Staining C of E Primary School Safeguarding Children Walking to and from School Alone Policy

As a school we are responsible for the welfare of our children and therefore have to consider what we believe is good practice in ensuring the safety of our children.

There are no laws around age 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."

Children in Foundation Stage or KS1

Our agreed school policy is that no child 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 children to named adults. Children 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 to collect younger siblings from Foundation Stage or KS1.

Children in Years 3, 4 and 5

There is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own. It very much depends upon their maturity and confidence. We believe children in Years 3, 4 & 5 should still be brought to and collected from school by parents/other designated adults and this is our school policy.

Children in Year 6

With regard to children in Year 6, a parent/other designated adult should still bring children in Year 6 to school however we believe that there is merit in parents considering children's developing independence and preparing and supporting children in their transition to high school. We support children in Year 6, walking to and from school based on parents assessing the risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. We expect that parents will work with their children to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness. Considering seasonal daylight and weather conditions, our preference would be that children are brought to and from school by a parent/designated adult until the summer term.

Children attending before or after school activities including Breakfast & ASCC

Where children are attending before and after school club or other activities, school would expect that a parent or designated adult will drop off or collect. Any child attending will not be allowed to walk to or from these activities.

Teach your child to:

• Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.

• Always cross where there are traffic lights or on the designated crossing; do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively cross in a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Avoid parked cards or bends in the road.

• 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 "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 straight home?

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 the responsibility of walking to and from school then you must inform the school by completing the form which can be collected from the school office.

Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given.

Your child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst on school premises and whilst walking to and from school. Should their behaviour be deemed a safeguarding risk or do not reflect our school values and behaviour ethos, you will be asked to make an arrangement for them to be accompanied to and from school with a parent/designated adult until they have demonstrated that they can be trusted again.

If at any time, you need to change arrangements you have made please ensure that you let us know in writing immediately.