



# **Pupils Walking to and from School Guidance 2023-24**

Eyres Monsell Primary School

## **Pupils Walking to / from School Guidance**

**This document provides guidance to parents and carers, where a child is being brought to / from school with the supervision of an adult or unaccompanied.**

### **Introduction**

Parents take full and due responsibility and care to ensure that their child arrives safely at school each morning. Where children walk to or from school it is understood by the school that parents ensure that their child takes the safest route to school as is possible and that they are accompanied to school by a responsible adult.

Parents are advised to talk to children about road safety even if children are accompanied to school by an adult.

In the later years of Primary School, parents may decide that their child is capable of walking to or from school alone, particularly if they live very close to the school and do not need to cross any roads. The following guidelines set out the school's advice, policy and procedures should parents wish to consider allowing their child to walk to or from school without an adult.

At times, parents may feel that another appropriate person, may be able to take responsibility for bringing or collecting their child. Where this person is under the age of 16, it is again parental responsibility, to ensure that it is an appropriate person to be responsible for a young child. Parents should ensure that this person would be able to appropriately manage any emergency situation and navigate busy roads.

### **Walking to School Without an Adult**

Although it is up to parents' discretion how children travel to school each day, the school recommends that all children in Year 4 and below are accompanied by an adult on the way to school and that older children (Year 5 and 6) only do so if the parent is fully satisfied that it is safe for them to do so. Parents/carers are asked to inform the school if their child will be regularly walking to school alone.

The school recognises a clear responsibility to contact parents if their child has not attended morning registration and no contact has been made by the parent to the school to inform the school of absence due to illness or other reason.

The school will therefore ensure that registers are checked and will then make attempts to contact the parent/carer to ascertain a reason for absence or to highlight that a child has not attended registration.

Contact will be sought with the parent/carer within 1 hour of registers being taken and an absence without reason being noted by classroom staff.

Where a child has left their parent with the intention of walking to school but has not arrived and the school has made contact with the parent/carer and an issue of a missing child is therefore noted, the school will immediately contact the police to report a missing child. The

school's designated senior person for child protection will then be immediately informed and safeguarding procedures for child protection will be followed.

### **Home-time**

All children from Nursery to Year 4 should be collected at the end of the day by an adult aged 16 or over. Parents who are collecting children from classes on the ground floor should wait in the playground or near the Foundation Stage doors and wait for the teacher to call then to collect their child. Upstairs classes are led out into the playground where they will be collected by parents from their lines. Parents must not take their child from the line without informing the teacher. It is important that both teacher and child knows which adult will be collecting the child at the end of the school day so please inform the school in advance of any changes. If a change is made without informing the school, it may be necessary to contact the parent for confirmation.

### **Walking Home from School Without an Adult**

Children in Year 5 and 6 may go home on their own only if the parent has made a request to the school (see Appendix A). If the school has concerns about a particular child's ability to travel safely or if the child lives too far away, permission for the child to travel home alone may be refused.

Parents therefore must make an informed decision that they are confident that their child is able to walk home sensibly and must be aware that they are responsible for their child's safety on their way to school even when they are not physically present. Parents are advised to consider the following before deciding whether to request permission for their child to walk home alone:

- How long is the journey?
- Whether it is the safest route home.
- Are there any roads to cross and, if so, does your child know how to cross them safely?
- How busy or congested the roads may be, causing crossing to be more dangerous.
- What time will your child be walking home? (It is recommended that children do not walk home in the dark or in failing light)
- Are you confident that your child is aware of safety rules around stranger danger?
- Does your child have some friends to walk home with? If so, are you confident that they will walk together sensibly?
- The accident history of the road.

(The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA))

### **Children walking to and from school accompanied by a minor (under age of 16)**

Parents may deem that a child under the age of 16, can take responsibility to collecting or bringing their child to Eyres Monsell Primary School. Where this is the case, parents should notify the class teacher of the person and inform the school office. Parents will be asked to complete a permission form for this arrangement (see Appendix B).

## **Monitoring of arrangements to ensure pupil safety**

The school will maintain a register of children who have permission to be dismissed by a member of staff at the end of the school day to walk home alone and those walking with a person who is not 16 years of age.

If a child has left the school to walk home alone but does not arrive home, the parent should contact the school in the first instance to seek clarification from the responsible adult as to when the child left the school site.

