



St John's Gosport C of E Primary School

Walking Home Alone Policy

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| Ratification Date: | March 2024 | Headteacher: Chair of Governors: | Mrs Carolyn Wilkinson Mrs Jean Watson |
| Next Review: | September 2024 | Headteacher: Chair of Governors: | |

School Vision

At St John's Gosport C of E Primary School our motto is strengthened by our Christian ethos values of Love, Courage and Respect through which we aim to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all our children, helping them to develop an understanding of positive relationships, have courage to stand up for what is right and embrace one another's differences.

We do this by:

- Being a caring, welcoming and supportive Christian school in which staff, pupils, parents and governors work together in a safe environment
- Promoting the welfare of all our pupils, protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying in line with the statutory guidance in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (Department for Education)
- Creating a rich curriculum that provides our children with the knowledge and skills needed to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens, upholding the British Values
- Developing strong positive partnerships with parents, the church, the local community and taking part in both national and global projects.
- Promoting our Learning Behaviours of Resilience, Focus, Independence, SelfRegulation, Respect and Boundaries

Safeguarding at St John's Gosport C of E Primary School is carried out in line with the statutory guidance in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' published by the Department for Education.

Introduction

This policy has been devised for the general health and safety of children in conjunction with the St John's Gosport C of E Primary School Safeguarding Policy and the most recent Keeping Children Safe in Education document from the DfE.

There are no laws around age or distance of walking to and from school alone. 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 the safety of our pupils.

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

Pupils in EYFS, KS1 and lower KS2 (Years 3 & 4)

Our agreed school policy is that no pupils in the Foundation Stage, KS1 or lower KS2 (Years 3 and 4) should walk to or from school on their own or be left on the school playground either before or after school.

In addition, we will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided that are 14 years old or above.

Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless they are on the contact list on the child's record.

If another adult is collecting your child, please telephone the school office so we can let the Teachers know. We ask that you keep us informed of any changes to emergency contacts and to keep us informed early of any changes to arrangements.

If nobody turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and the parents contacted.

At 3:30pm, each child not collected will be taken to the school's After School Club. Parents will be charged for this session should the child remain uncollected after 3:45pm (more than 30mins from the end of the school day).

Pupils in upper KS2 (Years 5 & 6)

Parents of children who wish them to walk home unescorted by an adult at the end of the school day, must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Parents must have completed a Permission to **Walk Home Alone form**, available from the school office. This permission will be recorded on our school's management information system.
- Children must be in Years 5 or 6.
- It is the parent's responsibility to check the route that their children may walk home in order that they may make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey. The crossing of fast roads and walking through secluded areas is to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed.
- Parents must be certain the children have an awareness and understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure they are sufficiently happy that their child is capable of undertaking the proposed journey safely.
- During winter months and/or inclement weather, children must be dressed appropriately.

- Children should preferably walk in a group and not alone.
- Children should know their home telephone number and one other emergency contact and ideally should have their own mobile phone to use should they need to call for assistance whilst walking home.
- There must be someone at home to meet the child on his or her arrival.
- Any child must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes of the end of the school day. Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this stage.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe, parents must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe and either the school or parents have not established direct contact with the child, the school will instigate the missing person's procedure in conjunction with the relevant authorities.
- If the missing persons procedure is initiated there must be a point of contact remaining at both the home and school locations until further advised by the relevant authorities.
- If your child does arrive home after the missing person procedure has been instigated, immediate notification to the relevant authorities/emergency services and school must be made. This is to enable the missing person's procedure to be stood down.
- Once the missing person procedure is initiated, responsibility will pass to the relevant authority to further any enquiries. Both parents and the school will be guided by them in order that a successful outcome is achieved.

School Discos and Other Events

Please note at school discos and other special events (e.g. children helping at school fayres), which end later than 3:15pm, **all children regardless of age or year group**, must be collected by a known adult.

Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless they are on the contact list on the child's record. If another adult is collecting your child, please telephone the school office to obtain a code. The nominated adult must present that code to the class teacher or the child will not be released into their care, as per the procedure above.

Extra – Curricular Clubs (e.g. football, gymnastics, art club)

If a child attends an extra-curricular club and this ends at 4:15/4:30pm the policy will apply as in section entitled Pupils in EYFS, KS1 and lower KS2 (Years 3 & 4). If pupils in years 5 and 6 wish to walk home from an extra-curricular club, which ends at 4:15pm/4:30pm and have permission to do so and this is recorded on our school management information system, children will be released to walk home alone from school as per the section entitled Pupils in upper KS2 (Years 5 & 6).

If no permission is recorded, the child must be collected by a known adult. If another adult is collecting your child, please telephone the school office to obtain a code. The nominated adult must

present that code to the class teacher or the child will not be released into their care, as per the procedure above.

Notes

Your child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst in school uniform, either before or after school, when not on the school premises. Should their behaviour not be acceptable you will be asked to accompany them to and from school until they have proved they can be trusted again