

Stadhampton Primary School



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Permission for Walking Home Alone

Checklist for readiness:

In making this important decision, some practical considerations and checks will help you. Before letting them make the whole journey independently, work with your child to build up their independence to help them prepare for this next step. Can your child:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross at an identified safe place and identify other safe crossing places (where they can see clearly in all directions; avoid parked cars; avoid bends in the road).
- Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming; cross while keeping an eye on traffic.
- Look out for cyclists.
- Check/ pause to make sure drivers have seen them (e.g. in driveways, when cars are reversing).
- Judge the speed and distance of a car, and be suitably confident and cautious to wait for a pause in traffic if they are not sure there is a sufficient gap to safely cross.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following, do you trust your child to?

- Walk straight home/ to school or to where they need to be?
- Get themselves to where they need to be after school independently- (remembering whether this is home, agreed meeting place, after-school club if this changes on different days of the week)?
- Behave sensibly when with a friend(s)?
- Be road safety aware and be able to ignore distractions?
- Ignore/ not look at their phone whilst crossing the road?
- Know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
- Have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger might ask?
- Know the best action to take if a stranger tries to make them do something they do not want to do?
- Never, ever, follow or accept a lift from someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult.
- Know what to do if they needed help?
- Know whom best to approach to get help?

If you are not confident about how your child would react to any of the above then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to walk independently.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility then you must inform the school by completing the permission slip below. Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing.

We do not recommend that Primary School aged children ever walk home alone in the dark. Please bear in mind that if they are attending an after school club it may be dark when the club finishes during winter months.

Where children walk to, or walk home from school, alone, we would usually expect that a parent, or other responsible person, is at home when they leave or arrive. If the child will be leaving from, or returning to, an empty house, we would expect that this is only for a short period of time and that the child knows how, and can, access emergency adult support if needed.

We also recommend you read with your child *Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents* (Royal Society Prevention Accidents) which can be found on our website



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Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school.

Name of Child:

Class:

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking to/from school on regular basis. I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change. I have read the checklist for readiness and Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents (Royal Society Prevention Accidents) guide suggested.

I fully understand that once I give permission for my child to walk to and from school alone, I take full responsibility for my child's actions or whereabouts when they are not on the school premises.

I confirm that I am confident that my child can confidently/independently carry out all of the aspects on the checklists list provided.

I confirm that I consider my child responsible enough to be able to walk home or to another specified destination given below:

Home

Specified destination:

Signature:

Print Name:

Date:

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