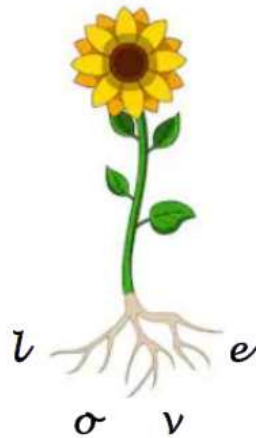


# North Stainley CE Primary School

*We are our school, we have our roots and foundation in  
love*



*Our school is us, we will grow, blossom and flourish.*

## Children Walking To/From School Alone and Collection of Children at Home time Policy

Policy agreed: 24.3.2021 **reviewed 9.3.2022**

Headteacher: *LE Wallen*

**Louise Wallen**

Chair of Governors:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nathaniel Potts'.

**Nathaniel Potts**

Policy to be reviewed: **March 2023**

## **Introduction**

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child arrives safely and on-time at school each morning. Where children walk to school it is understood by the school that parents ensure that their child takes the safest route to school as is possible and that they are accompanied to school by a responsible adult.

Parents are advised to talk to children about road safety even if children are accompanied to school by an adult.

In Year 5 and 6 parents may decide that their child is capable of walking to or from school without an adult, particularly if they live very close to the school and do not need to cross any major roads. The following guidelines set out the school's advice, policy and procedures should parents wish to consider allowing their child to walk to or from school without an adult.

## **Walking to School Without an Adult**

Although it is up to parents' discretion how children travel to school each day, the school recommends that all children in Year 4 and below are accompanied by an adult on the way to school and that Year 5 and 6 children only travel without an adult if the parent is fully satisfied that it is safe for them to do so. Parents/carers are asked to inform the school if their child will be regularly walking to school alone so that we can check their whereabouts should they not arrive at school at the appropriate time in the morning.

The school recognises a clear responsibility to contact parents if their child has not attended morning registration and no contact has been made by the parent to the school to inform the school of absence due to illness or other reason.

The school will therefore ensure that registers are checked and will then make attempts to contact the parent/carer to ascertain a reason for absence or to highlight that a child has not attended registration.

Contact will be sought with the parent/carer within 1 hour (maximum) of registers being taken and an absence without reason being noted by classroom staff.

Where a child has left their parent with the intention of walking to school but has not arrived and the school has made contact with the parent/carer and an issue of a missing child is therefore noted, the school will immediately contact the police to report a missing child. The school's designated senior lead for child protection (Mrs Louise Wallen) will then be immediately informed and safeguarding procedures for child protection will be followed. Parents are responsible for informing the school immediately should their child be unwell or otherwise unable to attend school.

## **Home time**

Parents who are collecting children from Classes 1 and 3 should wait in the playground for the teacher to send their child out to them. Parents of children in Class 2, who are taught in the village hall, should wait outside the classroom door until the teacher has released their child to them. Parents must not take their child without informing the teacher. It is important that both teacher and child know which adult will be collecting the child at the end of the school day, so please inform the school in advance of any changes. If a change is made without informing the school, it will be necessary to contact the parent for confirmation.

## **Walking Home from School without an Adult**

All children up to Year 4 must be collected at the end of the day. Children in Year 5 and 6 may go home on their own only if the parent has made an approved request to the school (see appendix). If the school has concerns about a particular child's ability to

travel safely or if the child lives too far away, permission for the child to travel home alone may be refused.

Parents therefore must make an informed decision that they are confident that their child is able to walk home sensibly and must be aware that they are responsible for their child's safety on their way from school even when they are not physically present. Parents are advised to consider the following before deciding whether to request permission for their child to walk home alone:

- How long is the journey?
- Are there any roads to cross and, if so, does your child know how to cross them safely?
- What time will your child be walking home? (It is recommended that children do not walk home in the dark or in failing light)
- Are you confident that your child is aware of safety rules around keeping themselves safe?
- Does your child have some friends to walk home with? If so, are you confident that they will walk together sensibly?

The school maintains a register of children who have permission to be dismissed by a member of staff at the end of the school day to walk home alone.

If a child has left the school to walk home alone but does not arrive home, the parent should contact the school in the first instance to seek clarification from the responsible adult as to when the child left the school site.

The school can then offer assistance to search for their child. It is recommended that the police are informed if the child is not traced within half an hour of this action being taken or indeed as soon as the parent or school deems police involvement is necessary.

We will maintain a register in school of children who have consent to walk home. Please ensure you are consistent and let us know in good time of any changes, as it is at times of uncertainty that incidents occur.

Please fill in and return both forms if your child is in Y5 or Y6 and you wish them to walk to school and /or home alone. A register will then be put together. Please let us know immediately of any changes.

## Information Form - Walking to School Without an Adult – Year 5 and 6 Only

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to North Stainley CE Primary School

NB There must be a separate form completed for each child for whom there is a request.

Name of child: .....

Class: .....

Date: .....

**1) I wish to inform you that my child will be walking without an accompanying adult to school on regular basis.**

2) I understand that the school will contact me if there are any concerns relating to my child walking to school alone.

3) I have taken reasonable precautions aimed at ensuring my child is safe including showing them the safest route, demonstrating the route to them and talking to them about road safety and stranger danger.

4) I understand that the school requires me to inform them if my child is absent from school for any reason.

5) I understand that the school will endeavour to make contact with me on the morning of registered absence if my child is absent from school and no notice (phone call or letter) has been received by the school.

Signed: .....

(Please print name): .....

Contact Number (parent): .....

## **Request Form – Walking Home from School Without an Adult – Year 5 and 6 Only**

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to North Stainley CE Primary School

NB There must be a separate form completed for each child for whom there is a request.

Name of child: .....

Class: .....

Date: .....

- 1) I wish to request permission for my child to walk home from school without an accompanying adult on a regular basis.
- 2) I have taken reasonable precautions aimed at ensuring my child is safe including showing them the safest route, demonstrating the route to them and talking to them about road safety and stranger danger, not allowing them to walk home alone in the dark.
- 3) I understand that the school may refuse permission for my child to walk home unaccompanied by an adult if it is deemed that it is not safe to do so (we will speak to you directly if this is the case).
- 4) I understand that the school will send written confirmation that my child has permission to walk home without an accompanying adult.
- 5) I understand that I have full responsibility for my child's safety if they walk home alone.
- 6) My child will be walking home after school at 3.30 and after any clubs at 4.30 (please delete if not appropriate)

Signed: .....

(Please print name): .....

Contact Number (parent): .....

Address (where the child will be walking to):  
.....  
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