

Arnold View Primary School Walking to and from school Alone Guidance

Date reviewed: July 2025

Next review: July 2026

Arnold View Primary School

Walking to and from school Alone Guidance

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, as a school 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. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Pupils in Foundation Stage or KS1

Our agreed school guidance is that no pupil in Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 should 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 provided they are **14 years old** or above (however, if the professional judgement of the adult at school deems the older sibling not to be suitable, they will not hand the child over).

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, preferably by letter or email. If someone turns up to collect your child and we have not been notified, the adult will have to wait until we have verified their 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 and we have failed to contact the child's carer, we will ask that they are placed in Lime Trees wrap around care and a fee will be charged to the family. If no one collects from Lime Trees then we will consult with family services. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings if they are below 14 years old.

Pupils in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

While there is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own, we recommend that pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 should be still brought to and collected from school and this is our school guidance. As regards to pupils in Year 6, we believe that you as parents 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. 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. 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 route finding 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 follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult. Speak to your child about what they should do if this should ever happen.

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 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 did not want to do?
7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. Would they know whom 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 slip attached and returning it to the school office. Your child will be prevented from walking home alone unless this permission has been given in writing.

Your child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst on the school premises either before or after school. Should their behaviour not be acceptable you will be asked to accompany them or collect them until they have proven they can be trusted again.

Where children walk to, or walk home from school, alone, we would usually expect that a parent, or other responsible person, is at home when they leave or arrive. If the child will be

leaving from, or returning to, an empty house, we would expect that this is only for a short period of time and that the child knows how, and can, access emergency adult support if needed.

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

Arnold View Primary School - Form for a Year 6 Walking Home

Permission for pupils to walk to and from school unaccompanied

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school a.s.a.p.

Child's NameChild's class

Year: 6

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking to/from school alone on a regular basis. I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change. I have read and understood the recommendations, systems and reasonable precautions set out in **Arnold View Primary School walking to and from school alone guidance**.

I fully understand that once I give permission for my child to walk to and from school alone, the school is not responsible for my child's actions or whereabouts once they are not on the school premises.

I understand that should the behaviour of my child not be acceptable in the opinion of the school, I will resume accompanying them or collecting them until they have proved they can be trusted again.

Signed..... Date:

[Name print]

8. Appendix 1: Acceptable Use Agreement for Pupils

Pupil Policy

Arnold View Primary School has a clear policy on allowing pupils to bring mobile phones into school and this policy makes explicit reference to camera mobile phones.

Camera Mobile Phones

Camera mobile phones are now the norm and a built-in digital camera enables users to take high resolution pictures. These can be sent instantly to other mobile phone users or email addresses. They can also be posted on the internet or in chat rooms.

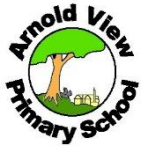
There is a potential for camera mobile phones to be misused in schools. They can become an instrument of bullying or harassment directed against pupils or/and teachers.

- While we fully acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a mobile phone to school if they walk to and from school without adult supervision, Arnold View Primary School discourages pupils bringing mobile phones to school due to the potential issues raised above. If a child is not walking a distance to school unsupervised there is **no reason** for them to have a mobile phone in school at all and we strongly discourage them from bringing one.
- When a child needs to bring a phone into school, a permission slip (Appendix 1) must be signed by the parent/carer and the phone must be placed in the mobile phone box in the classroom, and collected at the end of the day. Phones should be clearly marked so that each pupil knows their own phone. Parents are advised that Arnold View Primary School accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into school or school grounds.
- Where a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone on school premises, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil, handed to a member of the office team who will record the name of the pupil and attach it to the phone. The mobile phone will be stored by the school office. The pupil may collect the phone at the end of the school day. A letter will be sent home to parents requesting that a permission slip be returned the next day. If this practice continues more than three times, then the school will confiscate the phone until an appropriate adult collects the phone from the Head Teacher.
- If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken according to our Behaviour policy.
- If images of other pupils or teacher have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil in the presence of the Head Teacher.

- Should a pupil be found to be using their phone inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring a phone into school.
- We ask that parents should talk to their children about the appropriate use of text messages as they can often be used to target pupils.

Should parents need to contact pupils or vice versa during the school day, this should be done via the usual school procedure of contacting the school office via phone or email.

The policy supports the Health & Safety, Anti bullying, Child Protection, Safeguarding and Internet/E-safety policies. This policy will be monitored and reviewed as required but at least every two years



Mobile Phone Parental Consent Form

Dear Parent/Carer

We strongly discourage pupils from bringing a mobile phone into school. However, in accordance with our mobile phone policy, if your child is bringing in a mobile phone to school on a regular basis, please could you sign the form below to give your permission for your child to do this and remind them of our school policy.

- Your child needs to bring their phone to the classroom and place it in the class mobile phone box.
- The school bears no responsibility for the loss or damage to a mobile phone
- Your child’s phone should be appropriately marked so that they can recognise it
- Should your child be found using their phone inappropriately, the school reserves the right to withdraw this privilege and they will no longer be able to bring their phone into school.

Thank you

Caroline Otterburn
Head Teacher

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MOBILE PHONE PARENTAL CONSENT

I/we give permission for our child (name) in Class
.....
to bring their mobile phone into school.

We have read the policy and understand its implications – we understand that the school will take no responsibility for the loss or damage of a mobile phone.

Signed Date.....

PLEASE RETURN PERMISSION SLIP TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE. THANK YOU.