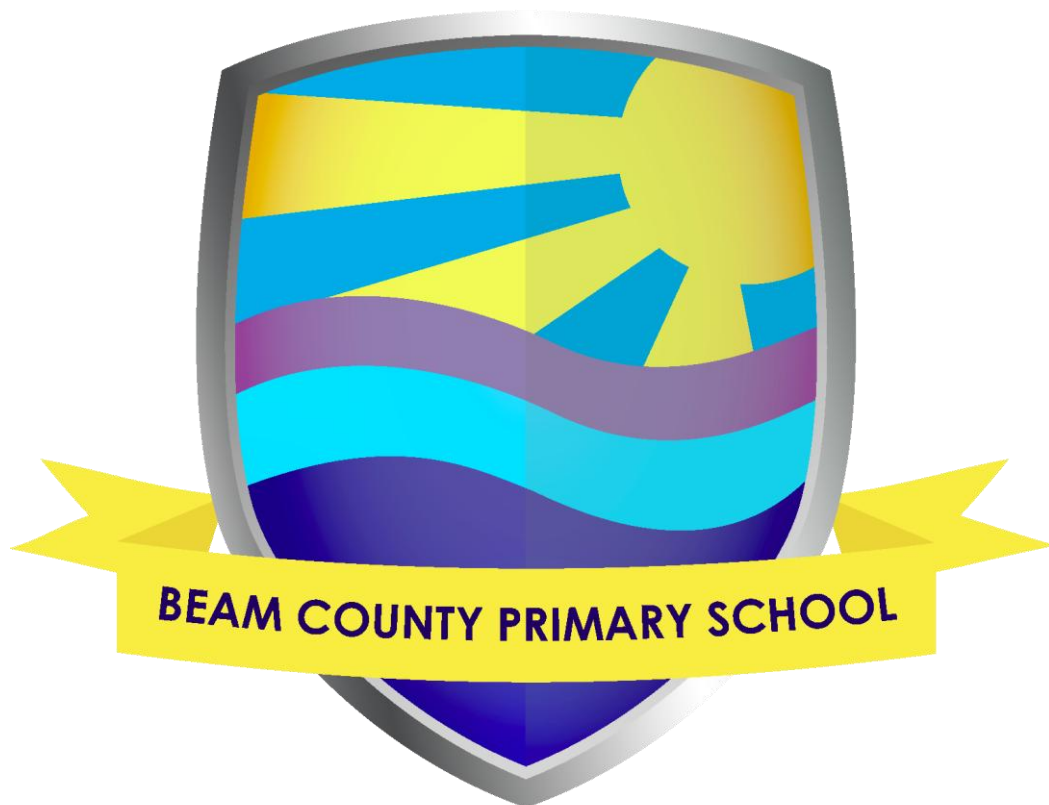


Safeguarding pupils walking to and from school alone

Beam County Primary School



Approved by:

Date:

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Next review due by:

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There are no laws around age of 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 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.

We are a Rights Respecting School and we follow the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which is an international human rights treaty that grants all children and young people (aged 17 and under) a comprehensive set of rights. This means that they are a child until their 18th birthday.

1. Pupils in Foundation Stage or KS1

Our agreed school policy is that no pupil in Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 pupil 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, staff are to hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings above the age of 16 years. Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent and that the adult collecting is able to give the child's collection password. If a younger sibling is to collect from school, the proforma needs to be completed with disclaimer regarding a sibling collecting a younger child. Please see Appendix A: Permission for another person under the age of 16 to pick up a child after school [Under 16 year old to pick up a child after school](#)

Parents are requested to keep the school informed of any changes in arrangements, preferably by letter. If no one turns up to collect a child, they will be kept in school and parents and named contacts on the emergency contact sheets will be contacted. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings unless the relevant proforma has been signed and agreed by the headteacher. Please see Appendix A: Permission for another person under the age of 16 to pick up a child after school. [Under 16 year old to pick up a child after school](#)

2. Pupils in KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6)

There is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own. Our policy is that pupils in years 3 and 4 are to be accompanied or collected by parents unless you write a letter seeking permission for your child to leave the school premises unaccompanied. Parents of children who wish their

children to walk home unescorted by an adult, at the end of the school day (3:15pm and 3:20pm), must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Children must be in year 5 or 6.
- It is the parent'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. Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas are to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed.
- If a parent/carer is meeting their child enroute or at a specific point, they will be classified as a home walker. If this is the case, parents are responsible for ensuring that their children know what to do in the event that the parent/carer is not there to meet them.
- Parents must be certain that the children have an awareness and understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger. It is parent'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.
- Children should preferably walk in a group and not alone.
- There must be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival.
- Any child must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes of the end of the school day (3:15pm and 3:20pm). Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this stage.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe, parents must be immediately notifying the school in order that appropriate action can be taken, which may include contacting the emergency services.
- Children should know their emergency contact phone number.
- Pupils must wait to be dismissed from their line by their teacher as a home-walker group.

The school must be informed by parents completing the proforma if they wish their child to walk home. Pupils are to be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing. See Appendix B: Disclaimer for Year 5 or Year 6 pupil to walk home alone [Permission for Home Walking - Years 5 & 6 Academic Year 2025-26](#)

Pupils must also be responsible for their behaviour at all times, this includes before and after school. Should their behaviour not be acceptable they will be asked to be accompanied or collected by parents until they have proved they can be trusted again.

If your child is attending an extra- curricular activities, then we request that all children attending these sessions are collected by an adult on time. Failure to collect children punctually from these activities could lead to activities being withdrawn. If they are a home-walker, they will be dismissed as a group from the teacher at the end of the club.

3. Babysitters under 16

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) has produced guidance for parents on employing babysitters.

It advises that no one under 16 is employed to care for babies or toddlers, and that parents should "think about all possible eventualities (i.e. do a risk assessment)" before allowing someone under 16 to look after their children.

The guidance adds that if parents employ a babysitter aged under 16, they need to take responsibility for anything that might happen to either their child or the babysitter in their absence, and that parents could be charged with negligence if something goes wrong.

Appendix A: Permission for another person under the age of 16 to pick up a child after school

[Under 16 year old to pick up a child after school](#)

Appendix B: Disclaimer for Year 5 or 6 pupil to walk home alone

[Permission for Home Walking - Years 5 & 6 Academic Year 2025-26](#)