Walking Home from School

We are a 'light in the darkness', living life to the full, worshipping and working so that everyone may flourish and achieve their God-given potential.

At St John's Meads CEP, we believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that everyone has the right to be happy, to be safe and to learn.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and work in collaboration with other agencies.

There are no laws around age or distance of walking to school. A families' guide to the law states, *"There is no law prohibiting children from being out on their own at any age. It is a matter of judgement for parents to decide when children can play out on their own, walk to the shops or school."*

Parents are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend regularly; this 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.

At St John's Meads CEP:

- ***Only children in Year 6 are allowed to walk home alone.***
  This can only happen once their parent/carer has signed and returned the attached consent form to the school office. The school office and the Year 6 Class Teacher are aware of which children have permission to walk home alone and this is stated on the child's record.
  The Year 6 teacher communicates this information appropriately with all relevant staff.

- ***Only children in Year 6 are allowed to walk home alone from clubs.***
  If parents/carers want their Year 6 child to walk home alone after a club (including Late Birds) they must inform the office by using the attached form. *Parents / carers must also inform the club providers*. Please note the external club providers may have their own protocols. Walking home alone from a club will only be allowed in daylight hours (i.e. not in winter).

- ***Children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) may be collected by an older sibling of secondary school age who is recognised by school staff.***
  This arrangement is permitted on the condition that a parent/carer is waiting for the children outside the school grounds. If school staff have any reason to believe that an adult is not waiting outside, children will be asked and spot checks will be carried out by concerned staff. If the professional judgement of the adult at school deems the older sibling to not be suitable, they will not hand the child over.
  If you would like the school to consider any alternative pick-up arrangement, please contact the office to arrange a meeting to discuss arrangements with a DSL.

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- ***Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) must be collected from school staff by an authorised adult only.***

- ***Collection by another authorised adult.***

  It is possible to nominate another adult whom you consent to collect your child on any day of the week. This adult is in addition to those already listed as emergency contacts on your child's records, as provided on the Admissions Form. Contact the school office to add this authorised adult to your child's records. We will allow children to be collected by any listed Emergency contact and authorised adult.

If staff or parents / carers have any concerns, they must contact the school office or a DSL immediately.



DSL
Mrs L Pomeroy
DSL@sjm.academy



DDSL
Mr B Berhane
DSL@sjm.academy



DDSL
Mrs K HITCH
DSL@sjm.academy

<u>In summary, use the attached form to inform the school if you would like:</u>

1) your Year 6 child to walk home alone (including from clubs)

2) your Key Stage 2 (Year 3, 4, 5 or 6) child to be collected by an older sibling while you wait outside

3) to add an authorised adult to your child's records

4) to request a meeting to discuss other arrangements

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This form needs to be completed by a person with parental responsibility for the child(ren) it relates to.

Tick as appropriate.

☐ I give permission for my Year 6 child .....[insert child name] to walk home alone at the end of the school day.

☐ I give permission for my Year 6 child ..... [insert child name] to walk home alone after ..... [insert club & day].

☐ I have informed the club provider of this arrangement.

☐ I give permission for my Yr 3, 4, 5 or 6 child ..... [insert child name] to be collected by a sibling of secondary school age while I wait for them just outside the school grounds.

☐ I give permission for another adult to collect my child.

Name of adult: .....

Relationship to child:.....

☐ I request a meeting with a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to discuss an alternate arrangement.

Please note: This consent covers every day of the week.

Date:_____

Signed: _____

Print name: _____