



Collection from School / Home to School Travel Policy

At Ashgate Primary School, we understand and support the natural parental desire to foster **independence and responsibility** in their children. We believe that empowering pupils with appropriate levels of autonomy, including decisions about their journey to and from school, is a valuable part of their development. This policy outlines how we aim to balance this support for growing independence with our unwavering commitment to ensuring the **safety and well-being** of every child in our care.

It's important to note that guidance provided by the Department for Education (DfE), including their "Home-to-School Travel" statutory guidance, **does not stipulate a legal age** at which a child can walk home independently. Instead, the DfE acknowledges that **schools are entitled to establish their own policies** regarding pupil collection and independent travel, taking into account the unique context of their pupils and community.

Collection from School Policy Statement

This policy outlines the procedures for the safe and orderly collection of pupils from Ashgate Primary School. Our primary aim is to ensure the safety and well-being of all children in our care, both during and at the end of the school day.

General Principles

All pupils in Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 4 must be collected by a designated, responsible adult or responsible person (see Collection by Older Siblings). Parents/carers must inform the school of any changes to collection arrangements in advance. Unauthorised adults will not be permitted to collect children.

Should you request that an adult unknown to the school collects your child, you must inform the office in advance so that a password procedure is enacted to ensure safe collection.

Independent Travel to and from school (Years 5 and 6)

In line with the Department for Education's "Home-to-School Travel" statutory guidance, which places responsibility on parents for their child's safe journey to and from school, we acknowledge that older primary pupils may demonstrate the maturity and competence to travel independently.

Therefore, pupils in **Years 5 and 6** may be considered for permission to walk home independently, subject to the following strict conditions:



- **Parental Agreement and Responsibility:** A formal request form must be submitted by the parent/carer, confirming their agreement and recognition of their responsibilities for their child's safety once they leave the school premises.
- **School and Co/Headteacher Agreement:** Permission will be granted at the discretion of the school and Co/Headteacher.
- **Risk Assessment:** The school retains the right to deny permission if, following a risk assessment, it determines that the pupil, the prevailing conditions (e.g., severe weather), or other relevant factors present an unreasonable risk to the child's safety when travelling independently. This could include, but not exclusively, if the distance is excessive, involves public transport, dangerous road crossings or the time elapse between school and home meaning the potential of a child going missing and this not being identified promptly. This assessment will also consider the child's maturity, road safety awareness, and the specific route.

The school has the right to refuse a request independent travel if it is felt that the arrangements made are deemed a safeguarding risk or if the child is not deemed mature enough to manage challenges

Collection by Older Siblings

We understand that families may wish for an older sibling to collect their child from school. This is permissible under the following conditions:

- The collecting sibling must be of secondary school age.
- **School Discretion and Risk Assessment:** The school retains the right to deny this request if, following a risk assessment, it believes that allowing the older sibling to collect poses an unreasonable risk to the safety or welfare of either the collecting sibling or the younger pupil(s). Factors considered may include the age and maturity of the older sibling, the number of younger children being collected, and any specific needs of the children involved.
- As a general expectation, children in Early Years Foundation and Key Stage 1 will not be released to siblings unless specific permission has been granted following a letter accepting responsibility by the parent.

Late Collection

Parents/carers are expected to collect their children promptly at the end of the school day. In the event of unforeseen delays, parents/carers must inform the school as soon as possible. Persistent late collection may result in a review of collection arrangements.

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains effective and in line with current guidance and best practice.

This policy will be reviewed annually or where required. This is a non-statutory policy and relates to operational matters; therefore, does not require Governor ratification.