



# Collection and Walking Home from School Policy

## St Michael's Easthampstead CE Primary School

At St Michael's we are a community of active learners who go above and beyond in everything we do, equipping ourselves to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others

<b>Policy Name</b>	Collection and Walking Home from School Policy
<b>Brief Description:</b>	This policy outlines the arrangements for pupils walking home from school without an adult.  This procedure forms part of the school's wider safeguarding arrangements and should be read alongside the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
<b>Status: Statutory/non-statutory</b>	Non- Statutory
<b>Other related policies and procedures:</b>	Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Behaviour Policy Complaints Policy Health and Safety Policy Attendance Policy Online Safety / Mobile Phone Policy Missing Child / Lost Child Procedure SEND Policy Staff Code of Conduct
<b>Approval level: HT/Governors/FGB</b>	HT
<b>Approved by the Governing Board on:</b>	
<b>Frequency to be reviewed</b>	Annually
<b>Latest Date for Next Review:</b>	21/5/2027
<b>Version + Schedule of Amendments:</b>	1
<b>Signed:</b>	Shaun Riordan
<b>Position:</b>	Headteacher
<b>Date of Signature:</b>	21/5/2026

Go above and beyond with Love:

Kindness, Honesty, Respect and Aspiration

## 1. Purpose

At St Michael's Easthampstead CE Primary School we strive to create a safe, secure and supportive environment for all our pupils and staff.

The safety and welfare of all pupils is our highest priority. This policy outlines the arrangements for pupils walking home from school without an adult.

This procedure forms part of the school's wider safeguarding arrangements and should be read alongside the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## 2. Legal Position

There is no specific legal minimum age at which children may walk home alone. Parents/carers are responsible for deciding whether their child is ready to do so safely. However, the school has a duty to act reasonably and in the best interests of pupils while they remain in our care.

The school has taken account of safeguarding considerations and guidance, including advice from the NSPCC, when determining these arrangements.

## 3. School Procedure

Pupils in Early Years to Year 4 will only be released to a known adult, older sibling aged 12 or older, or another person authorised by the parent/carer where the parent/carer has given permission ahead of time (by email or phone call to the office) and named the individual in question.

Independent walking home arrangements would normally only be considered for pupils in Years 5 and 6.

Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 may walk home independently only where:

- the school has received a completed and signed parental permission form; and
- the Headteacher (or delegated senior leader) is satisfied that this arrangement is appropriate.

Permission is granted at the discretion of the school and may be refused or withdrawn where the school believes the arrangement does not provide an appropriate level of safety or presents a safeguarding concern.

## 4. Collection by Older Siblings

For safeguarding reasons, the school would not normally consider another primary-aged child to be an appropriate responsible person to collect a younger pupil. Following NSPCC guidance, the school will usually only release children to older siblings where they are aged 12 or above.

Where parents request alternative arrangements, these will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Headteacher or delegated senior leader, taking into account:

- the ages and maturity of the children;
- the distance and route home;
- road and environmental risks; and
- any additional vulnerabilities or SEND needs.

The school reserves the right to refuse arrangements where it believes they do not provide an appropriate level of safety.

## 5. Expectations

Parents/carers should consider carefully whether their child is sufficiently mature and confident to walk home safely. Consideration should include:

- the distance from school;
- road safety and crossing points;
- whether the child would be walking alone or with peers;
- the time of year and weather conditions;
- ways and means of contacting their parent/carer, a responsible adult or the school; and
- the individual needs, maturity, and understanding of the child.

Pupils walking home independently are expected to:

- leave the school site promptly;
- behave safely and responsibly in line with the school's behaviour policy and expectations;
- follow agreed routes where possible; and
- inform parents/carers of any changes or concerns.

## 6. Changes to Arrangements

Parents/carers must notify the school immediately if walking home arrangements change on a temporary or permanent basis.

If the school has not received appropriate consent, pupils will not be permitted to leave the site unaccompanied.

## 7. Exceptional Circumstances

The school recognises that, in exceptional circumstances, parents/carers may request alternative collection or walking home arrangements for pupils outside of the usual procedures outlined above.

Any such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Headteacher (or delegated senior leader), taking into account:

- the age and maturity of the child;

- safeguarding considerations;
- the distance and route home;
- road and environmental risks;
- SEND or additional vulnerabilities; and
- any other relevant circumstances.

The school reserves the right to approve, refuse, or withdraw such arrangements where it believes this is necessary in the interests of pupil safety and welfare.

## 8. Monitoring and Review

The school reserves the right to review individual arrangements at any time where safeguarding, behaviour, attendance, punctuality, or welfare concerns arise.

This procedure will be reviewed periodically by the Headteacher and shared with governors as part of the school's safeguarding oversight arrangements.

## 9. Appendix

### **PARENT/CARER CONSENT FORM FOR CHILD/REN TO BE ALLOWED TO WALK HOME ALONE**

In order to ensure children's safety, only children in Years 5 and 6 are allowed to walk home on their own.

To safeguard all young people in St. Michael's Primary School, if you wish to take responsibility for your child making their own way home from school then we will require written permission from a parent/carer confirming this arrangement.

If you would like your child to walk home alone, please complete the details below: This form **MUST** be filled in and returned to the school office, and must be completed having read and understood the policy.

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Child's Name: ..... Year: .....

I /we consent to my/our child being allowed to walk home from school alone, and I have read and understood the linked policy.

Signed:..... Name: .....

Date: .....