

Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery

Walking Home Alone Policy



July 2024

In line with the Equalities Act (2010) we aim to ensure that any child, irrespective of protected characteristics (These are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.) is treated fairly and with respect. The law states that the public sector equality duty includes a general duty to, "Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not." This policy can be adapted to suit individual needs.

This policy is a privilege for year 6 pupils and this can be changed if behaviour in or out of school is unacceptable.

Parents are to take 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 that they are accompanied to school by a responsible adult.

Parents are advised to talk to children about road safety, even if children are accompanied to school by an adult.

In Year 6, parents may decide that their child is capable of walking to or from school without an adult, particularly if they live very close to the school and do not need to cross any major roads. The following guidelines set out the school's advice, policy and procedures should parents wish to consider allowing their child to walk home from school without an adult.

Parents of children who wish them to walk home unescorted by an adult, at the end of the school day (15:15hrs), must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Parents must have registered with the school that they are prepared for their children to walk directly home from school at the end of the day.
- It is the parent's responsibility to check the route that their children may walk home in order that they may assess the appropriateness of the journey. Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas is to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed.
- Parents must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger. It is 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 phone number (plus one other emergency contact) and their own mobile phone number.
- There must be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival.
- Any child must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes of the end of the school day (15:15hrs). Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this stage.

- Your child may bring a mobile phone to school which must be handed into the school office where it will be kept safe until home time.
- 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 direct contact with the child has not been established by either school or parents, school will instigate a missing person's procedure in conjunction with the relevant authorities.
- If the missing person procedure is initiated there must be a point of contact remaining at both the home and school location 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 must be made. This is to enable the missing person 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 school will be guided by them in order that a successful outcome is achieved.

Walking to and from School Without an Adult – **Year 6 Only**

Please sign and return to school.

Name of child:

Class:

Date:

1. I wish to inform you that my child will be walking home without an accompanying adult to and from school on a regular basis.
2. I understand that the school will contact me if there are any concerns relating to my child walking to and from school alone.
3. I have taken reasonable precautions aimed at ensuring my child is safe including showing them the safest route, demonstrating the route to them and talking to them about road safety and stranger danger.
4. I understand that the school requires me to inform them if my child is absent from school for any reason.
5. I understand that the school will endeavour to make contact with me on the morning of registered absence if my child is absent from school and no notice (phone call or letter) has been received (from myself) to the school.

Signed:

(Please print name):

Contact number (parent):

Contact number (child, if they have one):