



Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy

Safeguarding Policy Walking/Cycling to and from School

Walking to school

Parents take full and due 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 possible route to school and that they are accompanied by a responsible adult. A primary school aged child is not considered to be a responsible adult.

Pupils in Year 6 may walk/cycle to school without an adult where parents have made arrangements for them to do so. Parents therefore take an informed decision that they are responsible for their child's safety on their way to school even when they are not physically present.

Parents/carers are asked to inform the school if their child will be regularly travelling to or from school alone so that a register can be compiled. In accordance with general school procedure, should a child not arrive at school by the time the registers close, a text will be sent to parents.

As the responsible body receiving children from home at the start of the day, 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 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.

Parents are responsible for informing the school immediately should their child be unwell or otherwise unable to attend school. This includes informing the school prior to taking their child for any early morning medical examinations (e.g. doctors or dentists) which may cause their child to miss the 8.55am registration and arrive in the school later than 9.30am (the time designated as the official close of registers).

Walking home from school

It is the policy of the school to seek written clarification from parents/carers **in Year 6 and for the summer term only of those children in Year 5** who wish their child to walk/cycle home alone at the end of the school day. Parents should write a note/inform the class teacher or office verbally if they are to walk/cycle home from school on the odd occasion also.

The school maintains a register of those known children whose parents have made the request that their child is 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 (teacher or adult leading an after school club) as to when the child left the school site.

It is school policy that all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult from adult school clubs or late finishing events from October half term until the clocks go forward in the spring. This is due to darker evenings.

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to BRW Catholic Voluntary Academy if they wish for their child to walk/cycle to or from home

For Year 6 children only and Year 5 children in the Summer Term only

(Name of child).....Date.....

Class.....

- 1) I wish to inform you that my child will be walking or cycling to/from school on regular basis.
- 2) I have read and understood the BRW Safeguarding Walking/Cycling to and from school
- 3) I understand that the school requires me to inform them if my child is absent from school for any reason.
- 4) I understand that the school will endeavour to make contact with me on the morning of registered absence if my child is absent from school and no notice (phone call or letter) has been given to the school for that absence.

Signed..... (Name print).....