



St Peter's Catholic Primary School
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Head Teacher: Mrs K Hinton
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Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Year 6 Pupils Walking Home from School

Dear Parents/Carers

Please read the following Walking Home from School Policy

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 which is to only allow pupils from Y6 to leave school independently.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk home from school you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. Work with your children to build up their independence while walking 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. Children who are driven to school do not have the opportunity to develop road awareness and are therefore more vulnerable when they start to walk to school independently. Walking to school is a great opportunity to learn road safety skills. The best way to do this is to walk with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic and way finding on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

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 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). Talk to your child about what they should do if they are approached by a stranger.

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

1. Do you trust them to walk 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?
7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. Would they know who best to approach to get help?

If you are not confident about how your child would react then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to walk 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 below. Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing.

IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE PLEASE ENSURE YOU LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY.

Those children who have permission to walk home are allowed to bring a mobile phone to school which needs to be turned off once they are at school, kept in a secure locker and then returned to your child as they leave the classroom at the end of the day.

If your child is leaving school on a bike they need to ensure that they have a helmet with them otherwise they will not be allowed to leave school on their bike without a helmet.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Hinton
Head Teacher

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St Peter's Catholic Primary School

**Permission for pupils to walk home from school unaccompanied
Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school a.s.a.p**

Name of child: _____ Year Group: _____

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking from school,

every day

certain days (circle) M T W Th F

I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change.

I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in the Walking Home From School Policy.

I wish to inform you that my child will be bringing their mobile phone with them to school,

every day

certain days (circle) M T W Th F

I understand that the phone will be turned off once pupils are at school and that the phone will be kept in a secure locker during the day and then returned to pupils at the end of the day. I understand that mobile phones are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

I also understand that should my child misuse their phone, the school will withdraw permission for them to bring it.

Signed..... Date: _____

(Print name)