

Walking to and from MOOS alone

There are no laws around age or distance of walking home. 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."*

As an out of school club, we have a duty of care for the safety and well-being of our children and therefore this policy is to help advise parents/carers in the decisions they make for their children in relation to safety when walking home from MOOS. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should **we believe a child's welfare is at risk.**

Pupils in Years 3 and 4

Our policy is that pupils 3 and 4 should NOT walk home from MOOS on their own or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after MOOS. In addition, we will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings who are on the MOOS collection form provided they are 16 years old or above. Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless we have been informed by the parent that they have made this arrangement. We also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements. If someone arrives to collect your child and we have not been notified, the adult will have to wait until we have verified his or her identity. If no one arrives to collect a child they will be kept at MOOS and parents contacted.

If the child is not collected within 45 minutes and we have failed to contact the child's carer, we have a duty of care to refer to social services.

Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6

For pupils in Year 5 and Year 6, we believe that if children live within walking distance to school and are able to walk a safe route then you as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking home from MOOS alone. In deciding whether your child is ready to walk home you should assess any risks associated with the route and assess your child's confidence. There are many ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. One way is to follow them a few times on their journey, so you know how safe and sensible they are. It is also strongly advised that children who are walking without an adult, have a cheap mobile

phone that they are able to use if they need help. All mobile phones brought into MOOS need to be handed to a member of our staff immediately – in line with our safeguarding policy.

When deciding whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking home from MOOS you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight home, using the agreed safe route?
2. Are there roads to cross on the route and how busy/safe are those roads?
3. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend or group of friends?
4. Are they road safety aware?
5. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
6. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
7. Do they understand about keeping themselves safe and not to make any dangerous choices, either by themselves or with a group of friends?
8. At certain times of the year their journey may be in the dark.

If you decide that your child in year 5/6 is ready for this responsibility, please complete the attached form.

How to complete the form

1. Circle yes or no for each statement (please note that if you circle 'no' for any of the statements, your child may not be ready to walk to or from school.
2. Read the information and if you agree please sign and date if you want your child to walk home alone.
3. Please hand the form to a member of MOOS staff – for safeguarding purposes, the form needs to be submitted prior to any independent travel
4. If at any time you need to change the arrangements, please ensure you let us know in writing.

Permission to walk home from MOOS alone

Child's name _____ Year group _____

The route home is within safe walking distance **Yes / No**

I consider the route home to be a safe route **Yes / No**

My child does not need to cross any busy/main roads **Yes / No**

My child does need to cross a busy/main road(s) and I have taught them to cross safely at a crossing labelled on the map of the route **Yes / No**

My child is aware of the potential dangers regarding roads/ traffic and how to avoid dangers and stay safe **Yes / No**

I acknowledge and accept that at certain times of the year my child may be walking in the dark **Yes / No**

My child understands and follows the green cross code **Yes / No**

My child understands stranger danger **Yes / No**

My child knows what to do if they need help **Yes / No**

My child knows what to do in an emergency **Yes / No**

My child will have a mobile phone **Yes / No**

They will have my number, MOOS number and an emergency contact on their phone **Yes / No**

I acknowledge that there will be other risks **Yes / No**

When walking home – my child will go straight home **Yes / No**

When walking home my child will not wait in other public buildings **Yes / No**

When walking home, a responsible person will be at home to supervise them **Yes / No**

I have read and understood this policy on safeguarding my child walking home from MOOS alone. I fully understand that it is **my responsibility to ensure** my child gets home safely. If circumstances change then I will communicate this with MOOS in writing.

Signed _____ Date _____