Walking Home Alone Policy
Milton Road Primary School

Approved by:	Rae Snape Headteacher	**Date:** 02/10/2026
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1. Introduction

Milton Road Primary School recognises that some parents/carers may wish for their child to walk home from school independently. This policy sets out the school's approach to children leaving school alone and aims to promote children's safety while respecting parents'/carers' responsibilities and decisions.

2. School position

The school recommends that children from Year 5 may walk home alone. Parents/carers are responsible for deciding whether their child is sufficiently mature, responsible and confident to make the journey home safely.
The decision should take account of the individual child and the circumstances of the journey, including:

- the child's age, maturity and ability to follow safety instructions;
- the distance and complexity of the journey;
- road, traffic and pedestrian safety;
- the time of day and expected weather conditions;
- whether the child would be travelling alone or with siblings/friends;
- the child's ability to respond appropriately if something unexpected happens; and
- any additional individual circumstances that may affect the child's safety.

3. Arrangements for collection

Parents/carers should inform the school office in writing if their child is permitted to walk home alone to office@miltonroad.cambs.sch.uk The school will retain a record of the parent/carer's decision on their MIS System.

Once a child has been dismissed from the school classroom, responsibility for their journey home rests with the parent/carer. The school cannot supervise or take responsibility for the child once they have left the premises.
Parents/carers should ensure that their child knows exactly where they are going, understands the agreed route and knows what to do if they are delayed, lost, approached by a stranger or encounter another problem.

4. Safeguarding and concerns

The school has a duty to promote and safeguard the welfare of all pupils. If staff have reasonable concerns that a child walking home alone may be unsafe because of their age, maturity, circumstances or the arrangements in place, the school may discuss these concerns with the parent/carer.
Where there are significant safeguarding concerns, the school will follow its safeguarding procedures and may seek advice from the appropriate safeguarding professionals.

5. NSPCC Guidance

Milton Road Primary School recognises and has considered the guidance provided by the **NSPCC** regarding children being left at home or going out independently.
The NSPCC advises that children aged **6 to 12 are usually too young to be left at home or to go out alone**, although it recognises that children develop at different rates and that parents/carers need to consider their individual child and circumstances.
The NSPCC recommends that parents/carers consider whether their child:

- is mature enough to be out alone;
- feels confident and comfortable doing so;
- understands how to keep themselves safe;
- knows what to do if they become lost or something goes wrong;
- knows how and when to contact a trusted adult or emergency services;
- understands basic road and personal safety; and
- can deal with unexpected situations appropriately.

The NSPCC also recommends that parents/carers talk through **“what if?” scenarios** with their child and consider gradually building their independence through short, planned journeys where appropriate.
Parents/carers should carefully consider this guidance when deciding whether their child is ready to walk home alone. The decision remains the responsibility of the parent/carer, who should consider their child's individual circumstances, maturity and the safety of the proposed journey.

Leaving Your Child Home Alone - Advice | NSPCC

6. Changes to arrangements

Parents/carers should notify the school promptly if arrangements change, including if a child who normally walks home alone is going to be collected by an adult or another person.
The school may also ask parents/carers to review arrangements where circumstances change, for example following a change in the child's circumstances or concerns about the journey.

7. After-school clubs and external providers

Where a child attends an after-school club, activity or other provision that is not directly managed or operated by Milton Road Primary School, responsibility for communicating with the club or provider rests with the child's parent/carer.
The school will not be responsible for notifying an external club or provider if a child:

- is absent from school and therefore will not be attending the club;
- is unwell or has been sent home;
- is not attending the club for any other reason;
- has been collected by a parent/carer or another authorised person; or
- has been permitted by their parent/carer to walk home independently at the end of the school day.

Parents/carers must inform the relevant club lead or provider directly of any changes to their child's attendance or collection arrangements. This includes notifying the club if their child is absent from school and will therefore not attend the club that day.
Parents/carers should not rely on the school to pass messages to external clubs or providers unless this has been specifically agreed with the school and the provider.

8. Monitoring and review

Appendix 1: Parent/Carer Permission to Walk Home Alone

Children Walking Home Alone

Parents/carers should inform the school office in writing if their child is permitted to walk home alone to office@miltonroad.cambs.sch.uk The school will retain a record of the parent/carer's decision on their MIS System.

Appendix 2: Parent/Carer Checklist

Parents/carers should consider the following when deciding whether their child is ready to walk home alone:

- the child's age, maturity and ability to follow safety instructions;
- the distance and complexity of the journey;

- road, traffic and pedestrian safety;
- the time of day and expected weather conditions;
- whether the child would be travelling alone or with siblings/friends;
- the child's ability to respond appropriately if something unexpected happens; and
- any additional individual circumstances that may affect the child's safety.

Parents/carers should ensure that their child knows exactly where they are going, understands the agreed route and knows what to do if they are delayed, lost, approached by a stranger or encounter another problem.

Appendix 3: Changes to Walking Home Arrangements

Parents/carers should notify the school promptly if arrangements change, including if a child who normally walks home alone is going to be collected by an adult or another person.