

Broom Barns Primary School



A Guide for Parents

**Children walking to/from
school alone and collection
of children at home time**

Introduction

Parents must take full responsibility and care to ensure that their child arrives safely at school each morning. Where children walk to school it is understood by the school that parents ensure that their child takes the safest route to school as is possible and that they are accompanied to and from school by a responsible adult.

Parents are advised to talk to children about road safety even if children are accompanied to school by an adult.

In year 5 and 6 of Primary School, parents may decide that their child is capable of walking to or from school alone, particularly if they live very close to the school and do not need to cross any roads. The following guidelines set out the school's advice, policy and procedures should parents wish to consider allowing their child to walk to or from school or part of the way (e.g. to the school gate) without an adult.

Definition for purposes of this policy~ Responsible Adult - The parent or an adult known to the class teacher who has been given this responsibility by the parents and school has been informed of this. An adult for this purpose is age 16 and over.

Walking to School Without an Adult

Although it is up to parents' discretion how children travel to school each day, the school recommends that all children in Year 4 and below are accompanied by an adult on the way to school and that Year 5 and 6 children only travel without an adult if the parent is fully satisfied that it is safe for them to do so. Parents/carers are asked to inform the school if their child will be regularly walking to school alone so that a register can be compiled should they not arrive at school at the appropriate time in the morning.

Parents/Carers must accept responsibility of informing the school of their child's absence before registration (8.50am).

Parents/Carers should take reasonable precautions aimed at ensuring their child is safe including showing them the safest route, demonstrating the route to them and talking to them about road safety and stranger danger before allowing them to walk on their own.

The school recognises a clear responsibility to contact parents if their child has not attended morning registration and no contact has been made by the parent to the school to inform the school of absence due to illness or other reason. The school will therefore ensure that registers are checked and will then make attempts to contact the parent/carer to ascertain a reason for absence or to highlight that a child has not attended registration.

Contact will be sought with the parent/carer within 1 hour (maximum) of registers being taken and an absence without reason being noted by classroom staff.

Where a child has left their parent with the intention of walking to school but has not arrived and the school has made contact with the parent/carer and an issue of a missing child is therefore noted, the school will immediately contact the police to report a missing child. The school's designated senior person for child protection will then be immediately informed and safeguarding procedures for child protection will be followed. Parents are responsible for informing the school immediately should their child be unwell or otherwise unable to attend school.

Home time

Parents who are collecting children from classes in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 should wait near the classroom door and wait for the teacher to call them to collect their child. Parents must not take their child without informing the teacher. It is important that both teacher and child know which adult will be collecting the child at the end of the school day so please inform the school in advance of any changes. If a change is made without informing the school, it will be necessary to contact the parent for confirmation.

Year 4 children are generally trusted to find their parent themselves on the playground. However if a child has special needs or there are particularly safety concerns relevant to a particular child other arrangements can be made. Parents should discuss this with their child's class teacher. Children are regularly reminded that if they cannot find their parent on the playground that they come back into school and should never leave school site.

The school day ends at 3.15pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children and 3.20pm for Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 children - children are expected to be collected promptly. The school will place any child who is not collected within 10 minutes of the end of the day the 'Failure to Collect a Child and Late Collection Policy' will be followed.

<https://broombarns.herts.sch.uk/our-school/policies/>

Walking Home from School Without an Adult – Year 5 and 6 only

All children from Nursery to Year 4 must be collected at the end of the day by a known adult. Children in Year 5 and 6 may go home on their own only if the parent has made an approved request to the school.

See online form number 2 at: <https://broombarns.herts.sch.uk/parents/forms/>

If the school has concerns about a particular child's ability to travel safely or if the child lives too far away, permission for the child to travel home alone may be refused. Parents therefore must make an informed decision that they are confident that their child is able to walk home sensibly and must be aware that they are responsible for their child's safety on their way from school even when they are not physically present. Parents are advised to consider the following before deciding whether to request permission for their child to walk home alone:

How long is the journey?

- Are there any roads to cross and, if so, does your child know how to cross them safely?
- What time will your child be walking home? (It is recommended that children do not walk home in the dark or in failing light)
- Are you confident that your child is aware of safety rules around stranger danger?
- Does your child have some friends to walk home with? If so, are you confident that they will walk together sensibly?

The school maintains a register of children who have permission to be dismissed by a member of staff at the end of the school day to walk home alone.

If a child has left the school to walk home alone but does not arrive home, the parent should contact the school in the first instant to seek clarification from the responsible adult as to when the child left the school site.

If the parent feels that a period of time has passed and their child has not arrived at home and that this is unusual or causing concern the school recommends that the parent/carer calls the school to report their concern. The school can then offer assistance in using contacts to search for their child. It is recommended that the police are informed if the child is not traced within half an hour of this action being taken or indeed as soon as the parent or school deems police involvement is necessary.

After School Clubs ~ Arrangements and permissions for journeys home for after school clubs will be sought separately as part of the permission to attend clubs.

End of term Arrangements

We request parents/carers complete a separate form for the end of term early closure permission. This is to confirm their child is also allowed to walk home alone early at Christmas, Easter and July.

See online form number 5 at: <https://broombarns.herts.sch.uk/parents/forms/>