

# Independent Travel Policy (walking only)

## FLOREAT WANDSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADOPTED BY: SSB

DATE of ADOPTION: 21.9.21

DATE of LAST REVIEW: 9.9.22

REVIEWED BY: Headteacher, SSB

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1.7.23

Active Agents: SSB, Headteacher, General Staff, the School

## Independent Travel Policy (walking only)

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 walking safely to and from school.

This is a 'walking only' policy. The independent use of public transport to travel to or from school is not permitted.

We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

The following paragraphs set our expectations for parents who wish for their child to walk to school by themselves.

### **Pupils in Foundation Stage (Nursery & Reception), KS1 (Years 1 & 2) and Years 3, 4 & 5**

**Our agreed school policy is that pupils in Foundation Stage or Years 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 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 have been given permission to do so by the parent or parents. 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 45 minutes 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 6**

**For pupils in Year 6, we believe that if children live within walking distance of 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 any of the school based provision outside of the normal school hours of 8.30am to 3.30pm then we request that all children attending these sessions are brought to school, and collected from school, by an adult on time. This includes all external providers including Kids' City and AMSA Clubs. Failure to collect children punctually from these activities could lead to activities being withdrawn.

## Mobile Phones

It is strongly advised that children who are walking without an adult, have a basic mobile phone that they are able to use if they need help. All mobile phones brought into school must be clearly named. Mobile phones must be handed to the Class Teacher immediately and placed in a locked cupboard - in line with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (extract below).

*We recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday life for many children and that they can play an important role in helping pupils to feel safe and secure. Therefore:*

- *Pupils are only allowed to bring mobile phones into school if they are walking to or from school without parents (Year 6)*
- *The phone must be handed in to the Class Teacher at a ground floor entrance and must be switched off.*
- *The phone is left at the owner's own risk and school is not responsible for loss or damage*
- *The phone must have enough battery to last until the child gets home.*
- *School staff are not allowed to charge mobile phones.*
- *Phones should not be taken on school trips/visits.*

## Parents: questions to consider

When deciding whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and/or from school you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight to school or straight home, using an 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?
3. Are they road safety aware?
4. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
5. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
6. Do they understand about keeping themselves safe and not to make any dangerous choices, either by themselves or with a group of friends?

Please do approach the class teacher or any of the school leaders if you would like any support when considering these questions.

## Parents: making your final decision

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school it is the responsibility of those with parental responsibility to 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. Please do approach the class teacher or any of the school leaders if you would like any support when making your final decision.

## Support from school

The school has a duty of care to ensure that pupils are aware of the dangers of independent travel. We will engage pupils in age-appropriate assemblies and class discussions to ensure that they are ready to walk to or from school. Parents can approach the class teacher or any of the school leaders should they require support.

## Permission Form

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, please complete the attached form.

How to complete the form:

- 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)
- Read the information and if you agree please sign and date if you want your child to walk to school alone.
- Read the information and if you agree, please sign and date if you want your child to walk home alone.
- Please hand the form into the office - for safeguarding purposes, the form needs to be submitted prior to any independent travel.
- If at any time you need to change the arrangements, please ensure you let us know in writing.

## Permission Withdrawal

If a child is seen to be acting in an inappropriate or unsafe way on their way to school or on their way home, then parents will be informed that they must bring their child to school and collect them each day. Permission can be reinstated after a period of time. This period of time will be discussed and agreed between the school leaders and the parents.

Permission to walk to and/or from school alone

Please circle/highlight yes or no.

The route to school is within a safe walking distance. **yes / no**

I consider the route to school to be a safe route. **yes / no**

My child will use a safe pedestrian crossing when crossing busy/main roads. **yes / no**

I have taught my child how to cross safely. **yes / no**

My child is aware of the potential dangers regarding roads/traffic. **yes / no**

My child is aware of how to avoid dangers and stay safe. **yes / no**

My child understands the concept of '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, the school number (*lines are open 8am to 4pm only*) and an emergency contact on their phone. **yes / no**

I acknowledge that there will be other risks e.g. unleashed dogs or e-scooters. **yes / no**

When walking home - my child will go straight home. **yes / no**

When walking home, a responsible person will be at home to supervise them. **yes / no**

**Permission: Please tick the relevant boxes**

I have read and understood this policy.

I fully understand the safeguarding implications of allowing my child to walk to, and from, school.

I understand that this is a 'walking only' policy. The independent use of public transport to travel to or from school is not permitted.

I fully understand that it is my responsibility to ensure my child gets to and from school safely including getting to school on time. If circumstances change then I will communicate this with school.

I fully understand that if they are at Breakfast club or an extra- curricular activity/After School Provision they should always be dropped off/collected by an adult.

My child has my permission **to walk to school** on (please also tick select days)

**\_\_\_ Monday \_\_\_ Tuesday \_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_ Thursday \_\_\_ Friday only.**

My child has my permission **to walk home from school** on (please also tick select days)

**\_\_\_ Monday \_\_\_ Tuesday \_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_ Thursday \_\_\_ Friday only.**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_