

Balcombe C E (C) School



Walking Home Alone Policy

Adopted by Governors: Jul 2012

Reviewed: Jul 2013, Jun 2019,
Oct 24

Next Review: Oct 2025

This policy is devised for the general health and safety of children in conjunction with the police and with WSCC.

WALKING HOME ALONG AT END OF SCHOOL DAY - 1515

Parents of children who wish them to walk home unescorted by an adult, at the end of the school day (1515hrs), must adhere to the following guidelines;

- Parents 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 5 or 6.
- It is the parent's 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. Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas is to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed.
- Parents must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger. It is 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.
- Children should preferably walk in a group and not alone.
- Children should know the phone number of **at least** one emergency contact.
- 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 (1515hrs). Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this stage.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe, parents must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe and direct contact with the child has not been established by either school or parents, school will instigate the missing person's procedure in conjunction with the relevant authorities.
- If the missing person procedure is initiated there must be a point of contact remaining at both the home and school location until further advised by the relevant authorities.
- If your child does arrive home after the missing person procedure has been instigated, immediate notification to the relevant authorities/emergency services must be made. This is to enable the missing person procedure to be stood down.
- Once the missing person procedure is initiated responsibility will pass to the relevant authority to further any enquiries. Both parents and school will be guided by them in order that a successful outcome is achieved.

USING A MOBILE PHONE

When giving permission to walk home alone after school, parents must also advise their decision on the use of a mobile phone whilst walking to and from school.

Please choose one answer below in relation to using a mobile phone whilst walking to and from school

- I give permission for my child to bring a mobile phone into school as I believe it is necessary to keep them safe – please agree to the answers in the next question.
- I DO NOT give permission for my child to bring a mobile phone into school.

I have read the statements below with my child and agree to the following – you must agree to ALL statements for a mobile phone to be allowed in school.

- The phone will be placed in a box in the classroom at the beginning of each day and collected at the end of the day
- On no account will the phone be accessed and used either during the school day or whilst on school premises, including during before/after school clubs.
- My child will not access school based Whatsapp groups or similar.
- I understand that school will not be held responsible should the phone be lost, stolen or damaged.

WALKING HOME ALONE AFTER A SCHOOL CLUB - 1615

Parents of children who wish them to walk home unescorted by an adult, after a school club (1615hrs), must adhere to the following guidelines;

- Parents must have registered with the school that they are prepared for their children to walk directly home from school after attending a school club.
- Children must be in year 5 or 6.
- It is the parent's 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. Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas is to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed.
- Parents must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger. It is 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.
- Children should preferably walk in a group and not alone.

- Children should know their home phone number (plus one other emergency contact) and either have their own mobile phone or money for a phone box.
- 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 finish time of the after school club (1615hrs). Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this stage.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe, parents must immediately notify the Police.

Return to the School Office

PUPIL NAME: _____

CONFIRMATION THAT MY CHILD MAY WALK HOME ALONE

I confirm that _____ who is in Year
_____ at Balcombe School may walk home from school
alone as follows:

Tick as appropriate:

- He/She may walk home alone from school at the end of the school day - 1515
- He/She may also walk home alone after an after-school club - 1615
- He/She may not walk home alone after an after-school club - 1615
- He/She may bring a mobile phone into school and I have agreed to the statements as above
- He/She may not bring a mobile phone into school

I confirm that I have read and understood the School's
Walking Home Alone Policy.

Name: _____

Date: _____