Wyburns Primary School

Collection and Walking Home Policy

Date Policy Created	September 2025
Last Review	September 2026
Next Review	September 2027

There are no laws around age or distance of walking to school.

A families' 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 judgement 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. 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 Early Years 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 older siblings (Year 6 siblings in the school or an older sibling above primary school age). 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 parents keep us informed of any changes in arrangements on a specific day, preferably by email. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups they will be kept in school and parents contacted.

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, with regards to 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, at least, are still brought to and collected from school. 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 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. 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, along with a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic and wayfinding on their own, in preparation for walking 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 straight to school/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 (scream, shout, kick, fight)?
- Would they know what to do if they needed help?
- 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. School policy is that our responsibility, if you have given consent for your child to walk independently, starts when children enter the school gates in the morning and ends once they have exited the classroom door.

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 them or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility then you must inform the school via the school's permission and consent form (appendix 1)- the school office can provide this.

Collection

- End of school day is 3:15pm
- Parents must pick up their children at 3.15pm promptly or promptly at the stated time if their child attends an extracurricular activity.
- Teachers will dismiss their pupils from their classrooms using the external doors.
- Staff will hold the children at the collection door until they see the appropriate adult. KS2 pupils who have written permission from parents, and agreement from the school, will be released from the external door without the staff member seeing an appropriate adult. From leaving the classroom door, the safeguarding responsibility becomes that of the parent.
- If a child is not collected by 3.25pm pupils will be taken to the school office for late collection. Parents will be contacted. The expectation is that parents collect at 3.15pm unless there is an extenuating circumstance.
- The above applies if children do an extra-curricular activity – the expectation is that they are collected promptly at the time stated, unless there is an extenuating circumstance. For clubs this is 4/4.15pm. If the child/ren is/are not collected promptly, the Office will be informed and parents will be contacted.
- If the office are not available (as it is after hours) child to be taken to WASP and

parents called to collect

- All late collections will be monitored and logged and where applicable the late drop off and collection protocols will be implemented.
- Regular late collection may result in school not allowing a child to attend a club.
- Children will not be released from school with someone if they are showing signs of distress or anxiety.
- Children will not be released if the teacher feels that the parent is not in a fit state to ensure their child's safety. This will be immediately reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in school.

Late collection procedure

Parents and carers share in the responsibility to work with school staff to ensure their children are safe and in the care of a responsible adult. Parents should notify the school immediately (by contacting the school office) if it becomes apparent that the person collecting their child may be late.

Please refer to the Attendance Policy regarding further information on the Late Collection and Non-collected children procedures.

Appendix 1:

Wyburns Primary School

Child's Name:

Class:

I give permission for the following named people to collect the above child from school.

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I do / do not give permission for my child to walk home on their own.

I do / do not give permission for my child to walk out of the school grounds to meet me in a car parked outside WPS.

(Please delete as appropriate).

Print Name:

Signed:

Date: