

FLITWICK LOWER SCHOOL

Policy

Walking to School



WALKING TO SCHOOL

Parents take full and due responsibility and care to ensure that their child arrives safely at school each morning. Where children walk to school it is understood by the school that parents ensure that their child takes the safest route to school as is possible and they are accompanied by a responsible adult.

At Flitwick Lower School the Governing Body has taken the decision that with lighter nights and in preparation for the move up to Middle School, children in Year 4 may walk to and from school unaccompanied from the start of the summer term only, where parents have made arrangements for them to do so. Parents therefore take an informed decision that they are responsible for their child's safety on their way to school even when they are not physically present.

Parent/carers are asked to inform the school if their child will be regularly walking to school alone so that a register can be compiled of these children and used to contact parents/carers should they not arrive at school at the appropriate time.

As the responsible body receiving children from home at the start of the day, the school recognises a clear responsibility to contact parents if their child has not attended school registration and no contact has been made by the parents to inform the school of absence due to illness or other reasons.

The school will therefore ensure that registers are checked and will then make attempts to contact the parent/carer to ascertain a reason for absence or to highlight that a child has not attended registration.

Contact will be sought with the parent/carer within 30mins of registers being taken and an absence without reason being noted by classroom staff.

Where a child has left their parent with the intention of walking to school but has not arrived and the school has made contact with the parent/carer and an issue of a missing child is therefore noted, the school will make immediate contact with the police to report the child missing. The school's designated senior person for child protection will then be immediately informed and safeguarding procedures for child protection will be implemented.

Parents are responsible for informing the school immediately should their child be unwell or otherwise unable to attend school, as per the school's attendance policy.

Walking home from school – Year 4 only

It is the policy of the school to seek written clarification from parents/carers who wish their child to walk home unaccompanied at the end of the school day during the summer term only. The school maintains a register of children who have been given parental permission and school staff refer to this when dismissing the children at the end of the school day.

If a child has left school to walk home alone but does not arrive home, the parent should contact the school in the first instant to seek clarification from the responsible adult as to when the child left the school site. If the parent feels that a period of time has passed and their child has not arrived at home and that this is unusual or causing concern the school recommends that the parent/carers call the school to report their concern. The school can then offer assistance in using contacts to search for their child. It is then recommended that parent/carers inform the police immediately or as soon as the parent/carer deems police involvement is necessary.

Safety precautions

If you are giving your child a mobile phone to walk with then please discuss with them how to keep safe. All mobile phones will be collected at the beginning of the day and returned before the end of the school day. The school cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss of/to the mobile phones. Phones are kept in a secure but not locked cupboard and are not covered on our insurance policy for personal loss

The school will give all the children a safety talk regarding walking to and from school safely and how to keep themselves safe before they start walking unaccompanied. Year 4 children cannot be responsible for younger siblings when walking to and from school.

Please note that if your child's behaviour in school or whilst walking to or from school is of concern, consent to walk unaccompanied will be withdrawn and parents/carer will need to make alternative arrangements.

Policy Agreed by staff:	October 14
Policy ratified by Governors:	October 14
Last Review Date:	February 16
Next Review date:	February 17
Signed:	Mrs J.New

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