If the parent feels that a period of time has passed and their child has not arrived at home and that this is unusual or causing concern the school recommends that the parent/carer calls the school to report their concern. The school can then offer assistance in using contacts to search for their child. It is recommended that the police are informed if the child is not traced within half an hour of this action being taken or indeed as soon as the parent or school deems police involvement is necessary.

Parents are responsible for informing the school immediately should their child be unwell or otherwise unable to attend school.

## **Clubs**

Any child year 4 or below should be collected by a responsible adult, 16 years and over. Should a parent / carer wish their y5/6 child to walk home on their own, then they will need to sign a permission form available from the office.

## **Change of weather and seasons**

It is important to note, that during the Autumn and Winter seasons, as the nights get darker, quicker, all children must be collected by an adult over the age of 16, from any after school event (October – February).

## **Curriculum and parental support**

As part of its Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education, children will learn about road safety, stranger dangers etc. We would also ask parents support the school in ensuring children follow these simple guidelines from ***The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)***.

Some of the things that children are advised to always do include:

- Staying away from strangers
- Telling their parents/carers where they are going, who they are going with and what time they will be back
- Telling their parents/carers, a teacher, police officer or another responsible adult if they are approached by a stranger
- Going home as quickly as they can if a stranger comes up to them

The advice says that children should never:

- Walk off with a stranger
- Go near or get into a strange car or van, whatever the stranger says
- Take sweets or presents, even if it is something they really want
- Go off on their own

- Play near to public toilets, building sites, empty buildings, busy roads, etc.

### **Further Information**

The Think! Education website supported by the Department for Transport (DfT) includes information and resources for pupils, teachers and parents on road safety. This includes a publication for parents on road safety.

It is important that parents help their child plan for making independent journeys, by showing them how to stay safe.

The document explains that it is important that parents help their child plan for making independent journeys, by showing them how to stay safe.

It says that children should have:

- Knowledge of the Green Cross Code so they feel more confident about crossing roads, including unfamiliar ones
- An understanding of the safest route to their destination (which may not always be the quickest)
- Awareness of the dangers or hazards in their locality, such as particularly busy stretches of road, complicated junctions or dangerous bends and hills
- Awareness that the more easily they can be seen by traffic, the more likely they are to avoid collisions
- An understanding that it is essential that they use their eyes and ears all the time to be safe near traffic and avoid distractions (e.g. chatting to friends, using mobiles or listening to an MP3 player when crossing a road)

**Appendix A: consent form**

**Walking to School Without an Adult – Year 5 and 6 Only**

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to Eyres Monsell Primary School.

Name of child.....

Date.....

Class.....

- 1) I wish to inform you that my child will be walking without an accompanying adult to school on regular basis.
- 2) I understand that the school will contact me if there are any concerns relating to my child walking to school alone.
- 3) I understand that it is parental responsibility to ensure my child arrives to school everyday.
- 4) I have taken reasonable precautions aimed at ensuring my child is safe including showing them the safest route, demonstrating the route to them and talking to them about road safety and stranger danger.
- 5) I understand that the school requires me to inform them if my child is absent from school for any reason.
- 6) I understand that the school will endeavour to make contact with me on the morning of registered absence if my child is absent from school and no notice (phone call or letter) has been received by the school.

Signed.....

(Name print) -----

Contact Number -----

## Appendix B

### Walking to and from school accompanied by a minor (child under the age of 16)

Eyres Monsell Primary School guides parents and carers that they ensure the safety and well-being of pupils, all pupils under the age of 10, should be accompanied to and from school by an adult. This ensures that in the event of an emergency, a suitable and responsible person is present.

Where a parent accepts responsibility for a person younger than 16 collecting a minor, the below must be completed.

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to Eyres Monsell Primary School.

Name of child..... Class .....

Date.....

- 1) I wish to inform you that my child will be walking without an accompanying adult to and / or from school on regular basis.
- 2) I understand that the school will contact me if there are any concerns relating to my arrangements.
- 3) I understand that it is parental responsibility to ensure my child arrives to school everyday and is collected promptly, at the end of the day.
- 4) I have taken reasonable precautions aimed at ensuring my child is safe including showing them the safest route, demonstrating the route to them and talking to them about road safety and stranger danger.
- 5) I accept responsibility for allowing a minor (under 16) to accept care of my child at EMPS and deem that they are responsible to accompany my child home.
- 6) I understand that the school requires me to inform them if my child is absent from school for any reason.
- 7) I understand that the school will endeavour to make contact with me on the morning of registered absence if my child is absent from school and no notice (phone call or letter) has been received by the school.

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

Name of parent/carer (print) .....