Tidbury Green School Dickens
Heath Road
Tidbury Green
Solihull
B90 1QW

Policy Name

Walking Home Alone Policy

Date of Review

Autumn Term 2025

Next Review Date

Autumn Term 2027

Agreed by Governors

Autumn Term 2025

Date

Oct 2025

Policy:	Walking Home Alone
People Authorised to make changes to this policy:	• Mrs. R Fitter
Committee responsible for approving policy:	Policy and Curriculum Committee

Questions for the reviewer of this policy:	
Does this policy comply with statutory requirements and is relevant legislation and guidance referenced in the policy?	Yes
Does the policy reflect current evidence-based good practice?	Yes
Is the policy consistent with the vision and ethos of the school?	Yes
Does the policy reflect current practice in the school?	Yes

After policy review:	
Changes made:	Updated policy to reflect use of devices for pupil tracking.
Expected impact of updated policy:	n/a
Updated policy sent to governors:	Autumn Term 2025
Updated policy sent to staff:	Autumn Term 2025
Updated policy put on website:	Autumn Term 2025

Walking Home Alone Policy

Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Walking Home Alone Policy aims to ensure the safety and well-being of pupils who walk home from school without adult supervision. This policy provides guidelines and procedures for pupils, staff, parents, and the wider school community to follow to minimise risks and promote a safe environment.

1.2 Scope

This policy applies to all pupils who walk home alone from school, including those who live within walking distance of the school premises. It also covers any related activities or events where pupils may be walking home without adult supervision.

Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 School Leadership are expected to:

- Develop and implement the Walking Home Alone Policy.
- Ensure that all staff, pupils, parents, and the wider school community are aware of and understand the policy.
- Regularly review and update the policy in line with legislative changes and best practices.

2.2 Staff are expected to:

- Familiarise themselves with the Walking Home Alone Policy and follow the guidelines and procedures outlined.
- Report any concerns or incidents related to pupils walking home alone to the designated safeguarding lead.

2.3 Pupils are expected to:

- Follow the guidelines and procedures outlined in the Walking Home Alone Policy.
- Inform a trusted adult, such as a teacher or school staff member, if they encounter any safety concerns while walking home alone.

2.4 Parents, guardians and families are expected to:

- Provide consent for their child to walk home alone.
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's walking arrangements.
- Encourage their child to follow the guidelines and procedures outlined in the Walking Home Alone Policy.

Implementation

3.1 Senior leaders have considered the locality of our school and the commonly used routes used by pupils to identify the potential hazards and areas of concern. Due to factors such as traffic volume, narrow footpaths, pedestrian infrastructure and safety concerns in the vicinity of the school, only pupils in Year 6 are permitted to walk home alone with permission from their parents / carers / guardians. For these pupils the following applies:

- Pupils must be in Year 6.
- It is the parent / carer / guardians responsibility to check the route that their child may walk home in order that they may make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey. The crossing of roads with fast moving traffic and walking through secluded areas are to be discouraged. The use of devices and smartphones are discouraged as this are likely to distract pupils from road safety. For the purpose of locating pupils whilst walking home, an airtag or similar device are supported. A single route must be agreed and known by the child and their parents / carers / guardians.
- During winter months, pupils should be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.
- Pupils should preferably walk in a group and not alone.
- There must be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival.
- Pupils must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes of the end of the school day. Journeys above 30 minutes are not considered appropriate.
- If a child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe, parents / carers / guardians must inform the school immediately in order that appropriate support can be provided, which may include contacting emergency services.
- Children with permission to walk home alone are not permitted to walk to school unsupervised or home from school after a school event or club that finishes later than the usual end of the school day (3:10pm)

3.2 Communication and Consent

Our Walking Home Alone Policy is published to our school website and shared with families at the beginning of each Year 6 cohort, when consent is gathered through our electronic form.

We will obtain consent from parents/carers/guardians for their child to walk home alone.

We will maintain accurate records of parental consent and parents/carers/guardians should inform the school at the earliest opportunity of any changes to walking arrangements.

3.3 Education and Awareness

Throughout the early years and primary school phase, we provide age-appropriate education and training to pupils on road safety, stranger danger, and personal safety when walking home alone.

Throughout the school year we conduct regular assemblies, workshops, or classroom discussions to reinforce key safety messages.

In preparation for the transition to Year 7, we involve external agencies, such as local police, to deliver safety presentations or workshops about street safety.

3.4 Pupil Behaviour

Pupils represent the school values, reputation and expectations when travelling to and from school, and whenever they wear the Tidbury Green School uniform and PE Kit. Pupils must be responsible for

their behaviour at all times; this includes before and after school. Should their behaviour not be acceptable or put themselves and/or others in danger, they will be asked to be accompanied or collected by parents / carers/ guardians until they have proportionally proven they can be trusted again.

4. **Policy Review**

We will review the Walking Home Alone Policy every two years, or more frequently if necessary, to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with current legislation and best practices. Each review will include feedback from staff, pupils, parents, and the wider school community to identify areas for improvement.