Sproatley Endowed Church of England
Walking and Cycling Home Policy

Date: September 2026

Review Date: September 2029

Review Period: Every 3 years or earlier if considered necessary

To be reviewed by: Local Governing Body

Parents and carers are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend school on time every day unless they are ill or there are exceptional circumstances, but this in itself does not disallow independent travel. However as a school we are responsible for the welfare of our pupils and therefore have to consider what we believe is good practice in ensuring the safety of our pupils. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Pupils in Foundation Stage or KS1

Our agreed school policy is that only pupils in Year 6 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 pupils to named adults or named older siblings provided they are 16 years or over with written consent from parents to say they are authorised to take the child home. Pupils 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, preferably by letter or e-mail. If no one turns up to collect a child they will be kept in school and parents contacted. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings.

Year 6 Children

If your child is in Year 6, you can give written permission that they can walk or cycle home on their own. As parents, you know your child and decide whether your child is ready for this responsibility.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk/cycle to or from school you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. Work with your children to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

As Year 6 children prepare to transition to secondary school, learning to walk home independently is a major milestone. This practice helps pupils to build essential life safety skills like road safety, time management and boosting confidence, making the big step up to secondary school feel much more

manageable and exciting.

There are lots of ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. The best way to do this is to walk/cycle with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, cycling on a road where appropriate, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic in preparation for walking/cycling with friends or alone when they are older.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:

- Do you trust them to walk/cycle straight home?
- Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
- Are they road safety aware?
- Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
- Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?
- Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they didn't want to do?
- Would they know what to do if they needed help?
- Would they know who best to approach to get help?
- Is the journey time appropriate for children to walk at their age?

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.

Parents / carers of children who wish them to walk/cycle from school unescorted by an adult must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Parents must have signed a consent form in school for their Year 6 child to walk/cycle from school immediately after school or after an after school club. Please consider light when giving permission for your child to walk or cycle in winter months.
- Parents must collect all children after events during the evening (for example, school disco), regardless of whether their child has permission to walk/cycle home immediately after school or a school club.

- Parents must collect children if they are taken ill during school time, regardless of whether their child has permission to walk/cycle home immediately after school or a school club.

- It is the parent's responsibility to check the route that their children may walk/cycle home in order that they may make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey. Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas is to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed.

- Parents must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of road safety and stranger danger.

- It is the parent's responsibility to ensure they are sufficiently happy that their child is capable of undertaking the proposed journey safely.

- During winter months and/or inclement weather, children must be dressed appropriately.

- Children should preferably walk in a group and not alone.

- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe set by parents, parents must immediately notify the authorities and the school in order that appropriate action can be taken.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility and you agree with the guidelines set out above then please complete the appropriate consent form. Children in Year 6 will not be able to walk/cycle home unless this permission has been given in writing.

Your child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst on the school premises either before or after school. Should their behaviour not be acceptable you will be asked to accompany or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again.

IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE PLEASE ENSURE YOU LET US KNOW IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY.

Sproatley Endowed Church of England Academy

Year 6 Walking/Cycling To And From School Agreement

Child's Name:

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- **I give permission for my child to walk/cycle home from school unaccompanied after school at 3.30pm.**
- **I have read the school's 'Walking/Cycling To and From School' policy and agree to abide by the guidelines set out.**
- **I understand that my child is my responsibility outside of school hours (walking/cycling to and from school).**
- **I understand that if my child brings in a mobile phone, it will be the responsibility of my child at all other times and will be handed in to the office for safe keeping in school.**

Signed: …… Date:……..……

Relationship to child: ……..