Walking Home from School Independently

Our Commitment to Keeping Children Safe

The safety, welfare and wellbeing of all pupils is our highest priority.

We recognise that, as children get older, some families may feel their child is ready to walk home from school independently. The decision about whether a child is ready to do so rests with parents and carers, who know their child best.

At Gamesley Primary School, only pupils in **Year 5 and Year 6** may be permitted to walk home unaccompanied. Children in all other year groups must be collected by a parent, carer or another authorised adult (aged 16 or over).

Please note that Year 5 and Year 6 pupils are **not permitted to collect younger siblings** from school. Younger children must continue to be collected by a parent, carer or authorised adult.

Is My Child Ready to Walk Home Alone?

Before giving permission, parents and carers should carefully consider whether their child:

- Is in **Year 5 or Year 6**
- Demonstrates responsible and sensible behaviour
- Understands and follows road safety rules
- Knows and can confidently describe their route home
- Has safe crossing points available on their journey
- Knows what to do in an emergency
- Can travel independently without becoming distressed or distracted
- Feels confident walking home on their own

Every child develops independence at a different rate, and parents should consider their child's individual maturity and circumstances before deciding.

Parent and Carer Responsibilities

If you decide that your child is ready to walk home independently, you must provide permission through **Arbor**.

By giving permission, you are confirming that:

- You have considered the factors listed above.
- You believe your child is capable of walking home safely and independently.
- You have discussed road safety, personal safety and what to do in an emergency with your child.
- You accept responsibility for your child once they have left the school site.

Keeping Arbor Records Up to Date

It is important that permissions held on Arbor are accurate.

Please update your child's Arbor permissions promptly if:

- You no longer wish your child to walk home independently.
- Collection arrangements change.
- There are changes to emergency contact details.

If no permission is recorded on Arbor, your child will be expected to be collected in the usual way.

End of the School Day

Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 who have permission recorded on Arbor to walk home independently will be dismissed at the end of the school day.

If the school has a safeguarding concern or believes that it may not be safe for a child to leave independently on a particular day, we may contact parents or carers before allowing the child to leave.

Working Together

We value the importance of helping children develop independence and responsibility as they prepare for secondary education. By working together, we can ensure that this happens in a safe and appropriate way for every child.