Wrockwardine Wood CE Junior School

Children Walking Home Alone Guidance 2026-2027

Date reviewed: October 2026

Date of policy review : October 2027

Reviewed by Cara Leck

“Love, Laugh Learn”

We will ignite the ability in all to ***‘Love, Laugh and Learn’,*** recognising the extraordinary and wondrous in everything and in everyone. Our rich, varied and creative curriculum, together with our Christian values, will empower all to flourish following Jesus’s promise **‘I have come to give life and life in all its fullness.’** (John 10:10)

Our School Christian Values



SAFEGUARDING PUPILS WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE

At Wrockwardine Wood CE Junior School, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. As a school, we recognise the importance of helping children develop independence and responsibility as they grow, while ensuring appropriate safeguarding measures are in place.
There is currently no legal minimum age at which a child can walk to and from school independently. 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."
Whilst parents and carers are legally responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly, the school also has a duty of care to promote pupils' safety and wellbeing. This guidance outlines the expectations and procedures we have in place to ensure children can travel to and from school safely.

Pupils in Year 3 and Year 4

At Wrockwardine Wood CE Junior School, we believe that children in Years 3 and 4 are generally too young to leave school unaccompanied.
Therefore, pupils in these year groups will only be released to:

- A parent or carer;
- A named adult authorised by the parent/carer; or
- An older sibling aged 12 years or above who has been identified by the parent/carer as being responsible for the child.

To safeguard our pupils, staff will only release children to adults or siblings whose details have been provided to the school. Parents and carers should inform the school as soon as possible of any changes to collection arrangements.
If a child is not collected at the end of the school day, they will remain safely supervised within school while attempts are made to contact parents, carers and emergency contacts. If we are unable to make contact within a reasonable period, the school may seek advice from Family Connect in line with safeguarding procedures.

Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6
As children move into Years 5 and 6, some families may feel their child is ready to take on the responsibility of walking to and from school independently.
The decision about whether a child is ready for this responsibility should be made carefully by parents and carers, taking into account:

- The safety of the route;
- Traffic and road crossing points;
- The child's maturity and confidence;
- Their ability to make safe decisions;
- Their understanding of personal safety.

At Wrockwardine Wood CE Junior School, only pupils in Years 5 and 6 may be permitted to walk home independently.

If you have decided that your child in year 5 or year 6 can walk alone, you should teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always 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.
- Ensure your child is aware of the 'green cross code' and 'clever never goes' which replaces 'stranger danger'. You can find more information at https://clevernevergoes.org
- Look out for cyclists.
- Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they can see the driver.
- Remember that it is hard to judge the speed of a car so be cautious.
- Never, ever, follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult.
- Speak to your child about what they should do if this should ever happen.

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? Make sure there is someone at home to meet your child.
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
3. Are they road safety aware? – Check the route that they will take.
4. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
5. Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?
6. Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they did not want to do?
7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. Would they know whom best to approach to get help? If you are not confident about how your child would react then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to walk on their own.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, then you must fill in the 'pupils walking home unaccompanied' form informing the school. These are available from the reception area of the school entrance (See appendix 1). Your child will be prevented from walking home unless written permission has been received by the school.

This guidance will be reviewed annually.

Appendix 1



Wrockwardine Wood Church of England Junior School
Church Road
Trench
Telford
Shropshire

Telford & Wrekin

Headteacher Mrs T. Cartwright B Ed Eng (Hons)
tracey.cartwright@taw.org.uk

Assistant Headteacher & SENCO: Mrs Alison Williams
alison.williams3@taw.org.uk

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Cara Leck
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Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Cotton

School Business Manager Mrs J. Perkins
jenny.perkins@taw.org.uk

6th September 2023

Website: www.wrockwardinewoodjunior.org.uk

Dear Parent/Carers

RE : Pupils walking to and from school unaccompanied

Currently parents in Year 5 and 6 exercise their discretion about whether they feel their child is mature enough to walk to and from school on their own. We would like this practice to continue, as we feel that you are best placed to decide this.

We would like to retain this written information as part of your child's records with us. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could complete the information below and return to the school office.

Please note that children attending after school clubs will always need to be collected by an adult.

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Cartwright

Headteacher

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PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE:

NAME OF CHILD **CLASS**

PLEASE TICK AS APPROPRIATE

I give permission for my child to routinely walk to and from school on the following days:

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRIDAY

NAME AND SIGNATURE OF PARENT/CARER