CYRIL JACKSON PRIMARY SCHOOL
SAFEGUARDING PUPILS TO AND FROM SCHOOL POLICY

VISION AND VALUES:



STATEMENT OF AIMS

- To provide a supportive, stimulating environment in which each child is enabled and encouraged to attain the highest standard of achievement of which he or she is capable.
- To ensure that the curriculum is broad and well balanced following all subjects in the National Curriculum.
- To value each individual's contribution irrespective of race, gender, religion or ability.
- To encourage children to be aware of their behaviour and how it affects other people.
- To recognise that children have a variety of special needs and endeavour to provide appropriately for the needs of individuals.
- To ensure that the curriculum reflects the richness of our multi-cultural society.
- To foster and build on relationships with parents, governors and the wider community.
- To provide a planned process of staff development.

INTRODUCTION

There are no laws stipulating at which age children are permitted to travel to school, or specifying a maximum distance they may travel. 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 that their children get to school and attend regularly, but this in itself does not prohibit 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, KS1 AND LOWER KS2

Our agreed school policy is that no pupil in Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception), Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) should not travel 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 at least 18 years old. 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 advise parents to keep the school informed of any changes in arrangements by letter. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents will be contacted. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings.

PUPILS IN UPPER KEY STAGE KS2 (YEARS 5 & 6)

There is no assigned age at which children are known to be ready to travel to school or travel home on their own. It very much depends upon their maturity and confidence. The responsibility for deciding whether children in Upper Key Stage 2 are ready to travel to and from school independently therefore lies with their parents and carers.

ADVICE TO PARENTS

In deciding whether your child is ready to travel independently to school, you should assess (a) any risks associated with the route and (b) your child's confidence. Work with your children to build up their independence while travelling 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.

Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross at the intersection where there are traffic lights; do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively, where there is no nearby designated crossing 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.
- Look out for cyclists.
- Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they can see the driver.
- Remember that it is hard to judge the speed of a car, so be cautious.
- Never, ever, follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult. (A safe adult is someone who has been previously agreed upon by you and your child to be safe, such as a grandparent or trusted neighbour). And if that person tries to convince your child to go with them or tries to physically get close to them, then scream, "Help! This is not my dad!" or "Help! This is not my mum!" and run away.
- If appropriate discuss public transport safety.
- Be aware of alternative routes to and from school.
- To know what to do in an emergency.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to travel straight home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
3. Are they road safety aware?
4. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
5. Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?
6. 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)?

7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. Would they know who best to approach to get help?
9. Would they be able to choose an alternative route to get home?

If you are not confident about how your child would react, then you should seriously consider not allowing them to travel 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 at the end of this policy. Your child will be prevented from travelling 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 THAT YOU LET US KNOW IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY.

HANDOVER

Our guidelines to parents regarding handover at the start and end of the school day are as follows:

BRINGING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IN THE MORNING

1) Children in Nursery should be taken to their carpet area.
2) Children in Reception should be brought to the external door connecting your child's classroom and the outside play area. They should go through their classroom to their Handwriting and Read Write Inc venue. Please do not attempt to go straight to their Handwriting and Read Write Inc venue through the main door to the school.
3) Children in all other year groups should be taken to the playground ready to line up with the children in their class. Only if you are late for school, and if the other children have already gone into class, must you enter the school through the main door.

COLLECTING YOUR CHILD FROM SCHOOL AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

1) Please collect your children from the following places:

- Nursery: your child's carpet area
- Reception: the external door connecting your child's classroom and the outside play area
- Year 1: the external door connecting your child's classroom and the playground
- Year 2: the external door connecting your child's classroom and the playground
- Year 3: your child's class teacher, in their designated place in the playground
- Year 4: your child's class teacher, in their designated place in the playground
- Year 5: your child's class teacher, in their designated place in the playground
- Year 6: your child's class teacher, in their designated place in the playground

- Communication Group: your child's class teacher, at the door of the black house

Unless your child is in Nursery, please do **not** attempt to collect them from inside the building.

2) Please do **not** call your children to join you; instead, please **wait** for their teachers to dismiss them to you. This is because we want to ensure that all teachers know precisely who has been collected and by whom.

3) If you wish to talk to your child's teacher, please do so only **after** all the children have been dismissed.

4) If you are not available to collect your child and have asked someone else to collect them, please notify the school **as soon as possible**. We cannot release children to unfamiliar adults without specific parental consent.

5) In addition, please do not ask anyone below the age of **18** to collect your children.

6) Please ensure that you collect your children **promptly**. Children in the North Building finish school ten minutes earlier than children in the South Building – this should give you enough time to move from one building to the other, so that you can be prompt in both buildings.

Permission for pupils to travel to and from school unaccompanied

The school can ***only*** give permission for children to travel to or from school independently if this form is brought into school by a person with parental responsibility.

Name of child: ……

Class: ……

Relationship to child: ……

I wish to inform you that my child will be travelling unaccompanied

- to school □
- home from school □

Tick one box or both boxes, as appropriate

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 the 'Safeguarding Pupils Travelling To and From School Policy'.

Signed: ……

Print name: ……

Date: ……