

Pegswood Primary School



Walking to and from School Policy April 2024

Created by: TRC Ltd & A Waterfield

Date: April 2024

Approved by Governors: 

Date: 3-5-2024

Headteacher: 

Date: 1/5/24

Review Date: April 2027

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We believe this policy should be a working document that is fit for purpose, represents the school ethos, enables consistency and quality across the school and is related to the following legislation:

- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011

The following documentation is also related to this policy:

- Equality Act 2010: Advice for Schools (DfE)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges
- Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children
- Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (DfE)
- Transport for Young People: A Good Practice Guide (Community Transport Association)
- Travelling to School: A Good Practice Guide (Department for Transport)
- Race Disparity Audit - Summary Findings from the Ethnicity Facts and Figures Website (Cabinet Office)

We are aware that our responsibility of supervising pupils begins when they arrive at school. It is our duty that all parents are informed of the time that school starts and that children should not arrive until at least 10 minutes before that time when school will open its doors for pupils to enter.

We acknowledge that there is no law prohibiting children coming to school on their own but we strongly advise parents of children in the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) to bring their children to school and to collect them at the end of the school day.

We ask all parents with children in Upper Key Stage 2 (UKS2) to think carefully before allowing their children to walk to and from school alone. Parents must sign the appropriate parent-school agreement before allowing their UKS2 child to do so.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

We all have a responsibility to ensure equality permeates in to all aspects of school life and that everyone is treated equally irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. We want everyone connected with this school to feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth.

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We acknowledge the findings of the Race Disparity Audit that clearly shows how people of different ethnicities are treated across the public services of health, education, employment and the criminal justice system.

The educational section of the audit that covers: differences by region; attainment and economic disadvantage; exclusions and abuse; and destinations, has a significant importance for the strategic planning of this school.

We believe it is essential that this policy clearly identifies and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the procedures and arrangements that is connected with this policy.

Aims

- To advise parents of children in the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2 to bring their children to school and to collect them at the end of the school day.
- To advise parents with children in Upper Key Stage 2 to think carefully before allowing their children to walk to and from school alone.
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation connected to this policy.
- To work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring full compliance with all statutory responsibilities;
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- work in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- inform all new and prospective parents of this policy at introductory school meetings;
- inform UKS2 parents that when they consider allowing their child(ren) to walk to school alone they should consider the following

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- Safeguarding issues such as stranger danger
 - The confidence of their child
 - Trustworthiness
 - The risks associated with the route(s) that their child will take
 - Road safety skills
- inform UKS2 parents that if they decide to allow their child to walk to and from school alone then they must sign the appropriate parent-school agreement giving permission for their child to walk home alone;
 - ensure that at the end of the school day school personnel will ensure:
 - the safe exit of all pupils from the school site;
 - Foundation Stage, KS1 and Lower Key Stage 2 children must be collected by their parents or a named adult;
 - Foundation Stage, KS1 and Lower Key Stage 2 children will not be allowed to walk home on their own;
 - UKS2 can walk home alone only if their parent/carer has signed the appropriate parent-school agreement giving permission for their child to walk home alone, or given us notification on Class Dojo or filled in a Google Forms document;
 - parents are contacted if children are not collected;
 - uncollected children remain in school until they are collected by their parent/carer or named person;
 - all pupils who travel by school bus or taxi are safely escorted to and handed over to the appropriate drivers and travel escorts.
 - provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
 - make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
 - provide guidance, support and training to all staff.
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Role of School Personnel

School personnel will:

- comply with all the afore mentioned aspects of this policy;
- be responsible for the general welfare of pupils in their class;
- establish and maintain good communications and contact with parents;
- report any concerns they have of a pupil to the safeguarding leads in school;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions on equality;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community.

Role of Pupils

Pupils will be aware of the arrangements that their parents have made for them.

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Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- work in partnership with the school;
- comply with this policy for the benefit of their children;
- be asked to take part periodic surveys conducted by the school;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure smooth running of the school.

Raising Awareness of this Policy

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- School Policy folder
- School website;
- Staff Handbook;
- Meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops;
- Email
- Class Dojo

Training

All school personnel:

- have equal chances of training, career development and promotion;
- receive periodic training so that they are kept up to date with new information;
- receive equal opportunities training on induction in order to improve their understanding of the Equality Act 2010 and its implications.

Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.

Monitoring the Implementation and Effectiveness of the Policy

The practical application of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises by the coordinator, the Headteacher and the nominated governor.

Linked Policies

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- Child Gone Missing
- Health and Safety
- Behaviour
- Child Protection & Safeguarding

Document Record

Version	Reason for Amendments/Update/Review	Date of Adoption by Pegswood Primary School	Date of next review
1.0	New policy and procedure provided by TRC Ltd.	April 2021	
2.0	Updated to reflect Pegswood Primary School	April 2021	April 2024
3.0	Updated to reflect the different communication methods school use.	April 2024	April 2027

APPENDIX 1 - Information Form - Walking to School Without an Adult

Appendix 2 - Request Form – Walking Home from School Without an Adult – Year 5 and Year 6

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APPENDIX 1

Information Form - Walking to School Without an Adult

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to the Office Manager at Pegswood Primary School.

NB There must be a separate form completed for each child for whom there is a request.

Name of child:

Class:

Date:

- 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 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.
- 4) I understand that the school requires me to inform them as soon as possible if my child is absent from school for any reason.
- 5) 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 has been given (from myself) to the school.

Signed:

(Please print name):

Contact Number (parent):

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APPENDIX 2

Request Form – Walking Home from School Without an Adult – Year 5 and Year 6

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to the Office Manager at Pegswood Primary School.

NB There must be a separate form completed for each child for whom there is a request.

Name of child:

Class:

Date:

- 1) I wish to request permission for my child to walk home from school without an accompanying adult on a regular basis.

- 2) 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, not allowing them to walk home alone in the dark.

- 3) I understand that I have full responsibility for my child's safety and behaviour if they walk home alone.

Signed:

(Please print name):

Contact Number (parent):