Respect Reflection Responsibility Resilience

Green Shoots Partnership

Walking/Cycling to and from School Alone Policy

Our Vision

Green Shoots Partnership is a nurturing federation with a strong sense of pride and belonging, with the belief that all have the potential to thrive.

Our Purpose

We exist to cultivate a love of learning by broadening horizons and opening minds to new possibilities. Through our Federation Values, we grow confident individuals who aspire to shape the future

Meadowside Primary School

Great Doddington Primary School

Last Updated: July 2025

Walking & Cycling to and from School Alone to school

Legal Context

There are no specific laws regarding the age or distance a child may walk or cycle to school. According to A Families' Guide to the Law:

"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."

While parents are legally responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly, this does not prohibit independent travel.

However, as a school, we have a duty of care to ensure the safety and well-being of all our pupils. This guide is designed to support parents and carers in making safe, informed decisions regarding their child's travel arrangements to and from school. We are also required to alert the appropriate authorities should we believe a child's welfare may be at risk.

Foundation Stage (Reception) and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

Pupils in Foundation Stage, Year 1, and Year 2 must not walk or cycle to or from school alone. They must be collected by a named adult or sibling (18 years or older) as listed on the school data form.

- Pupils will only be released to individuals listed on the form. If someone else is collecting, parents must inform the school in advance. We will verify their identity before release.
- Pupils will be kept safely at school if no one arrives to collect them. We will contact the parent or carer.
- If no contact is made within 45 minutes, we are required to refer the matter to Children's Social Care.

Teacher responsibility:
Staff must not release any child in Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 to walk home alone, even with verbal permission from the child. Written consent from the parent or carer must be on file, and the adult collecting the child must be named and approved. Teachers and support staff are expected to follow this safeguarding protocol without exception.

Years 3 and 4

We strongly recommend that children in Years 3 and 4 are dropped off and picked up by an adult.

Where this is not possible, parents may provide written permission for an older sibling (aged 15 or over) to collect or accompany their child, provided:
- The route is deemed safe.
- A map and consent form (Appendix 2) is submitted.
- The older sibling is responsible for no more than two children.
- The children go straight home after school.
- The older sibling carries a mobile phone with emergency contacts.

<u>Teacher responsibility:</u>
Pupils in Years 3 and 4 must not be allowed to walk or cycle home alone unless the school has received a completed Permission for Older Sibling to Walk with Pupil form and any required evidence. Class teachers must check that a pupil is on the approved list before releasing them. If

a child claims they are going home alone or with someone not on the approved list, they must be kept at school until contact with a parent or carer is made and arrangements are verified. Under no circumstances should a child be released to walk alone or with an unauthorised person, even if the child insists, they have permission.

Years 5 and 6

For children in Year 5 or 6, we recognise that many families feel their child is ready to travel to and from school independently. This decision remains entirely at the discretion of the parent/carer.

We advise:

- Parents assess the safety of the route and their child's maturity.
- Practising the route together several times.
- Equipping your child with a mobile phone or GPS tracker.
- Submitting the Permission to Walk/Cycle Form and a map of the route to school before allowing independent travel.

Teacher responsibility:

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 may only be allowed to walk or cycle home independently if the school has received a completed Permission to Walk/Cycle form signed by the parent or carer. Teachers must check that the pupil is on the approved list before dismissal. Children not on the list must not be released without contacting the parent to confirm arrangements. Verbal statements from the child are not sufficient — only written, signed permission will be accepted.

Permission to walk/cycle to and/or from school alone

Child's name _____ Year group _____

- The route to school is within safe walking/cycling distance (yes/ no)
- I consider the route to school to be a safe route (yes/ no)
- I have provided school with a map of my child's route to and from school (yes/ no)
- My child does not need to cross any busy/main roads (yes/ no)
- My child does need to cross a busy/main road(s) and I have taught them to cross safely at a crossing labelled on the map of the route (yes/ no)
- My child is aware of the potential dangers regarding roads/ traffic and how to avoid dangers and stay safe (yes/ no)
- My child understands and follows the green cross code (yes/ no)
- My child understands stranger danger (yes/ no)
- My child knows what to do if they need help (yes/ no)
- My child knows what to do in an emergency (yes/ no)
- My child will have a mobile phone (yes/ no)
- They will have my number, the school number and an emergency contact on their phone (yes/ no)
- I acknowledge that there will be other risks (yes/ no)
- When walking/cycling home – my child will go straight home (yes/ no)
- When walking/cycling home my child will not wait in the library or in other public buildings (yes/ no)
- When walking/cycling home, a responsible person will be at home to supervise them (yes/ no)
- When cycling my child will wear an appropriate cycle helmet (yes/ no)

Permission slip

Please tick relevant boxes

- ✓ I have read and understood this policy on safeguarding my child walking/cycling to school.
- ✓ I have read and understood this policy on safeguarding my child walking/cycling home from school alone.
- ✓ I fully understand that it is my responsibility to ensure my child gets to and from school safely including getting to school on time.
- ✓ If circumstances change then I will communicate this with school.
- ✓ I fully understand that if they are at an extra- curricular activity/After School Provision they should always be collected by an adult.
- ✓ I have provided a map of the route to/from school.

Signed _____ Date_____

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Permission for older sibling to walk to and/or from school with Year 3 upwards sibling(s)

Child's name(s)_____Year group(s) _____ (Maximum of two siblings).

Older siblings name _____Date of birth_____

- The route to school is within safe walking distance (yes/ no)
- I consider the route to school to be a safe route (yes/ no)
- I have provided school with a map of my children's route to and from school (yes/ no)
- My children do not need to cross any busy/main roads (yes/ no)
- My children do need to cross a busy/main road(s) and I have taught them to cross safely at a crossing labelled on the map of the route (yes/ no)
- My older child is aware of the potential dangers regarding roads/ traffic and how to avoid dangers, stay safe and how to keep their younger sibling(s) safe (yes/ no)
- My younger child/ren will behave well for their older sibling (yes/ no)
- My children understand and follow the green cross code (yes/ no)
- My children understand stranger danger (yes/ no)
- My children know what to do if they need help (yes/ no)
- My children know what to do in an emergency (yes/ no)
- My older child will have a mobile phone (yes/ no)
- They will have my number, the school number and an emergency contact on their phone (yes/ no)
- I acknowledge that there will be other risks (yes/ no)
- When walking home – my children will go straight home (yes/ no)
- When walking home my children will not wait in the library or in other public buildings (yes/ no)
- When walking home, a responsible person will be at home to supervise them (yes/ no)

Permission slip

Please tick relevant boxes

- ✓ I have read and understood this policy on safeguarding my child walking to school.
- ✓ I have read and understood this policy on safeguarding my child walking home from school alone.
- ✓ I fully understand that it is my responsibility to ensure my child gets to and from school safely including
- ✓ getting to school on time. If circumstances change then I will communicate this with school.
- ✓ I fully understand that if they are at an extra- curricular activity/After School Provision they should always be
- ✓ collected by an adult.
- ✓ I have provided a map of the route to/from school and proof that the older sibling is at least 15 years old.

Signed _____ Date_____