

**Policy on Safeguarding Pupils
Walking to and from School Alone**

Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
April 2019	March 2022	Mrs. L Evans	Micky Dixon

This policy sets out to support all the aims of the School by ensuring that all pupils are properly cared for in a warm and caring environment and in a position to access the education that the School aims to provide.

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/guardians 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.

While there is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own, we believe that pupils in year 3 and 4, in particular, should still be brought to and collected from school, however this is at the discretion of parents/guardians. Therefore, we believe that you as parents/guardians 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.

Pupils attending after school clubs (3.30-4.15pm)

If you wish for your child to walk home after the club has finished you need to give permission for this to happen by completing the form attached or writing to the school. Please also make sure that your child is aware that they will be walking home.

Pupils attending school discos / events

ALL children need to be collected at the end of the disco / event unless the school are given direct permission by the parent/guardian on the day of the disco / event. This can be in the form of a note or a phone call to the school Without this, no child will be able to walk home and parents/guardians will be contacted.

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 way 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, ever 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.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

Annually (or when the need arises) the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by the coordinator, the Headteacher and the nominated governor and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the Governors.

Signed by chair of governors on behalf of the governing body:

Date approved: 9th April 2019 (by full governing body)

Date of review: M a r c h 2 0 2 2

Signed by Head Teacher

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 Green today to Save Tomorrow it's the only way
 'We are all facets of a diamond and together we shine brightly'



Appendix 1 Llangewydd Junior School

After School Club Permission (This must be completed for all pupils who attend any after school club. Pupils will not be able to attend unless this form is completed). If at any time arrangements change, you must contact the school immediately.

To be completed by the co-ordinator for the club:

Name of Club: _____

Day of the week, start and finish time: _____

To be completed by the parent or guardian:

Name of child: _____ Year: _____

Please delete one of the following two statements:

I give permission for my child to attend the above named club and wish to inform you that my child will be met by a responsible individual when the club finishes at the time stipulated above.

I give permission for my child to attend the above named club and wish to inform you that my child will not be met when the club finishes and I give permission for them to walk home unaccompanied.

I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in the school's 'Policy on Safeguarding Pupils Walking to and from School Alone'. I fully understand that once I give permission for my child to walk home from school alone, the school is not responsible for my child's actions, or whereabouts, once they have left school premises. My child is under no obligation to attend the club on every week but I will make every effort to inform the school if my child is not able to attend for whatever reason. I recognise that while a register of attendees is always taken, non-attendance is not followed up by the co-ordinator as attendance is voluntary and to do so would render it impractical to hold the club.

Signed.....

(Name print).....

Date: (d/m/y)



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