



**Carterhatch
Junior School**

**Pupils Walking Home Alone
Guidance
2023 - 2024**

This guidance is devised for the general health and safety and safeguarding of pupils.

WALKING HOME ALONE AT END OF THE SCHOOL DAY OR AFTER A SCHOOL CLUB

Parents of pupils who wish them to walk home unescorted by an adult, at the end of the school day, and/or following an after school club, must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Parents must have registered with the school that they are prepared for their child to walk directly home from school at the end of the day.
- Pupils must be in Year 6. Pupils in Year 3, 4 and 5 must be collected by a nominated adult. We ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements, preferably by letter.
- It is the parent's responsibility to check the route that their child takes to walk 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 pupils 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.
- We would strongly recommend that you teach your child to:
 - Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street, never become distracted.
 - Cross at traffic lights or designated crossings where possible or alternatively cross in a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Avoid parked cars or bends in the road.
 - Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming; cross while keeping an eye on traffic.
 - Look out for cyclists.
 - Remember that drivers may not see the pedestrian, even if the pedestrian can see the driver.
 - Remember it is hard to judge the speed of a car, so be cautious.
 - Never follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated 'safe' adult. (A safe adult is someone who has been previously agreed upon by you and your child to be safe, such as a grandparent or trusted neighbour.)
 - If an adult, who is not the safe adult, tries to convince your child to go with them or tries to physically get closed to them, tell them to scream 'Help! This is not my dad' or 'Help! This is not my mum' and run away. Tell your child to kick and punch and hit as hard as they can if someone tries to grab them.
- When deciding whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking home alone, you might want to consider the following:
 - Do you trust them to walk 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 approached 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 (scream, shout, kick, fight)?
 - Would they know who best to approach to get help?
- Pupils should be confident about the route they should take if using public transport.
- During winter months and/or inclement weather, pupils must be dressed appropriately.
- Pupils should preferably walk in a group and not alone.
- Pupils should know their home phone number (plus one other emergency contact) and either have their own mobile phone or know how to use a public phone box.
- Any child must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes of the end of the school day. Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for pupils 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 direct contact with the child has not been established by either school or parents, or with the pupil's friends, school will ring the police.

CONFIRMATION THAT MY CHILD MAY WALK HOME ALONE
(person with parental responsibility to complete this slip)

I confirm that my child _____, who is in class 6 _____
at Carterhatch Junior School, will follow the arrangements ticked below at the end of the school day.

Tick as appropriate:

S/he **may** walk home alone from school at the end of the school day

S/he **may** walk home alone from school after an after school club

I have read and understood the guidelines and reasonable precautions set out in the
'Pupils Walking Home Alone' Policy.

Print name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____