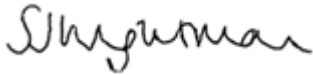


Children Leaving School Premises Policy

Reviewed by:	Jo Woodland
Review date:	July 2024
Distributed to:	All staff, governors & volunteers
Distribution date:	July 2024
Adopted at Governors' Meeting	July 2024
Signature of Chair of Governors:	
Next review date	Summer 2027

Barrow Primary School

Policy Aim – To safeguard pupils leaving school premises unescorted.

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.

Parents are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend regularly, but this in itself does not disallow independent travel.

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."

Below is our policy at Barrow for allowing children to independently travel home (or to another specified location)

Pupils in Foundation Stage or KS1 (Year 1 & 2)

Our school policy 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. 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.

If there has been no contact from parents and the children have still not been collected once the school is closed the Safeguarding Lead will be contacted and the staff will follow the guidance set out in the schools Late Collection Policy. This could lead to contacting Social Services.

Pupils in Lower KS2 (Years 3 & 4)

There is no set age when children are ready to leave the school premises unescorted. It very much depends upon their maturity and confidence. Therefore as regards pupils in LKS2 we believe that you as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for this responsibility. We would still highly recommend that pupils in years 3 and 4 are still brought to and collected from school.

If you would like your child to leave the premises unescorted and they are in Year 4, you must first discuss this with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). SLT will take into consideration the maturity of your child.

Pupils in Upper KS2 (Years 5 & 6)

As with the younger classes, children will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent/carer that they have made this arrangement. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents/carers contacted. If no one can be reached, the school will follow the guidance in the Late Collection Policy.

In deciding whether your child is ready to leave the premises unescorted 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 out and about and talking about: 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 navigate the local area 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.

Parents/carers of children who wish their children to leave the premises unescorted must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Children must be in Year 4, 5 or 6.
- It is the parent's/carer's 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.
- It remains at the parent's discretion and their daily duty of care to be aware and agree if their child is able to deviate from the route for whatever reason.
- Parents/carers must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger. It is parent's/carer's 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.

The school must be informed by parents/carers completing a proforma if they wish their child to leave the premises unescorted. Children will be prevented from leaving the premises unless this permission has been given in writing.

Please note, children must also be responsible for their behaviour at all times, this includes before and after school. **Should their behaviour not be acceptable they will need to be collected by parents/carers until they have proved they can be trusted again.**

IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE, PLEASE ENSURE THE SCHOOL IS NOTIFIED IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY.

Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross at clear open pavements; do not cross between parked cars. Alternatively cross in a place where you can see clearly in all directions.
- 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 a "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 unescorted?
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 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 Permission to leave the school unaccompanied form. Your child will be prevented from leaving school 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 be deemed a safeguarding risk you will be asked to accompany them to and from school until they have demonstrated they can be trusted again.**

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

Please complete the form attached and return to the office ASAP

Barrow Primary School

Permission for pupils to leave school unaccompanied

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school ASAP

Name of child:

Year:

- I wish to inform you that my child will be walking unescorted to/from school on regular basis. I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change.
- I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in 'Children Leaving School Premises Policy'.
- I understand that it is my responsibility and not the schools once my child has left the school premises.

Additional information:

Signed.....Relationship with child:

(Name print)..... Tel.....

Date: