



BISHOPTHORPE INFANT SCHOOL

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK'S C.E JUNIOR SCHOOL

Policy on Safeguarding Pupils: Collection and coming to and
from school on their own



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Policy on Safeguarding Pupils

Collection and coming to and from school on their own

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.

Our agreed school policy is that **no pupil in Reception or Key Stage 1 (Bishopthorpe Infants)/ Year 3 (Archbishop of York's C.E Junior School) 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 16 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 no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups they will be kept in school and parents contacted. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings.

Pupils in Key Stage 2 (Years 4, 5 & 6) at Archbishop of York's C.E Junior School

There is no specific age at which children are ready to walk to or from school independently. This largely depends on their maturity, confidence, and ability to manage the responsibility. Therefore, for pupils in KS2 (Years 4–6), we believe it is important that parents decide whether their child is ready to walk to and from school on their own.

That said, we strongly recommend that pupils in Year 4 continue to be brought to and collected from school by an adult. However, if parents feel their child is ready, we will allow Year 4 pupils to walk independently from after the February half term.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk or cycle 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 travelling to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

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 travel to school independently. Walking or cycling to school is a great opportunity to learn and practise road safety skills. The best way

to do this is to walk or cycle with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, understanding traffic, learning how to navigate and developing awareness of their surroundings.

Children who wish to cycle to and from school are expected to have successfully completed CYC cycling proficiency training - Bikeability (Y5). This ensures they have developed the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to cycle safely on roads and around traffic. These experiences help children gain the confidence and awareness required to travel to and from school safely, whether walking with friends, cycling, or travelling independently as they get 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 continuing to watch the traffic.
- Look out for cyclists and other road users when crossing the road.
- If cycling, children should follow the rules of the road, remain alert to traffic, and ride predictably so other road users can see what they are doing.
- When cycling, always be aware of vehicles at junctions, driveways and parked cars, and watch for doors opening.
- 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 always be cautious.
- Children cycling to and from school are expected to have completed CYC cycling proficiency training and should always ride responsibly and follow road safety guidance.
- Never, ever follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult. (A safe adult is someone who has been previously agreed upon by you and your child to be safe, such as a grandparent or trusted neighbour.) If that person tries to convince them to go with them or tries to physically get close to them, they should shout loudly, for example, "Help! This is not my dad!" or "Help! This is not my mum!" and run away. If someone grabs them, they should kick, punch, and make as much noise as possible to attract attention.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk or cycle straight home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend while walking or cycling?
3. Are they road safety aware and able to follow the rules of the road when walking or cycling?
4. If cycling, are they confident riding on the road, signalling clearly, and being aware of

other road users?

5. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
6. Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asks?
7. Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they didn't want to do (scream, shout, and move away quickly)?
8. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
9. 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 Google Form. Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been completed.

Your child will also be responsible for their behaviour while on the school premises before and after the school day. Please note that the playgrounds are not supervised before 8:45am. There is usually a member of staff at the Year 3/4 main entrance gate and the Year 5/6 gate, in the morning, but the other gate is not always staffed. Usually there is no staff on the gates at the end of the day.

If your child arrives late to school when walking/cycling independently, you may be required to bring them to school in the mornings. This will be at the school's discretion.

If your child's behaviour is not acceptable, you may also be asked to accompany them to and from school until they have demonstrated that they can be trusted with this responsibility again.

If you need to change any of the arrangements you have made at any time, please ensure that you inform the school in writing immediately.