



Policy Header

Policy Title	Children travelling to and from school.
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Linked Policies	Child Protection and safeguarding policy Attendance policy
Written By	School
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'Growing together at the **heart** of God's Community'

Trust Prayer:



"Growing together at the heart of God's community"



*We thank you, God of Love, for the gift of children,
bless the work of our Trust, that in all we do
young people may grow in wisdom and stature,
and so come to know you,
to love you and to serve you,
as Jesus did.*

*We make our prayer in his name who is God
with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.*

Amen



"Growing together at the heart of God's community"



Children travelling to and from school Policy & Guidance

School values central to life in our community

At Glazebury CE Primary our core values of **Love and Wisdom** are at the centre of all that we do and all that we are. We feel that the values of friendship, truthfulness, hope, peace, creation, trust, compassion, justice, humility and forgiveness are fundamental to the growth of all.

Love never fails, 1 Corinthians 8:13

For the Lord gives **wisdom** : from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.
Proverbs 2:6

Intent:

The HEART of our Curriculum:

H – Helping children prepare for life, growing with God.

E – Embracing Christian Values.

A – Achievement for all.

R – Reading at the heart of our school

T – Teaching a knowledge rich curriculum.

Rationale:

Guidance informs that if a school is aware that parents are allowing an older sibling to look after a younger child, it would be good practice to provide information to parents/carers to assist in safe decision making about any such arrangements.

There is no legal set age that children can walk to and from school independently or left on their own. However, it is an offence to leave a child alone if it places them at risk and therefore schools have a continual obligation to alert authorities if they believe this is the case. This theoretically could include the journey to and from school.

Further guidance produced by the NSPCC states that children under the age of 8 cannot judge speed and distance of moving vehicles. The NSPCC website information is very clear, and also contains a section for parents on "Keeping your child safe". For further information please visit the NSPCC website at www.ncpcc.org.uk



The department of Education indicates that it is for each school to decide on their own pupil collection policy. The school is not responsible for the safety of children before the school day starts or once the school day is over and the child has left the school premises.

Implementation:

Glazebury CE Primary has developed its own policy regarding this and wishes to provide clarity for parents/carers that require their child/ren to walk to school and/or from school to home alone. This also concerns those to be collected by a sibling or other responsible party. The policy reflects the values of the school and importantly addresses the safeguarding of our children.

Allowing your child to walk home alone

The school **will not** permit any child **under Year 6** to walk home alone, in all circumstances a responsible person, usually a parent or carers, or someone authorised by the parent/carer and known to the school should collect the child at the end of the school day.

Year 6: With prior consent being given through our "Walking unaccompanied consent form" (Appendix 1) by parents/carers, will the child be permitted to walk home alone.

Assessing whether your child is ready to walk home alone

It is a natural question as parents to ask ourselves " When do I give my child some independence?" " At what age should I let my child walk home alone?"

The answer unfortunately is not a straight forward one, A child does not become confident, assertive, and responsible at a predetermined age. In reality, the development of a child to gain confidence and become responsible is a gradual process over time, where each child gains experiences that supports this. As a parent this reflection of your child's capabilities lies with your knowledge of your child and the journey to and from school.

Drop off and collection of children by older siblings

If it is not deemed safe for a child to walk home alone unaccompanied, it is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure the child is dropped off and collected by a responsible person.

There is no set age set in law when a young person is allowed to remain in charge of another child, however it is an offence to leave a child alone if it places them at risk. This can include in the care of an older sibling if the level of supervision is "likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health" (Children and Young Persons Act 1933). Therefore parent/carers must understand and be prepared to take responsibility



for anything that should go wrong on their absence. They are also responsible for the care and safety of the eldest child, even while that child is acting in a caring role for younger siblings.

Please note that children are not allowed in the playground in the morning without an adult or responsible person present.

