



# East Sheen Primary School

## Collection from school policy 2023-24

There are no laws around age or distance of walking to school for children on their own. 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 every day, but this does not prohibit independent travel. As a school, we have a duty of care for the safety and well-being of our students and therefore this policy is aimed to advise parents/carers in the decisions they make for their children travelling independently and safely to and from school. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk; therefore, failure to adhere to this policy may result in the school making a referral to the appropriate children's services.

### Collection from school:

To enable a safe and consistent dismissal at the end of the school day, please ensure that if your child is being collected by someone who is unknown to the class teacher or by a different adult that day (for example, if your child is going on a playdate to another child's house) you must inform the school office in advance. If we have not been notified, they may need to wait until we have verified their identity.

### Pupils in Foundation Stage (Reception) and KS1 (Years 1 & 2):

Our school policy is that pupils in Foundation Stage or Years 1 and 2 **should NOT walk to or from school on their own** or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school. They must be collected by a known adult (aged 18 or above).

### Pupils in Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4):

We highly recommend that pupils in Years 3 and 4 are still brought to and collected from school by an adult. We understand that there may be circumstances that prevent parents who work or who have appointments that make it difficult for parents to achieve this every day. However, the primary driver in making such decisions is always the safety and well-being of our pupils. Where it is not possible for an adult to bring or collect a child in Years 3 and 4, parents and carers may give consent for this duty to be carried out by an older sibling, providing:

- They are aged 15 and over;
- A parent/ carer judges them to be responsible enough to complete this task safely;
- The route to school is within a safe walking distance and the parent/carers judges the route safe;
- The parent/carers has informed the class teacher of this arrangement;

- The older sibling and the pupil are going straight home; and
- The older sibling is responsible for no more than two children.

If your child is attending an extra- curricular activity, then we request that all children attending these sessions are collected by an adult on time. Failure to collect children punctually from these activities could lead to activities being withdrawn. We also request that children attending breakfast club are brought to school by an adult.

### **Pupils in Upper Key Stage two (Years 5 &6):**

For pupils in Year 5 or Year 6, that live within walking distance to the school and are able to walk a safe route, parents need to decide whether their child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and from school alone.

**When deciding whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and/or from home, please consider the following:**

1. Do you trust them to walk straight to school or straight home, using the agreed safe route?
2. Are there roads to cross on the route and how busy/safe are those roads?
3. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when they are with a friend or group of friends?
4. Are they road safety aware?
5. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
6. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
7. Do they understand how to keep themselves safe and not to make any dangerous choices, either by themselves or with a group of friends?

Children, who are walking without an adult or older sibling, may bring a mobile phone to school in case they need help on their walk. **However, all mobile phones brought into school need to be handed to the class teacher immediately.**

**If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, then you must inform the school by completing this [‘Permission for pupils to walk to and from school unaccompanied’ form](#).** Your child will be prevented from walking home alone unless this permission has been previously provided in writing. Your child is 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.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IN WRITING AT ANY TIME IF YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR CHILD.**