



The Leys Primary & Nursery School

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WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL POLICY

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Walking to and from School Policy from 2023/24

POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING PUPILS WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE

"There are no laws around age or distance of walking to school. 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 their children get to school and attend regularly, but this in itself does not disallow independent travel.

In addition, as a school 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 to and from school. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Pupils in Foundation Stage (Nursery & Reception), KS1 (Years 1 & 2) and Years 3 and 4

Our agreed school policy from October 31st 2022, is that pupils in Foundation Stage or Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 **should NOT walk 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 who are on the school data form **provided they are 16 years old or above**. 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 also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements. If someone turns up 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 turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents contacted. If the child is not collected within one hour and we have failed to make contact with 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 to and from school alone. **If your child is attending extra-curricular activities or Afterschool Provision then we request that you as parents decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking home after these finish.** If you decide your child is to be collected by an adult after these activities/clubs then we ask that they be collected on time. Failure to collect children punctually from these activities could lead to activities being withdrawn. **We also request that children attending the breakfast club are brought to school by an adult.**

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should assess any risks associated with the route to school 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.

When deciding whether your child is ready for the responsibility (Year 5 & 6 only) of walking to and/or from home you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight to school or 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?

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility in Year 5 & 6 only, please complete the permission access on Schoolcoms.