



# Pupil Independent Travel Policy



## Talbot Primary School

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## 2 Introduction

There are no laws specifying the age or distance for children walking home from school. Guidance states that it is up to parents to judge when their child is ready to be out alone. Parents must ensure regular school attendance, but this does not prevent independent travel.

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."*

As a school, we remain responsible for pupils' welfare and must follow good safeguarding practice, including alerting authorities if we believe a child may be at risk.

## 3 Early Years and KS1 and Lower KS2 (Years R, 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Our school policy states that pupils in Foundation Stage, Years 1–4 must not walk to or from school alone or be left unsupervised on school premises. We will only release children to named adults or secondary-age siblings deemed suitable by school staff. If an unnotified adult arrives to collect a child, they must wait while we verify their identity. If a child is not collected and we cannot reach their parent/carer, we will consult family services. Older siblings within the school are not permitted to collect younger pupils.

## 3 Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

There is no set age for children to walk to or from school alone, but our policy requires that pupils in Years 3 and 4 are still brought to and collected from school. For Years 5 and 6, parents/carers should decide if their child is ready for this responsibility. Consider the risks of the route and your child's confidence and support them in developing independence through practising road safety, navigation, and awareness. Walking with your child from a young age helps build the skills and experience they need to travel safely and independently as they grow.

## 4 Cycling to and from School

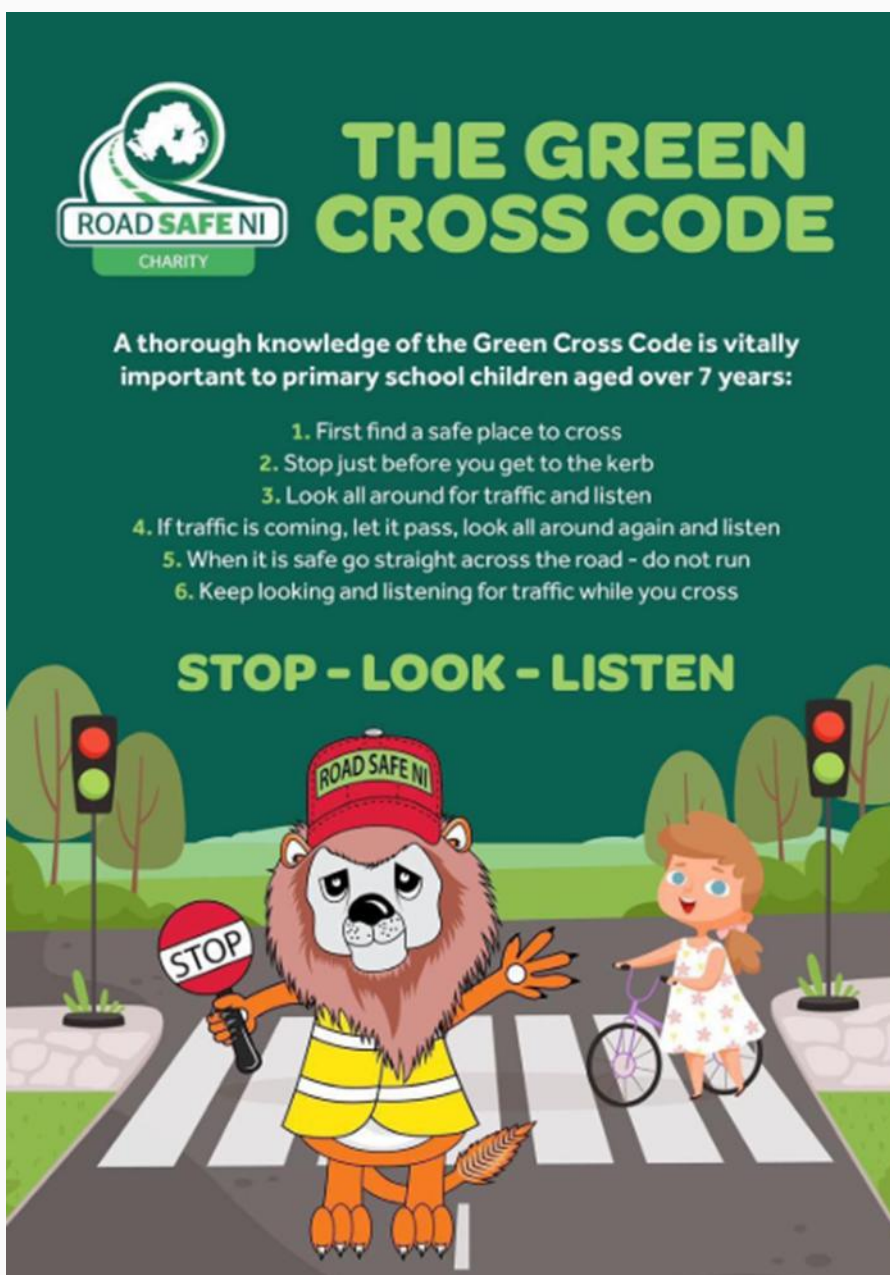
Pupils cycling to or from school must follow safe cycling practices and the school's expectations for responsible independent travel. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child is prepared and equipped to cycle safely. (see appendix 3)

