



Healey Foundation Primary School

Policy on Safeguarding Pupils Walking to and from School Alone

“There is no law prohibiting children from being out on their own at any age. It is a matter of judgement for parents to decide when children can play out on their own, walk to the shops or school.”

Pupils in Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1

Our agreed school policy is that **no pupil in Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1** should walk to or from school on their own or be left on the school premises either before or after school. In addition we will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided they are 14 years old or above. Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made that arrangement. We also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements, preferably by letter. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups they will be placed in After School Club (a charge will be incurred) and parents contacted.

Pupils in Key Stage 2

There is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own. It very much depends upon their maturity and confidence. Therefore as regards pupils in KS2 we believe that you as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility. We would still highly recommend that pupils in Years 3 and 4 are brought to and collected from school.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should assess the risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. Work with your children to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:-

1. Do you trust them to walk straight home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly with a friend?
3. Are they road safety aware?
4. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
5. Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?
6. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
7. Would they know who best to approach to get help?

If you are not confident about how your child would react then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to walk on their own.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility then you must inform the school by letter or by completing the slip below. Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing.

Your child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst on the school premises either before or after school. School's responsibility for children begins at **8.50am** when the school doors open.

Should their behaviour be unacceptable you will be asked to accompany or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again.

Healey Foundation Primary School
Permission for pupils to walk to and from school unaccompanied

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

Name of child: -

Year:-

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking to/from school on a regular basis, and that they are responsible for knowing the days on which they are to walk.

I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change.

I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in the 'Policy on Safeguarding Pupils Walking to and from School Alone'.

Signed.....

Date:.....

(Name print).....