

John Ruskin Primary School and Language Classes

Policy on Safeguarding Pupils Walking to and from Home

Co-ordinator: Clare Tayton

Last review: May 2022

Next review: January 2025



"Be Responsible, be fair, stay positive and care"

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. 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 their safety. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Pupils in Foundation Stage and KS1

Our agreed school policy is that no pupil in Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 should walk to or from school on their own or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school. In addition, we only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided they are 16 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. Parents/Carers are to keep the school informed of any changes in arrangements, by letter. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents contacted.

Pupils in Lower KS2 (Year 3 & 4)

No pupil in lower key stage 2 should walk to or from school on their own or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school. Pupils in lower KS2 may go home with an older sibling if the school have been informed.

As there is no set age at which children are mature enough to supervise a sibling, we believe that parents and carers need to decide if their older child is ready for this responsibility.

Pupils in Upper KS2 (Year 5 & 6)

There is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own. It very much depends upon their maturity and confidence. Therefore, in regard to pupils in upper KS2 we believe parents/carers need to decide whether your child is ready for this responsibility. Pupils in these year groups can walk to school and home by themselves with written permission given by their parents/carers by letter to the Headteacher.

This information was ratified by the Governing Body of John Ruskin Primary School on 23rd May 2022.

This policy will be reviewed in January 2025.