in the library or in other public buildings.                      **yes/ no**
- When walking home, a responsible person will be at home to supervise them.                      **yes/ no**

### Permission slip

Please tick relevant boxes

- I have read and understood this policy on safeguarding my child walking to school.**
- I have read and understood this policy on safeguarding my child walking home from school alone.**
- I fully understand that it is my responsibility to ensure my child gets to and from school safely including getting to school on time. If circumstances change then I will communicate this with school.
- I fully understand that if they are at an extra- curricular activity/After School Provision, they should always be collected by an adult.
- I have provided a map of the route to/from school.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print name \_\_\_\_\_