



Newtown C of E Primary School

Walking Home Alone Policy

Ratification Date:	September 2019	Signed: Mrs Emma Howlett (HEADTEACHER) Mrs Janet Cane (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)
Reviewed	October 2023	Signed: Mrs Emma Howlett (HEADTEACHER) Mrs Glynis Wright (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)
Reviewed	September 2025	Signed: Mrs Emma Howlett (HEADTEACHER) Mrs Glynis Wright (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)
Next review:	September 2027	

School Vision

At Newtown C of E Primary School, our motto is enriched and sustained by our Christian values of **Love, Courage and Friendship**, rooted in the teachings of the Bible. We are guided by the call to *“love one another as I have loved you”* (John 13:34), *“be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”* (Joshua 1:9), and *“a friend loves at all times”* (Proverbs 17:17).

As a school at the heart of an evolving community, we warmly welcome children and families from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. We are enriched by the unique qualities each child brings and value the talents and perspectives that help us grow together.

We are an aspirational school serving our community. We seek to know, understand and celebrate every child, nurturing their individual strengths and talents. We prepare our children to become confident, responsible global citizens in an ever-changing world, guided by our core values of love, courage and friendship.

Through **Love**, we show kindness, compassion and generosity, building a community where everyone feels safe, welcomed and valued. Through **Courage**, we persevere, meet challenge with confidence, and stand up for what is right with honesty and grace. Through **Friendship**, we grow together — encouraging one another, celebrating each other’s gifts, and looking to the future with hope and aspiration.

We live out these values by:

- Being a caring, welcoming and inclusive Christian community where staff, pupils, parents and governors work together in a safe and supportive environment, inspired by *“Above all, love each other deeply”* (1 Peter 4:8)
- Promoting the welfare and dignity of every child, safeguarding them from harm — including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying — in accordance with statutory guidance in *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (Department for Education)
- Providing a rich, engaging curriculum that equips children with the knowledge, skills and character to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens, reflecting Christian teachings and British Values

- Building strong, positive partnerships with parents, the church and the wider community, and encouraging participation in local, national and global initiatives
- Fostering our Learning Behaviours of Resilience, Focus, Independence, Self-Regulation, Respect and Boundaries, encouraging children to act with integrity, perseverance and kindness in all they do

At Newtown, we want every child to know they belong, are cherished, and are capable of great things. Through **Love, Courage and Friendship**, we grow minds, shape futures and journey together in hope.

Introduction

This policy has been devised for the general health and safety of children in conjunction with the Newtown C of E Primary School's Safeguarding Policy and the most recent Keeping Children Safe in Education document from the DfE.

There are no laws around age or distance of walking to and from school alone. 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 EYFS, KS1 and lower KS2 (Years 3 & 4)

Our agreed school policy is that no pupils in the Foundation Stage, KS1 or lower KS2 (Years 3 and 4) should walk to or from school on their own or be left on the school playground either before or after school.

In addition, we will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided that are 14 years old or above.

Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless they are on the contact list on the child's record. If another adult is collecting your child, please telephone the school office to obtain a code. The nominated adult must present that code to the class teacher or the child will not be released into their care.

We ask that you keep us informed of any changes to emergency contacts and to keep us informed early of any changes to arrangements.

If nobody turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and the parents contacted. At 3:30pm, each child not collected will be taken to the school's After School Club *Busy Bees*. Parents will be charged for this session should the child remain uncollected after 3:45pm (more than 30mins from the end of the school day).

Pupils in upper KS2 (Years 5 & 6)

Parents of children who wish them to walk home unescorted by an adult at the end of the school day (3:15pm), must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Parents must have completed a *Permission to Walk Home Alone* form, available from the school office. This permission will be recorded on our school's management information system.
- Children must be in Years 5 or 6.
- It is the parent's responsibility to check the route that their children may walk home in order that they may make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey. The crossing of fast roads and walking through secluded areas is to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed.
- Parents must be certain the children have an awareness and understanding of the green cross code 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.
- Children should know their home telephone number and one other emergency contact and ideally should have their own mobile phone to use should they need to call for assistance whilst walking home.
- There must be someone at home to meet the child on his or her arrival.
- Any child must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes of the end of the school day (3pm). Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this stage.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe, parents must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe and either the school or parents have not established direct contact with the child, the school will instigate the missing person's procedure in conjunction with the relevant authorities.
- If the missing persons procedure is initiated there must be a point of contact remaining at both the home and school locations until further advised by the relevant authorities.
- If your child does arrive home after the missing person procedure has been instigated, immediate notification to the relevant authorities/emergency services and school must be made. This is to enable the missing person's procedure to be stood down.
- Once the missing person procedure is initiated, responsibility will pass to the relevant authority to further any enquiries. Both parents and the school will be guided by them in order that a successful outcome is achieved.

School Discos and Other Events

Please note at school discos and other special events (e.g. children helping at school fayres), which end later than 3:15pm, all children regardless of age or year group, must be collected by a known adult. Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless they are on the contact list on the child's record. If another adult is collecting your child, please telephone the school office to obtain a code. The nominated adult must present that code to the class teacher or the child will not be released into their care, as per the procedure above.

Extra – Curricular Clubs (e.g. football, gymnastics, art club)

If a child attends an extra-curricular club and this ends at 4:15/4:30pm, pupils in years 4 and below will be collected by a known adult and the policy will apply as in section entitled **Pupils in EYFS, KS1 and lower KS2 (Years 3 & 4)**.

If pupils in years 5 and 6 wish to walk home from an extra-curricular club, which ends at 4:15pm/4:30pm and have permission to do so and this is recorded on our school management information system, children will be released to walk home alone from school as per the section entitled **Pupils in upper KS2 (Years 5 & 6)**. If no permission is recorded, the child must be collected by a known adult. If another adult is collecting your child, please telephone the school office to obtain a code. The nominated adult must present that code to the class teacher or the child will not be released into their care, as per the procedure above.

Notes

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