

Safeguarding Pupils Walking to and from School Alone Policy



Aslacton Primary School
Manor Field Infant and Nursery
School



ASLACTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL



MANOR FIELD
INFANT AND NURSERY

Reviewed and approved by	South Norfolk
Meeting at which policy approved	30 TH April 2025
Next Review date (Annually Reviewed Policy)	30 TH April 2026

Safeguarding pupils walking to and from school alone

There are no laws around the 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 judgment for parents to decide when children can play out on their own, walk to the shops, or school.”

Parents are legally obligated 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, so we must consider what we believe is good practice in ensuring the safety of our pupils. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities if we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Pupils in Early Years Foundation (Nursery & Reception) or KS1

Our agreed school policy is that no pupil in Early Years Foundation 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 provided they are 14 years old or above. 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 in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents contacted. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings, under 14 years old.

Pupils in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5, and 6)

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. Therefore, regarding pupils in KS2, we believe that you should consider their individual readiness and take appropriate action.

As parents, you must decide whether your child is ready for this responsibility. We strongly recommend that pupils in years 3 and 4 at least, be brought to and collected from school.

When deciding if your child is ready to walk to school, assess any risks associated with the route and their confidence. Collaborate with your children to build their independence while walking to school by teaching them route finding, road safety skills, and general awareness.

There are many ways to prepare your child for an independent journey. Children who are driven to school do not have this opportunity to develop road awareness and are therefore more vulnerable when they start walking 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 confidence to deal with traffic and way finding on their own, preparing them for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

Teach your child the following:

- Pay constant attention to traffic while crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always 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; cross while keeping an eye on traffic.
- Be cautious of cyclists.
- Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they can see the driver.
- Remember that it's challenging to judge a car's speed, so be cautious.
- Never follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but not a designated "safe" adult. (A safe adult is someone you've previously agreed upon, such as a grandparent or a trusted neighbour.) And if that person tries to convince you to go with them, then scream, "Help! This is not my dad!" or "Help! This is not my mum!" and run away. If they grab your child, tell them to kick, punch, and hit as hard as they can.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility, consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
3. Are they aware of road safety rules, including cycling themselves to school?
4. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
5. Would they have the confidence to refuse a stranger's request?
6. Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they don't want to do (scream, shout, kick, fight)?
7. Would they know how to seek help if needed?
8. Would they know who to approach for assistance?

If you're not confident about how your child would react then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to walk on their own.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, then you must inform the school by letter or by completing the slip below. Your child will be prevented from walking 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.**



Aslacton Primary School

Permission for pupils to walk to and from school unaccompanied

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school

Name of child:..... Year:.....

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking to/from school on a regular basis.

I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change.

I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in 'policy on safeguarding pupils walking to and from School alone'.

Signed..... Date.....

Name (PRINT).....