

Walking to and from school alone Policy 2025/6

***All our policies at Bolney are based around consistent practice, positive encouragement and polite, respectful and thoughtful behaviour.***

***It is underpinned by both our vision and our key Christian values of***

***Love, Respect, Honesty and Resilience.***

***This policy supports the school’s Anti-Bullying Policy.***

**WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE**

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.

**In addition, 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 safety to and from school. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child’s welfare is at risk.**

**Pupils in Foundation Stage (Nursery & Reception) and KS1 (Years 1 & 2)**

Our agreed school policy is that pupils in Foundation Stage or Years 1 and 2 **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 are 18 years old or above.** 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 3 upwards**

We would highly recommend that pupils in Years 3 and 4 are still brought to and collected from school by an adult (person over 18). We also understand that there may be circumstances that prevent parents who work or who have appointments that make it difficult for parents to achieve this every day.

However, the primary driver in making such decisions is always the safety and well-being of our children. Where it is not possible for an adult to bring or collect a child in Years 3 and 4, parents and carers may give consent for this duty to be carried out by an older sibling, providing:

They are 15 and over;

A parent/ carer judges them to be responsible enough to complete this task safely;

The route to school is within a safe walking distance and the parent/carer judges the route safe;

The parent/carer has completed the Permission to walk to and/or from school with older sibling form (Appendix The older sibling and the child are going straight home;

The older sibling is responsible for no more than two children.

If your child is attending any extra- curricular activities, then we request that all children attending these sessions are collected by an adult on time. Failure to collect children punctually from these activities could lead to activities being withdrawn. We also request that children attending breakfast club are brought to school and signed in by an adult.

# Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6

For pupils in Year 5 and Year 6, we believe that if children **live within walking distance to 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 extra- curricular activities, then we request that all children attending these sessions are collected by an adult on time**. Failure to collect children punctually from these activities could lead to activities being withdrawn. **We also request that children attending breakfast club are brought to school and signed in by an adult.**

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should 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. It is also strongly advised that children who are walking without an adult or older sibling, have a cheap mobile phone

that they are able to use if they need help. All mobile phones brought into school need to be handed into the class teacher immediately and placed in the mobile phone safes in Y5 and Y6 classrooms – in line with our safeguarding policy.

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

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

*\*In exceptional circumstances, this may apply to children in Year 4.*

# 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

1. 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**

1. Please hand the form into the office – for safeguarding purposes, the form needs to be submitted prior to any independent travel
2. 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 a letter from school to confirm that we have received your permission form for your child to either walk to school alone, walk alone from school to home or both.

If your child is in Year 3 upwards and you would like an older sibling to bring or collect them from school please complete Appendix 2.

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| **Policy Authors** | Ms Emma Lofthouse |
| **Ratified by the Governing Body** | September 2025 |
| **To be reviewed** | September 2026 |



 **BOLNEY CEP SCHOOL**

# Permission to walk to and/or from school alone

**Child’s name Year group**

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

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

### I have provided school with a map of my child’s route to and from school **yes/ no**

My child does not need to cross any busy/main roads **yes/ no**

My child does need to cross a busy/main road(s) and I have taught them to cross safely at a crossing labelled on the map of the route **yes/no**

My child is aware of the potential dangers regarding roads/ traffic and how to avoid dangers and stay safe

**yes/ no**

My child understands and follows the green cross code **yes/ no**

My child understands 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 and an emergency contact on their phone **yes/ no**

I acknowledge that there will be other risks **yes/ no**

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

When walking home my child will not wait in the library or in other public buildings **yes/ no**

When walking home, a responsible person will be at home to supervise them **yes/ no Permission slip** Please tick relevant boxes

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

**I have read and understood this policy on safeguarding my child walking home 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 they should always be collected by an adult



**BOLNEY CEP SCHOOL**

**Permission for older sibling to walk to and/or from school with Year 3 upwards sibling(s)**

**Child’s name(s) Year group(s) (Maximum of two siblings).**

## Older siblings name Date of birth

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

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

I have provided school with a map of my children’s route to and from school **yes/ no**

My children do not need to cross any busy/main roads **yes/ no**

My children do need to cross a busy/main road(s) and I have taught them to cross safely at a crossing labelled on the map of the route **yes/no**

My older child is aware of the potential dangers regarding roads/ traffic and how to avoid dangers, stay safe and how to keep their younger sibling(s) safe **yes/ no**

My younger child/ren will behave well for their older sibling **yes/no**

My children understand and follow the green cross code **yes/ no**

My children understand stranger danger **yes/ no**

My children know what to do if they need help **yes/ no**

My children know what to do in an emergency **yes/ no**

My older child will have a mobile phone **yes/ no**

They will have my number, the school number and an emergency contact on their phone **yes/ no**

I acknowledge that there will be other risks **yes/ no**

When walking home – my children will go straight home **yes/ no**

When walking home my children will not wait in the library or in other public buildings **yes/ no** When walking home, a responsible person will be at home to supervise them **yes/ no Permission slip** Please tick relevant boxes

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

**I have read and understood this policy on safeguarding my child walking home 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 they should be collected by an adult.