



### **Permission for pupils to walk to and from school unaccompanied.**

There is no specific age at which children are ready to walk to and from school independently; it largely depends on their maturity and confidence. Therefore, for pupils in Key Stage 2 (KS2), we believe that it is up to you, the parents, to decide if your child is ready for this responsibility. However, we strongly recommend that children in Years 3 and 4 continue to be brought to and collected from school.

Your child will not be allowed to walk home alone unless you have provided written permission. Additionally, your child is expected to behave appropriately while on school premises or during their journey to and from school. If their behaviour is deemed unacceptable, you will be asked to either accompany them or collect them until they have demonstrated they can be trusted again.

The school reserves the right to deny permission for a child to walk home alone, based on factors such as distance or any concerns the school may have at the time.

We also advise that no KS2 child walks home alone, even with parental consent, unless they are walking with a group of friends.

#### **Checklist for Readiness:**

When deciding if your child is ready to walk to school or home independently, there are several practical considerations to keep in mind. Work with your child to gradually build their independence, helping them prepare for this responsibility.

#### **Can your child:**

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street and never get distracted.
- Always cross at a designated safe crossing spot and identify other safe places (areas where they can see clearly in all directions, away from parked cars, and not near bends in the road).
- Look both ways before crossing, listen for traffic, and continue crossing while keeping an eye on vehicles.
- Be aware of cyclists.
- Check or pause to ensure drivers can see them, especially when in driveways or when cars are reversing.
- Judge the speed and distance of oncoming vehicles and have the confidence to wait for a safe gap if unsure.

When considering whether your child is ready for this responsibility, also ask yourself:

**Do you trust your child to:**

- Walk directly to school or home, or to their designated destination without deviating?
- Get to their intended location after school independently (whether it's home, a meeting spot, or after-school club, and keeping track of any changes on different days)?
- Behave sensibly when with friends?
- Be aware of road safety and stay focused, ignoring distractions?
- Keep their phone out of sight and not use it while crossing the road?
- Know how to respond if a stranger approaches them?
- Have the confidence to refuse any request from a stranger?
- Know the appropriate actions to take if a stranger tries to make them do something they don't want to do?
- Never follow or accept a ride from anyone—whether a stranger or someone they know but isn't a designated "safe" adult?
- Know what to do if they need help?
- Know who to approach for assistance if needed?

If you're not confident about how your child would handle any of these situations, it's worth reconsidering whether they're ready to walk independently.



**Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school.**

**Name of Child**

**Year Group**

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking to and from school regularly. I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change. I have read and understood the guidelines, procedures, and reasonable precautions outlined in this document.

I fully understand that by granting permission for my child to walk to and from school alone, I take full responsibility for their actions and whereabouts when they are off school premises

I confirm that I am confident in my child's ability to confidently and independently handle all aspects listed in the provided checklists.

I also confirm that I believe my child is responsible enough to ensure they are at the right location at the end of the day (whether an agreed meeting place or after-school club) or to seek help from a trusted adult if they are unsure.

**Days I wish for my child to walk home unaccompanied:**

Everyday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday	<input type="checkbox"/>
After school club	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Signature**

**Print**

**Date**

**Please note:** If you need to change any arrangements you have made, please ensure you notify us in writing immediately.