

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Malmesbury

Walking to and from School alone Policy



“Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, loving and serving together”

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for Safeguarding and Child protection.

Background

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. However, at St Joseph's we are responsible for the welfare of our pupils and therefore have to consider what we believe is good practice in ensuring the safety of our pupils in the town of Malmesbury.

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

St Josephs School policy is that pupils in Foundation Stage or Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 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, staff will only hand over pupils to named adults or person.

Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent/guardian that they have made this arrangement. The school also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements, preferably by letter or email to admin@st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

If someone turns up to collect your child and we have not been notified, the adult will have to wait until staff have verified their identity. If for some reason, you are late collecting your child, the school will arrange for them to go to the afterschool club, however, this is an outside provider who will charge for their services.



Pupils in Years 6

For pupils that are in Year 6 and **live within safe walking distance of the school and are able to walk a safe** route we believe that you as parents and guardians, need to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and from school alone.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence, using the attached checklist. Work with your children to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness. There are many ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey.

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 way finding on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

Parents and guardians of children who wish them to walk home alone, at the end of the school day (15:20hrs), must adhere to the following guidelines. *This policy does not apply to afterschool clubs and these can vary in time and therefore could be impacted by hours of darkness. Children attending after school activities must be collected by a nominated adult or person.*

- Parents/guardians must have registered with the school that they are prepared for their children to walk directly home from school at the end of the day.
- Children must be in Year 6.
- It is the parent's or guardians responsibility to check the route that their children may walk home in order that they may make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey. For example, ***Crossing of the Malmesbury bypass (A429) is not appropriate.***
- A single route must be agreed.
- Parents must be certain that children have an awareness of understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger. It is the parent's 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.
- There must be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival.
- Any child must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes of the end of the school day (15.20hrs). Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate.



If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, please complete the attached form and submit to admin@st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

How to complete the form

- (1) 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.
- (2) Read the information and if you agree please sign and date if you want your child to walk to school alone.
- (3) Read the information and if you agree, please sign and date if you want your child to walk home alone.
- (4) Please submit the form via email admin@st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk, or hand the form into the office – for safeguarding purposes, the form needs to be submitted prior to any independent travel.
- (5) If at any time you need to change the arrangements, please ensure you let us know in writing.

As part of keeping your child safe and the school being able to support our families in the case of an emergency we do request that parents provide us with a copy of the walking route.

You will receive email confirmation from school that we have received your permission form for your child to either walk to school alone, walk alone from school to home or both.

Arrangements for monitoring, evaluation and review

Responsible committee for monitoring & evaluation:	Mission, Vision and Learning Committee
Policy reviewed by:	Mission, Vision and Learning Committee
Policy review & approval date:	January 2022
Next review date:	January 2023



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Permission to Walk TO and / or FROM school alone

Child's Name _____

Class _____

Ser	Question	Answer
1	The route to school is within safe walking distance .	Yes / No
2	My child can arrive at school or home within 30mins of starting their journey .	Yes / No
3	When walking home – my child will go straight home	Yes / No
4	When walking home, a responsible person will be at home to supervise them	Yes / No
5	The route avoids fast roads or dangerous crossing points, for example the Malmesbury bypass (A429).	Yes / No
6	My child has pavement along the whole of their school route	Yes / No
7	I consider the route to school to be a safe route for my child.	Yes / No
8	My child is aware of the potential dangers regarding roads/ traffic and how to avoid dangers and stay safe.	Yes / No
9	My child understands and follows the green cross code.	Yes / No
10	My child understands stranger danger.	Yes / No
11	My child knows what to do if they need help	Yes / No
12	My child knows what to do in an emergency	Yes / No
13	I acknowledge that there will be other risks	Yes / No
14	When walking home, a responsible person will be at home to supervise them	Yes / No

Please tick relevant boxes

I have read and understood this policy on safeguarding my child walking to and from school alone.

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 an extra- curricular activity/After School Provision they should always be collected by an adult.

I have provided a map of the route to/from school.

Signed _____

Date _____