



## **Roundwood Primary School**

### **Independent Travel Policy – Y6 and Y5s**

Name of Policy	Independent Travel Policy – Y6 and Y5s
Date of last review	Spring 2025
Date of next review	Spring 2027
Member of Staff responsible	Headteacher

\*Unless there is significant change in school practice or policy

## **Rationale**

The need for the school to devise an independent travel policy is to ensure clarity of arrangements and expectations between school and parents/carers when children begin walking home independently.

## **Aims**

- To safeguard all children in the school.
- To ensure all staff have up to date information
- To ensure no child is unaccounted for at any time.
- To ensure each teacher is up to date with child drop off/collection procedures and arrangements.
- That the school community is aware of the appropriate drop off/collection procedures.
- To encourage children to take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of those around them.
- To ensure effective partnership between school and parents/carers.

## **Walking Home Alone**

This policy is devised for the general health and safety of children.

Parents who wish their child to walk home unescorted by an adult at the end of the school day 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 or after a regular club using the online form sent out in the Spring term of Y5 and again in Y6.
- Children should be in Year 6 or summer term in Year 5. Children younger than this are not permitted to walk home unaccompanied.
- It is the parents' 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. It is recommended that a single route is agreed.
- Parents must be certain that their child has an awareness and understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger. It is parents' 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.
- Preferably children should walk in a group and not alone.
- Children should know their at least one and preferably two emergency contact numbers.
- If you choose to provide your child with a mobile phone, you and your child need to have signed the Acceptable Use agreement, with all phones switched off when on site and handed to their child's teacher at the start of each day. Please note that from September 2025, we are a smartphone-free school and so expect the children to bring 'brick' phones if needed.
- As it is the parents' responsibility to ensure the child arrives home safely, there should be someone at home to meet the child upon their arrival.
- Any child must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes of the end of their school day. Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this age.

- If any child does not arrive home within a reasonable timeframe, parents must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken. It should be noted the office is only regularly staffed until 4pm and therefore, after that time, the parent should contact the relevant authorities directly if the child has not arrived home by the agreed time.
- If any child does not arrive home within a reasonable timeframe and direct contact with the child has not been established by either school or parents, the school will contact the relevant authorities. Should this happen, 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 authorities have been contacted, immediate notification to the relevant authorities/emergency services and school must be made. This is to enable these missing person procedures to be stood down.
- Once these procedures are initiated responsibility will pass to the relevant authority to further any enquiries. Both parents and the school will be guided by them in order that a successful outcome is achieved.

### **Walking home and school clubs**

Where consent is given for a child to walk home independently, this consent will apply for the usual school finish time (3pm) but also for any clubs that finish at 4pm. This consent does not apply to the afterschool club operated by Jousters.

If your child is registered for a club, then they are expected to attend that club each week. If you are not expecting them to attend and instead leave at 3pm, then for safeguarding reasons we need you to confirm this to us before they leave the site earlier than we expect (this is whether or not you have consented for them to leave the site on other days at 3pm).

Should a child be due to attend a club which is cancelled on the day, if you have given prior consent for your child to walk home, then your child will be released. If you have not provided consent, school will contact you for confirmation they can walk home. If no contact is made, the child will be permitted to leave school at 4pm as expected.

### **Walking to School alone**

Whilst the school is not responsible for your child's journey to school, we ask that you inform the school in writing if your child is walking to school unaccompanied.

### **Preparing your child to make an independent journey**

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 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 finding their way 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.
- They should not use a mobile phone whilst walking along and do not listen to music whilst crossing roads as it is difficult to be attentive to traffic noises
- Always cross at an intersection where there are traffic lights; do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively, cross in a place where approaching traffic can be seen 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 a pedestrian, even if they can see the driver.
- Remember that it is hard to judge the speed of a car so caution should be taken.
- Never, ever, follow someone who is either a stranger or someone who 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).

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 didn't want to do?
7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. Would they know who best to approach to get help?

**If you are not confident about how your child would react then you should 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 using the online form sent out in the Spring term of Y5 and Y6. Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given.

No child is permitted to play ball games, ride scooters or bikes or play on playground equipment in school grounds before or after school.

**Should a child's behaviour not be acceptable, either on or off school premises, you will be asked to accompany or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again. This is in line with the school's Behaviour Principles.**