



Mullion School Policy

Children Walking/Cycling to and from School Alone Policy

Agreed Date - March 2019
Review Date - March 2022

Introduction

It is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure their child arrives safely and promptly to school each morning. Whilst walking to school it is understood that parents/carers ensure their child takes the safest route possible.

Parents may decide that their child is capable of walking/cycling to school independently. If this is the case, parents/carers make the informed decision that they are responsible for their child's safety on their journey to school, even if they are not physically present. If travelling by bike it is advised that parents/carers ensure their child is fully conversant with road safety, the bike is road worthy and appropriate safety equipment is used.

The following guidelines set out Mullion School's advice, policy and procedures should parents/carers wish to allow their child to walk to or from school without an adult. This also applies to parents/carers who wish their child to meet them outside the school gates and leave the premises unaccompanied e.g. to walk down the alleyway to meet you in a car. It also applies to children leaving school after clubs.

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to assess the route the child will walk to and from school to ensure they are confident their child has the ability to walk alone safely. Crossing busy main roads and walking through secluded areas is discouraged. It is also advised that parents/carers give each child their own home phone number and other emergency contact numbers.

Safeguarding is paramount and parents/carers need to ensure their child is fully aware of stranger danger and how to report any concerns to an appropriate adult.

Should a parent/carer wish to allow their child to walk to and from school unaccompanied by an adult, parents/carers are asked to inform the school by completing/updating the **walk/cycle to and from school alone consent form**. A register will then be compiled of key children to identify should a child not arrive at school at the appropriate time in the morning.

It is essential that written consent is provided by the parent/carer to authorise independent travel to and from the school. The walking/cycling alone consent form must contain all emergency contact numbers and the parent/carer must notify the school and update the consent form in the event of any changes.

A walk/cycle to and from school alone consent form is available from the school office or the school website.

If the school has concerns about a particular child's ability to travel safely or if a child lives too far away or more than 15 minutes away permission for the child to walk home alone may be refused.

There must always be an appropriate adult/parent/carer at home to meet the child on their arrival. Parents/carers need to be aware when walking /cycling alone the school will not know if a child arrives home as planned. Hence, the parent/carer needs to ensure adequate safety protocols are in place should an emergency/accident arise.



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If the school feels the welfare and safety of the child walking/cycling to and from school is compromised the school may revoke the arrangement and will notify parents/carers accordingly.

It is recommended that ONLY children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 be allowed to walk/cycle to and from school unaccompanied by an adult and only then if the parent/carer is confident that it is safe for them to do so.

As the responsible body receiving children from home at the start of the day, the school will ensure that morning registrations are taken in each class. If a child is found to be absent and no prior notice of such absence has been received from the child's parent/carer, the school recognises a clear responsibility to contact the parent/carer to ascertain the reason for absence or highlight that a child has not attended morning registration.

It is the parent/carers responsibility to inform school should their child be unable to attend school for any reason in accordance with the school attendance policy. If a child who walks/cycles to school unattended is not in school, contact will be sought with the parent/carer within 30 minutes of morning registration taking place and an absence without reason being noted by the classroom staff.

If upon contact, it is confirmed that a child has left home with the intention of walking/cycling to school but has not arrived and therefore an issue of a missing child is noted, the school will contact the police immediately. The school's designated senior person for safeguarding/child protection will then be immediately informed and safeguarding procedures for child protection/children missing procedures will be followed.