

Juniper Hill School

Walking to and from School Policy (Children in Year 5 and 6)



Kindness Enjoyment Achievement

September 2026

As the children move towards the end of their primary school years we recognise that parents are starting to encourage their children to become more independent in preparation for secondary school.

There is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own. It very much depends on their maturity, confidence and how far away from school they live. As parents it is for you to decide when your child is ready for this responsibility.

As a school we have a duty to safeguard the children in our care and follow the guidelines below.

Pupils EYFS and KS1

No children in EYFS or Key Stage 1 should walk to or from school on their own or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school.

We will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided they are 14 years old or above. Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made this arrangement. We also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements, preferably by email. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups they will be kept in school and parents contacted. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings.

Pupils in KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6)

Pupils in Year 3 and 4 are expected to be brought to and collected from school. For pupils in Year 5 and 6 when deciding if you are ready for your child to walk to and from school we recommend you consider:

-  assessing any risk associated with the route.
-  building up your child's confidence by discussing road safety skills and the safest route to take.
-  telling your child to pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street.
-  telling your child never, ever, follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" trusted adult. (A safe trusted adult is someone who has been previously agreed upon by you)

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
3. Are they road safety aware?
4. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
5. 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)?

6. Would they know what to do if they needed help?

7. Would they know who best to approach to get help?

If you are not confident about how your child would react then you should consider whether they are ready to walk to and or from school on their own.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility then you must inform the school by completing the slip below. This will also be shared electronically.

Your child will be prevented from walking home unless permission has been given in writing.

Your child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst on the school premises either before or after school. Should their behaviour not be acceptable you will be asked to accompany or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again.

IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE,
PLEASE ENSURE YOU LET US KNOW IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY.

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Juniper Hill School

Permission for pupils in Years 5 and 6 to walk to and from school unaccompanied.
Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school office.

Name of child: Class:
Year:

I wish to inform you that my child will be walking to/from school on the days below (Please tick)

Day of the Week	Walking to School (They must not arrive before 8.35am)	Walking from School
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		

I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change.

Signed.....Date:

(Name print).....