



# Walking and Cycling Home From School Policy

Date: March 2021

Review Date: March 2024

# **Camblesforth Community Primary Academy**

## **Walking and Cycling Home School Policy**



Parents are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend regularly, but this in itself does not disallow independent travel. 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.

### **Pupils in Foundation Stage or KS1**

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 their own on the school premises either before or after school. In addition we will only hand over pupils to named adults or named older siblings provided they are of high school age with written consent from parents to say they are authorised to take the child home. Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made this 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 they will be kept in school and parents contacted. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings.

### **Pupils in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 )**

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 this responsibility. We would still highly recommend that pupils in year 3 and 4 are still brought to and collected from school.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk/cycle to or from school you should assess any 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.

There are lots of ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. The best way to do this is to walk/cycle with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, cycling on a road where appropriate, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic in preparation for walking/cycling with friends or alone when they are older.

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

- Do you trust them to walk/cycle straight home?
- Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
- Are they road safety aware?
- Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
- Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?
- Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they didn't want to do?
- Would they know what to do if they needed help?
- Would they know who best to approach to get help?
- Is the journey time appropriate for children to walk at their age?

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.

**Parents of children who wish them to walk/cycle from school unescorted by an adult must adhere to the following guidelines:**

- Parents must have signed a consent form in school for their Key Stage 2 child to walk/cycle from school immediately after school or after an after school club.
- Parents must collect all children after events during the evening (for example, school disco), regardless of whether their child has permission to walk/cycle home immediately after school or a school club.
- Parents must collect children if they are taken ill during school time, regardless of whether their child has permission to walk/cycle home immediately after school or a school club.
- It is the parent's responsibility to check the route that their children may walk/cycle home in order that they may make an assessment of 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 road safety and stranger danger.
- It is the 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.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe set by parents, 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 the missing person 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.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility and you agree with the guidelines set out above then please complete the appropriate consent form. Children in Key Stage 2 will not be able to walk/cycle 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. Should their behaviour not be acceptable you will be asked to accompany or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again.

**IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE PLEASE ENSURE YOU LET US KNOW IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY.**

**Camblesforth Community Primary Academy**

**Key Stage 2 Walking/Cycling To And From School Agreement**



**Child's Name:**

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- I give permission for my child to walk home from school unaccompanied each day after school or after an after school club.
- I have read the school's 'Walking/Cycling To and From School' policy and agree to abide by the guidelines set out.
- I understand that my child is my responsibility outside of school hours (walking/cycling to and from school).
- I understand that if my child brings in a mobile phone, it will be the responsibility of my child at all other times and will be handed in to the office for safe keeping during the school day.

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....

**Relationship to child:** .....