If parents give permission for older siblings to collect or drop off younger children this should be recorded by completing a form. (Appendix 1)

If the school has any concern that the older sibling are not competent to take siblings to and from school or there are concerns about any child's safety or welfare due to these arrangements; this must be raised with parent (ideally in advance of collection- this may not always be possible) and if alternative arrangements are not made, a safeguarding referral made to Children's services where necessary.

The school has set out in this policy the minimum age at which an older sibling can collect or drop off a younger sibling as 14 years of age. The school has a right to refuse any person under this age permission to collect a pupil from the school's premises.

The suitability of a sibling caring for a younger child needs to be considered on and case by case basis, underpinned by a judgement of the potential risks of this arrangement, the maturity of the child collecting and being collected, the length and nature of the journey home, the behaviour and relationship of children collecting and being

If the office receive information from parent/carer via verbal message or email that someone else is collecting their child ie: another adult different than the usual contact or their child is going home with a friends parents. This information will be recorded on a going home slip which will be passed to the class teacher (appendix 2)

Extra Curricular activities

The same procedures outlined in this policy can be expanded for the drop off and collection at Breakfast club or extended school activities. Where the activities are provided by school. Safeguarding concerns will be reported to the DSL/Head Teacher and therefore, if the school or club leader has any concern that the older sibling are not competent to take siblings to and from school or there are concerns about any child's safety or welfare due to these arrangements; this must be raised with parent (ideally in advance of collection- this may not always be possible) and if alternative arrangements are not made, a safeguarding referral made to Children's services where necessary.

External organisations



If an activity is provided by an external organisation, it is the responsibility of that organisation to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns, including those arising from drop off and collection issues. The school should ensure that as part of any service level agreement or provision within school that the organisation has confirmed that;

- Level 1 safeguarding children training has taken place and been completed by staff
- A child protection policy is in place.

Right to refuse a parent or carer to collect a child

There are sometimes factors that may affect a parent or carers ability to care for and look after a child and ensure and provide a safe environment for them.

The use of drugs /alcohol or the presence of mental health difficulties does not necessarily mean that the parents/carers are uncaring, incompetent or unable to offer safe care to their children. However, if the extent of the parents/carers own needs mean they cannot keep the child safe from harm, then a safeguarding referral to Children's services will be required and school safeguarding procedures must be adhered to. Drugs in this context may refer to all drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.

If an adult with parental responsibility presents to school that there is a suggestion that they are unable to offer safe care, steps according to the child protection and safeguarding policy must take place.

In case of such a concern, the child/ren should be retained by school whilst awaiting advise of other agencies i.e. Children's services and/or Police. Schools DO NOT have a legal authority to retain a child against the parent/carers will, so may require a call to the Police if the child is considered to be in immediate risk of danger.

Equal opportunities

Provision is made for all children in our care regardless of ability, disability, additional needs, medical conditions, gender, faith or ethnicity. Reasonable adjustments will be made in a range of ways, all children deserve the right to be treated equally.

Impact: H.E.A.R.T.

What we want all to achieve.

- For our children to be guided in preparing for life by recognising independence as appropriate
- For parents /carers to be assisted with clear information regarding the schools policy on children walking to and from school



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- For staff, parents and governors to have a clear structure to safeguard all children.



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Appendix 1

Dear Parents and Carers

The welfare and security of your children is paramount, in line with our "Children walking to and from school Policy" and our "Attendance policy" please can you fill in the form below to inform school of drop off/ collection arrangements, to ensure consent is acquired and recorded.

Many thanks for your understanding.

Kind Regards

Karen Mowbray

Head Teacher

Parental consent

Academic Year :

With effect from: (Date)

I give permission for:

Year group:

To walk home unaccompanied on the following days: (Please tick)

Days	Walking home
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

For an older sibling to drop off and/or collect (14years or over)

Days	Drop off	Collection
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		

Name of person dropping off:

Name of person collecting:



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Please return to school office when completed.

Appendix 2:

Glazebury CE Primary School- Going Home Slip

Child's name	
Class	
Day & Date:	
Being collected by:	
Password	
Message received from	