



Chase Side Primary School

Policy for Children Travelling to and from School and Clubs Unaccompanied

**Reviewed and Adopted by the Governors of Chase Side Primary
School on 5th June 2024**

Review Date: June 2026

As for all policies we adopt within our school, all aspects of Children Travelling to and from School and Clubs Unaccompanied Policy must fit with the ethos, values and vision for the school which are:

Our Ethos:

Our ethos encompasses being welcoming, inclusive, friendly, caring and ensuring that working together underpins everything we do.

Everyone has the right to expect and benefit from this ethos and these values are demonstrated in all aspects of school life. Everyone who is part of or who visits our learning community is asked to adhere to our values and ethos.

Our vision:

- Developing confident lifelong learners
- Embracing and valuing our diversity
- Making a positive impact in our community

Our Values:

The shared values of our school include:

- Kindness
- Respect
- Friendship
- Honesty
- Resilience

Stronger Together !

Statement of intent:

Our commitment at Chase Side Primary School is to support children in their quest to become responsible global citizens while also ensuring they understand how to keep safe and make responsible decisions at all times. As children mature, they are eager to broaden their experiences and develop their independence further. While we support this as a school, we also recognise that it is vital that we support parents to ensure their children are kept as safe as possible at all times.

From time to time, children are keen to travel to and from school alone or after clubs finish. While we accept that each child is an individual and demonstrates different levels of maturity, it is important that we ensure their safety in a range of situations. For this reason, we have adopted guidance regarding the appropriate age for children to be allowed to travel unaccompanied to and from school and clubs. While we accept that this may not be appropriate for each child, we have adopted a 'best fit' model and guidance that will allow us to work with parents and carers to review expectations for each child and whether this is appropriate.

At what age can parents request that their child can walk to and from school unaccompanied?

Various research documents recommend that 11 years old is the average age for parents to start letting their children walk to school alone. It is considered that a child below Year 6 would not be expected to walk home alone. Generally, a Year 6 child would be considered responsible enough to walk home alone, however, any concerns regarding this would be discussed with parents. Application of a **Verbal Scenario Test** which checks the levels of understanding relating to maturity and road safety may be considered to ensure that a child is prepared for the responsibility should anything occur during their journey.

As a school, we adopt this guidance fully in order to support parents in ensuring the safety of their children as they move to and from school.

Implications of this Guidance for Pupils of Chase Side

It is expected that only children in **Year 6** will be allowed to walk to and from school or clubs unaccompanied and only if the parent has provided written permission to the school. If the school has any concerns regarding the maturity of any child whose parent/s have provided permission, the parent will be contacted and the Verbal Scenario Test discussed to ensure there is clear agreement regarding the responsibility and maturity of the child. Only once agreement has been reached may the child be allowed to walk to and from school or clubs unaccompanied.

On the online booking form for Y6 clubs there is a disclaimer stating "We cannot always guarantee that your Y6 child will be home promptly after a club as on occasion clubs do run late." If any child who has permission to walk home from school and is booked on a club but does not attend the club then the parent will be contacted (as the parent may believe that they are at school when they are not).

It is vital that we work in partnership with parents to ensure children's safety at all times as well as supporting them to become responsible citizens within our community.

This Policy will be reviewed every 2 years or sooner if the guidance is altered.