

Ormesby Primary School

Independent Arrival & Departure Policy

(Year 5 & Year 6 children only)

This policy is devised for the general health and safety of children.

Parents who wish their child to walk to school or home from school unescorted by an adult, must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Parents must have registered with the school that they are prepared for their children to walk directly to school or home from school at the start and end of the day.
- Children should be in Year 5 or Year 6.
- It is the parents' responsibility to check the route that their children may walk in order that they may make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey. Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas is to be discouraged. A single route should be agreed.
- Parents must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of the Green Cross Code and stranger danger. It is parents' responsibility to ensure they are sufficiently happy that their child is capable of undertaking the proposed journey safely.
- During winter months and/or inclement weather, children must be dressed appropriately.
- Children should preferably walk in a group and not alone.
- Children should know their home phone number (plus one other emergency contact) and preferably have their own mobile phone. (This should be kept in the office during the day).
- There should be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival at the end of the school day.
- Any child must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes of the end of the school day (3.30pm). Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this stage.
- If any child does not arrive home within a reasonable timeframe, parents must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken.
- If any child does not arrive home within a reasonable timeframe and direct contact with the child has not been established by either school or parents, notification to the relevant authorities/emergency services and school must be made.

Preparing your child to make an independent journey

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 finding their way 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.

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 to school or 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 i.e. scream, shout, kick, escape?
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 completing the attached form. Your child will be prevented from walking independently unless this permission has been given in writing.

If a parent is not present, your child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst on the school premises either before or after school. No child is permitted to play ball games, ride scooters or bikes or play on the trim trail in school grounds before or after school.

Should their behaviour not be acceptable, you will be asked to accompany or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again.

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

CONFIRMATION THAT MY CHILD MAY WALK TO & FROM SCHOOL INDEPENDENTLY

Please complete and return to the School Office.

Note that this form is only applicable to children in Year 5 and Year 6.

I confirm that my child

in Year _____ at Ormesby Primary School may walk to and from school independently.

I confirm that I have read and understood the school's

Independent Arrival & Departure Policy.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____