

# **South Failsworth Primary School**

**‘Inspiring and Creating Lifelong Learners’**



## **Children Walking to and from School Alone Policy**

Approved by the Governing Body: August 2023

Next review date: August 2025

## **Introduction**

It is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure their child arrives safely and promptly to school each morning. Whilst walking to school it is understood that parents/carers ensure that their child takes the safest route possible and is accompanied at all times by a responsible adult.

During Year 6 parents/carers may decide that their child is capable of independently walking to school. If this is the case, parents/carers make the informed decision that they are responsible for their child's safety on their journey to school, even if they are not physically present.

It is advised that parents/carers ensure their child is fully conversant with road safety.

**The following guidelines set out South Failsworth Primary School's advice, policy and procedures should parents/carers wish to allow their child to walk to or from school without an adult.**

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to assess the route on which the child will walk home from school to ensure they are confident their child has the ability to walk home safely, even if their child is accompanied to school by a parent/carer. Crossing busy main roads and walking through secluded areas is discouraged.

Safeguarding is paramount and parents/carers need to ensure their child is fully aware of stranger danger and how to report any concerns to an appropriate adult.

Should a parent/carer wish to allow their child to walk to school unaccompanied by an adult, parents/carers are asked to inform the school and the walking travelling consent form is completed/updated so that a register can be compiled of key children to identify should a child not arrive at school at the appropriate time in the morning.

It is essential that written consent is provided by the parent/carer to authorise independent travel to and from the school. The walking home policy must contain all emergency contact numbers and the parent/carer must notify the school and update the consent form in the event of any changes.

The school may refuse a proposal if a child is not deemed able to walk home alone.

If the school has concerns about a particular child's ability to travel safely or if a child lives too far away [more than 15 minutes], permission for the child to walk home alone may be refused.

There must always be an appropriate adult/parent/carer at home to meet the child on their arrival. Parents/carers need to be aware when walking home the school will not know if a child arrives home as planned. Hence the parent/carer needs to ensure adequate safety protocols are in place should an emergency/accident arise.

If the school feels the welfare and safety of the child walking to school is compromised the school may revoke the arrangement and will notify parents/carers accordingly.

It is recommended that ONLY children in Year 6 be allowed to walk to school unaccompanied by an adult and only then if the parent/carer is confident that it is safe for them to do so. However individual cases will be discussed with parents/carers.

As the responsible body receiving children from home at the start of the day, the school will ensure that morning registrations are taken in each class. If a child is found to be absent and no prior notice of such absence has been received from the child's parent/carer, the school recognises a clear responsibility to contact the parent/carer to ascertain the reason for absence or highlight that a child has not attended morning registration.

It is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure that school is informed should their child be unable to attend school for any reason in accordance with the school attendance policy. If a child who walks to school unattended is not in school contact will be sought with the parent/carer within half an hour of morning registration taking place and an absence without reason being noted by the classroom staff. *Any child who walks to school alone will be prioritised when seeking reasons for absence.*

If upon contact it is confirmed that a child has left home with the intention of walking to school but has not arrived and therefore an issue of a missing child is noted, the school will contact the police immediately. The school's designated senior person for safeguarding/child protection will then be immediately informed and safeguarding procedures for child protection/children missing procedures will be followed.

A register of children who have permission to walk home alone after the school day will be kept by the school.

If a child has left the school to walk home but does not arrive home when expected and direct contact with the child has not been established, the parent/carer should contact the school in the first instance to seek clarification from the responsible adult who dismissed their child as to the time they left school. However the school may not be contactable after home time and therefore it will be parents/carers responsibility to notify the police.



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Please return to the school office

## **CONFIRMATION/CONSENT THAT MY CHILD MAY WALK TO AND FROM SCHOOL/HOME ALONE**

I confirm that \_\_\_\_\_ who is in Year 6 at South Failsworth Primary School may walk home from school alone.

I confirm that I have read and understood the school's walking home alone policy.

In the event of an emergency please contact \_\_\_\_\_ (PARENT/CARER)

Contact Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

OR \_\_\_\_\_ (Name/Relationship to child) on \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

I will notify the school immediately of any changes to the emergency contact details. I understand the school may revoke this consent if child safety is compromised.