



Walking to and from school guidelines for pupils

Dear parent / carer

I am writing to you as I have become aware of more pupils wanting to walk to and from school unaccompanied. There is currently no legal minimum age for a child to walk to and from school by themselves, and it is for you to decide whether your child is mature enough to walk alone safely. As a school we would only allow a Year 6 child to potentially walk home alone. All other children should be collected and dropped off by a responsible adult.

When deciding whether your child is allowed to walk to and from school alone, you may wish to consider the following:

- The route your child will take – busy and secluded roads should be avoided where possible
- Whether your child will go home directly – make clear to them if they have permission to go to local shops etc.
- Whether they will be walking alone or with friends – walking in groups is more secure
- The distance they will be walking – long distances should be avoided if possible
- The weather conditions – will you allow your child to walk in snow/ice or in the Winter months when it is dark?
- Whether they are aware of 'stranger danger' and what to do if an individual approaches them?

We recommend that you take the time to talk to your child about the risks they may face walking unattended and make sure they are comfortable doing so. You can make sure that they are comfortable and happy to walk alone by taking them on trial runs and deciding together the route to take and an alternative should the first be unavailable.

Your child's safety is always a top priority of the school, as such we have the following road safety rules in place. Please reiterate these rules to your child before allowing them to walk alone.

ABCs

A – awareness: pupils need to understand that roads can be dangerous and people can get hurt.

B – behaviour: pupils should know how to behave when around roads and how to follow road rules so that they're safe. If pupils act in a way which can cause them harm or damages the reputation of the school, they will be disciplined in line with the school's Behavioural Policy.

C – choice: pupils need to understand how to make safe choices when they're walking near roads, e.g. where is safe to cross.

The Green Cross Code

Our school promotes the Green Cross Code – we advise pupils to always do the following when crossing a road:

- Find the safest place to cross
- Stop before they get to the edge of the kerb
- Look all around for traffic and listen
- If traffic is coming, always let it past
- When it is safe, cross the road – do not run

Please complete the permission slip attached to the end of this letter and return it to the school office. If you withdraw your permission to let your child walk to and from alone, please let the school know as soon as possible either by contacting office@rdees.org.uk or 0191 263 8139.

If you have any more questions regarding the details of this letter, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr W Myers

I have read and reiterated the rules outlined in this letter to my child and I am confident that they:

- Can be trusted to walk straight home or to school alone.
- Will adhere to the route that we have identified together.
- Can be trusted to behave sensibly.
- Is aware of road safety.
- Is aware of the protocols to follow if a stranger approaches them or asks them to do something they do not want to.
- Would know how and where to ask for help.
- Understand any emergency procedures we have agreed to and will carry emergency contact numbers at all times.

By returning this slip, I am confirming that I give my child permission to walk to and from school alone. I understand that should I decide to revoke this permission I will inform the school as soon as is reasonably possible.

Name of child	
Name of parent	
Parent signature	
Date	