## 4. Parental responsibility for Pupils independent travel

- **Provide written permission:** Children are not allowed to walk home alone unless parents give the school written authorisation. (See appendix 1)
- **Decide readiness for independence:** Parents/carers must judge whether their child in Years 5–6 is mature and confident enough to walk to or from school alone. (see appendix 2)
- **Assess route safety:** Parents should consider any risks on the route and ensure their child understands how to navigate safely.
- **Teach road-safety skills:** Parents are responsible for helping children develop the traffic awareness and decision-making skills needed for safe independent travel. (see Green cross code and appendix 3)
- **Ensure appropriate behaviour:** Parents must ensure their child understands that they are responsible for their behaviour on school premises before and after school.
- **Consider darkness and supervision at home:** Parents should ensure their child is not walking home in the dark and that a responsible person is usually at home on arrival, or that the child knows how to get help if home alone briefly.

- **Report changes immediately:** Any changes to travel arrangements must be communicated to the school in writing straight away.
- **May provide their child with a mobile phone:** for safeguarding, and children must follow the school's mobile phone and conduct policies.
- **Responsible for ensuring their child behaves appropriately on school premises before and after school;** if behaviour is unacceptable, parents may need to accompany or collect them.
- **Collecting children after dark:** Children are not permitted to walk home in the dark, including after clubs or events that finish late.
- **Ensure a responsible adult is usually at home when the child arrives;** if the child is home alone briefly, they must know how to access emergency adult support.

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



**Appendix 1: Permission For Pupils To Walk To And From School Alone- Talbot Primary School**



**Please only hand this slip in at the school office**

<b>Child's Name</b>	<b>Child's Class</b>

- I wish to inform you that my child will be walking from school daily.
- I will notify you immediately should this arrangement change.
- I have read and understood the guidelines, systems and reasonable precautions set out in 'Policy on safeguarding pupils walking to and from school alone'.
- I fully understand that once I give permission for my child to walk home from school alone, the school is not responsible for my child's actions or whereabouts once they are not on the school premises.
- I have discussed this with my child and feel they are ready for this responsibility

**Parent Authorisation**

Signed	
Print Name	
Date	

**Pupil Agreement**

Signed	
Print Name	
Date	

**For office use only:**

Entered on Bromcom	
Date	

## Appendix 2:

### Is my child ready for the responsibility of walking home alone?

Things to consider:

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 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?

## Appendix 3:

### Teach your child to:

- Always pay attention to traffic when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross at the intersection where there are traffic lights; do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively 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.
- Look out for cyclists.
- If cycling home from school, your child must wear a helmet. If your child does not wear a helmet, parents may be contacted. Talbot Primary School reserves the right for your child not to cycle to school if a helmet is not worn.
- 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.

## Appendix 4:

### Cycling Requirements and Expectations

1. **Helmet Requirement:**  
All pupils cycling to or from school must wear a properly fitted cycle helmet. If a pupil arrives without a helmet, parents/carers may be contacted, and the school reserves the right to withdraw permission for the child to cycle independently.
2. **Bicycle Condition:**  
Parents/carers must ensure their child's bicycle is roadworthy, including functioning brakes, appropriate tyres, reflectors/lights (particularly during winter months), and a secure seat and handlebars.
3. **Route Assessment:**  
Parents/carers should assess the cycling route for safety and suitability, taking into account traffic levels, junctions, and the child's confidence and ability.
4. **Cycling Skills and Road Awareness:**  
Children should be confident in:

- Starting and stopping safely
- Looking and signalling clearly
- Navigating junctions
- Being aware of other road users, including cars and pedestrians
- Understanding that drivers may not always see them

5. **Participation in Bikeability** or similar training programmes is strongly recommended. School provides this opportunity in Years 5 and 6. Parents/carers are encouraged to support their child in practising safe cycling skills.
6. **Behaviour Expectations:**  
Pupils must behave responsibly while cycling and when entering or leaving the school site. Unsafe behaviour may result in permission to cycle being reviewed.
7. **Dark Conditions:**  
Children must not cycle home in the dark unless they have appropriate lights and reflective clothing. If attending after-school clubs during darker months, alternative collection arrangements may be required.
8. **Changes to Arrangements:**  
Any change in a child's cycling or travel arrangements must be communicated to the school in writing immediately

