Ysgol Gynradd
Tonysguboriau
Primary School

Walking to and from School Policy

The Law

There are no laws around age or distance of walking to school. 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 regularly, but this in itself does not disallow independent travel. As a school, however, we are responsible for the welfare of our pupils and therefore have to consider what we believe is good practice in ensuring the safety of our pupils. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Pupils in Foundation Stage

Our agreed school's view is that no pupil in the Foundation Stage will walk to or from school on their own. They must be collected by an adult, over the age of 16.

Pupils in the Junior department (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

While there is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own however it is the school's policy that pupils in **Year 3 and Year 4** will be brought to and collected from school. **Pupils in Year 5** will be considered on an individual basis (please speak to your child's class teacher who will liaise with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead).

With permission, **Year 6 pupils** are permitted to walk to / from school independently.

Parents/carers must however be aware, if they give permission for their child to walk to and from school without an adult, the parent/carer is responsible for their child once they have been dismissed by school staff. The child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst on the school premises/in the community either before or after school. Should their behaviour not be acceptable parent/carers will be asked to accompany them to school or collect the child.

Where children walk to, or walk home from school, alone, the school would usually expect that a parent, or other responsible person, is at home when they leave or arrive. If the child will be leaving from, or returning to, an empty house, we would expect that this is only for a short period of time and that the child knows how, and can, access emergency adult support if needed.

The school will not allow children to walk home without an adult after any after school clubs.

The school will also not allow pupils to walk home from school without written consent from parents / guardians.

During British Summer Time (BST)/Daylight Saving Time), Tonysguboriau Primary School may give permission for pupils in Year 6 only to leave the school premises without an adult if attending after school clubs.

Children must be collected from Wrap Around care on all occasions.

It is a parent/carers responsibility to inform the school of any changes to arrangements in advance, where possible.

Recommendations for Parents/Carers

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school parents/carers should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence.

Work with your children to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

There are many ways parents/carers can prepare your child to make an independent journey.

Children who are driven to school do not have the opportunity to develop road awareness and are therefore more vulnerable when they start to walk to school independently. Walking to school is a great opportunity to learn road safety skills.

The school recommends that parents/carers walk with their child from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic and way finding on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times 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 they 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.
- 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 parents/carers may want to consider the following:

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?

To support this policy, we have attached a copy of the NSPCC 'Home or Out Alone' guide. This offers further guidance and advice.

Review

The governing body reviews this policy every three years. The governors may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the governing body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.

Headteacher:	T. Harris	**Date:**	12.6.2025
Chair of Governing Body:		**Date:**	12.6.2025