



Sandringham Primary School
& Sandringham Pre-School
A great place to be two



Collecting children from Sandringham Primary School, Daycare, Nursery and Pre-School and Safeguarding pupils walking to and from school alone policy

Date	By
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Collecting children from Sandringham Primary School, Daycare, Nursery and Pre-School and safeguarding pupils walking to and from school alone

There are no laws around age or distance of walking to school. A family's guide to the law states:

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

Parents are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend regularly, but this in itself does not disallow independent travel. We are also mindful of the NSPCC advice on road safety, which states: *Children under eight can't judge the speed and distance of moving vehicles. They still need help when crossing roads.* However, as a school, we are responsible for the welfare of our pupils and therefore have to consider what we believe is good practice in ensuring the safety of our pupils. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

In setting our protocol for collecting children, we have taken advice and guidance which states that it is for each school to decide and enforce its own pupil collection policy.

Our school policy is that parents/caregivers formalise collection arrangements in writing with school. To be clear, the school is not responsible for a child's safety on his or her way home.

All Pupils

- Permission and arrangements for children leaving the school at the end of the day will be confirmed in writing by the parent/caregiver where they are not being collected from the school site.
- All children must be collected from after school clubs. If a child is in year 5 or 6, they can walk home alone if the parents have given permission - see Years 5 and 6 below for more details.
- No adult other than those named will be allowed to leave the school with a child. In the event that someone else should arrive without prior knowledge, the school will telephone the parent/caregiver immediately and await their advice.
- If a child is to be collected before the end of the school day, the school is to be notified on the same morning. On arrival at school to collect the child the parent/caregiver will report to the School Office. The child will then be brought, by a member of staff, to the reception to be taken home by the parent/caregiver.
- If the person who normally picks a child up is not doing so then a note should be sent to school to inform us who is to pick up that day.
- Should arrangements change during the day the school must be contacted by telephone.
- If the parent/caregiver or alternative nominated adult is going to be late to collect their child, they should let the school know as soon as possible. We will keep children in school until their arrival.

Pupils in EYFS or Key Stage 1

All children in EYFS (Daycare, Pre-School, Nursery and Reception) and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) should be picked up from the school site by a known, designated adult or siblings provided they are 16 years old or above.

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 on their maturity and confidence.

As part of school's work around safety in school, children are provided with regular guidance on what to do if an adult is not there at the end of a school day, the main feature of which is to return to school. We would encourage parents to regularly reinforce this message at home.

Years 3 and 4

Knowing that children under the age of eight can't judge the speed or distance of moving vehicles we expect Year 3 and 4 children to be brought to and collected from school.

Years 5 and 6

Year 5 and 6 children can walk home alone if parents have given permission for this using the school WEDUC form. We advise parents to think about whether your child is ready to walk to and from school and assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. Work with your child to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

There are lots of ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. Children who are driven to school do not have the opportunity to develop road awareness and are therefore more vulnerable when they start to walk to school independently. Walking to school is a great opportunity to learn road safety skills. The best way to do this is to walk with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and self-assurance to deal with traffic and ways of finding on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross at the intersection where there are traffic lights; do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively, cross in a place where you can see clearly in all directions.
- Avoid parked cars or bends in the road.
- Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming and cross while keeping an eye on traffic.
- Wearing hi-visibility clothes.
- Look out for cyclists.
- Remember that drivers may not see a child, even if the child can see the driver.