



Endsleigh Holy Child Primary School

Year 5 & 6 Independent Walking Home Guidance

Safeguarding Statement

At Endsleigh Holy Child Primary School, the safety and welfare of our pupils is paramount. We recognise that as children grow older, some may be ready to travel home independently. This policy outlines the arrangements for pupils in Years 5 and 6 who have permission to walk home unaccompanied.

The school seeks to balance the development of independence with its safeguarding responsibilities and will only permit independent walking home where appropriate safeguards are in place.

1. Eligibility

Only pupils in Years 5 and 6 may be considered for permission to walk home independently.

Permission will only be granted where:

- A signed parental consent form has been received.
- The parent/carers believes their child is mature enough to travel safely.
- The school is satisfied that the arrangement is appropriate.
- There are no safeguarding concerns that would make independent travel unsuitable.

Permission may be withdrawn at any time if concerns arise regarding safety, behaviour, attendance or welfare.

2. NSPCC Guidance

The NSPCC states that there is no legal age at which a child can travel home from school alone. Decisions should be based on a child's maturity, confidence and ability to keep themselves safe.

The NSPCC advises:

"You should never leave a child alone who isn't ready or is unable to care for themselves."

The school acknowledges that every child develops at a different rate and therefore parental consent alone does not automatically grant permission. The school reserves the right to approve or refuse requests based on individual circumstances.

3. Parental Responsibilities

Parents/carers requesting permission for their child to walk home independently must:

- Complete and sign the school's Independent Walking Home Declaration Form.
- Ensure their child knows:
 - Their home address.
 - At least one emergency contact number.
 - The safest route home.
- Discuss road safety regularly.
- Ensure mobile phones (where carried) are charged and emergency numbers are saved.
- Inform the school immediately if arrangements change.

Parents/carers acknowledge that responsibility for their child transfers to them once the child has left the school site.

4. Pupil Safety Expectations

Pupils walking home independently must:

Road Safety

- Use designated crossings where available.
- Stop, look and listen before crossing roads.
- Avoid using mobile phones whilst crossing roads.
- Remain alert to traffic and surroundings.

Personal Safety

- Never accept lifts from strangers.
- Never enter a stranger's home or vehicle.
- Never share personal information with unknown individuals.

- Travel directly home unless alternative arrangements have been agreed by parents/carers.
- Contact a parent/carer or trusted adult if they feel unsafe.

Emergency Situations

Pupils should be taught that:

- If they feel worried or unsafe, they should contact a parent/carer or trusted adult immediately.
- If they believe they are in immediate danger, they should call 999.

5. School Procedures

The school will:

- Maintain a register of pupils authorised to walk home independently.
- Ensure relevant staff are aware of approved pupils.
- Release authorised pupils at the end of the school day.
- Monitor safeguarding concerns and review permissions where necessary.

The school's duty of supervision ends when the pupil leaves the school premises at the end of the school day.

6. Withdrawal of Permission

The school reserves the right to withdraw permission if:

- Safeguarding concerns arise.
- The pupil repeatedly fails to follow safety expectations.
- Parents fail to comply with agreed procedures.
- The school believes independent travel is no longer in the child's best interests.

7. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and forms part of the school's wider Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures.



SAFEGUARDING

Endsleigh Holy Child Primary School

YEARS 5 AND 6 WALKING HOME PERMISSION FORM

— Inspire • Learn • Achieve —

There is no legal age that a child can travel home from school alone.
This decision is based on your child's maturity and ability to keep themselves safe.

Permission is only granted for pupils in Years 5 and 6.

PUPIL DETAILS

Child's Full Name: _____ Year Group: ☐ 5 ☐ 6

Class/Teacher: _____

PARENT / CARER DECLARATION

I give permission for my child named above to walk home independently from Endsleigh Holy Child Primary School at the end of the school day.

I confirm that:



I have read and understood the school's Independent Walking Home Policy, which includes NSPCC guidance.

☐

I understand that there is no legal age for a child to walk home alone and that this decision is based on my child's maturity and ability to keep themselves safe.

☐

My child knows their home address, at least one emergency contact number and the safest route home.

☐

I have discussed road safety and personal safety with my child, including the use of mobile phones.

☐

I understand that if my child feels unsafe or uncomfortable, they should contact a trusted adult or call 999 in an emergency.

☐

I will inform the school immediately of any changes to these arrangements.

☐

I understand that permission may be withdrawn if safeguarding concerns arise or if my child does not follow the safety expectations.

☐

PARENT / CARER DETAILS

Parent/Carer Name: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Emergency Contact Number: _____

FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Permission Approved: ☐ Yes ☐ No Approved by (Headteacher/DSL): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Please inform the school before 2:00pm if collection arrangements change.