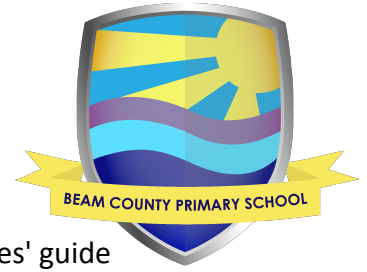


POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING PUPILS WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE



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 Foundation Stage or KS1

Our agreed school policy is that no pupil in Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 pupil 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, staff are to hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided they are 16 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.

Parents are requested to keep the school 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 and named contacts on the emergency contact sheets will be 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. Our policy is that pupils in years 3 and 4 are to be accompanied or collected by parents.

Parents of children who wish their children to walk home unescorted by an adult, at the end of the school day (15:15hrs), must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Children must be in year 5 or 6.
- It is the parent's responsibility to check the route that their children may walk home in order that they may make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey. Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas are to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed.
- Parents must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger. It is 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.
- There must be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival.
- Any child must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes of the end of the school day (1515hrs). Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this stage.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe, parents must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken, which may include contacting the emergency services.

The school must be informed by letter or by parents completing a proforma if they wish their child to walk home. Pupils are to be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing.

Pupils must also be responsible for their behaviour at all times, this includes before and after school. Should their behaviour not be acceptable they will be asked to be accompanied or collected by parents until they have proved they can be trusted again.

Babysitters under 16:

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) has produced guidance for parents on employing babysitters.

It advises that no one under 16 is employed to care for babies or toddlers, and that parents should "think about all possible eventualities (i.e. do a risk assessment)" before allowing someone under 16 to look after their children.

The guidance adds that if parents employ a babysitter aged under 16, they need to take responsibility for anything that might happen to either their child or the babysitter in their absence, and that parents could be charged with negligence if something goes wrong.

Written 14th September 2013

Miss Whittington and Mrs. Bond
Governor – Mrs. Mason

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