

Stanhope Barrington C of E
Primary School



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Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

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Dear Parent/Carer

5th September 2023

Re: Children Walking Home Alone

It is school policy to permit our older children to walk home from school alone (without being collected by an adult) so long as we have a request in writing from parents. Children in year groups younger than Year 5 should not walk home alone.

Last term a number of parents made requests regarding younger children walking home alone and we have taken advice on this issue.

There is no legal age at which a child can walk home alone (or indeed be left at home alone). This is a parent/carer decision. However, it is a legal requirement that parents/carers ensure that their child is capable of keeping themselves safe if alone before making this decision and that they accept full responsibility for this decision.

Advice and guidance is provided by the NSPCC as follows:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/staying-safe-away-from-home/>

They offer advice for parents on leaving children home alone here:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/leaving-child-home-alone/>

The key message from the NSPCC is that parents/carers should assess the risk to a child in determining whether they are safe to walk home alone. Our Class Teachers are more than happy to discuss this decision with you if you would like further support in making this decision. Obviously, every child and every circumstance is unique and any response from the school will be on this basis.

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If you want your child to walk home alone at the end of the school day, you must obtain a form from the school office or download it from our website, complete and return it before your child will be allowed to leave the school site alone.

Please also note that children can only be collected by adults you have named and are recorded on our system. If there is any change to the person who normally collects your child you must inform the school office.

I am sure you will appreciate that we must have clear safeguarding procedures in place regarding the end of the school day in order to ensure that all of our children remain safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross

Mrs D Cross
Head Teacher

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