



Godalming Junior School

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. If you have any concerns you should contact our Designated Safeguard Lead (DSL) Adam Samson or Deputy Designated Safeguard Leads (DDSL) Erin Coleman, Louise Munz and Nancy Kirby

WALKING HOME POLICY

This policy was reviewed: Summer 2026

This policy will be reviewed next: As required (non-statutory)

This policy will be reviewed by: The L and C Committee

This policy represents the agreed principles for children walking home from school. This policy has been agreed by staff and governors within the school. Though not statutory, we recognise that there are a number of children who will walk to and from school due to the proximity of the school and therefore the need to have this policy in place and reviewed as required. Parents signing the Home School Agreement agree to uphold all the school policies during their time at Godalming Junior School. At GJS we acknowledge that there are limited powers and influence the school has when referring to children walking to school as opposed to walking home *from* school

Introduction:

The purpose of the policy is:

- **To raise awareness and provide a clear procedure for children walking home from school**
- **To inform parents of their roles and responsibilities when giving authorisation for their child/ren to walk home from school**
- **To inform the parents of the schools role and responsibility**

Parents of children who wish them to walk home unescorted by an adult, at the end of the school day must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Parents must have registered with the school that they are prepared for their child/ren to walk directly home from school at the end of the day
- Parents must be aware that their child will be dismissed from the school playground and will need to make their own way to the school gates, which will not be manned by a member of staff
- Only children from the upper school (Year 5 and 6) will be permitted to leave the site independently at the end of the day to walk home. This also applies to when clubs finish.
- Only children in the lower school (Year 3 and 4) who have an older sibling from the upper school or older, who they leave with each day and collect from class teachers, will be permitted to leave school at the end of the day without an adult. This also applies to when clubs finish.
- It is the parent's responsibility to have an 'emergency plan' in place with their child /ren in case there is no adult at the pick-up point at the collection time. We advise that this 'emergency plan' is to walk back to the school office where help will be available
- It is the parent's responsibility to check the route that their children may walk home in order that they make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey e.g. the crossing of fast roads and walking through secluded areas is discouraged. A single route must be agreed
- Parents must be certain that their child/ren have an awareness and understanding of the 'Green Cross Code' and 'Stranger Danger'. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure they are sufficiently content that their child is capable of undertaking the proposed journey safely
- During winter months and/or inclement weather, children need to be dressed appropriately

- Children should walk in a group, be vigilant and not alone
- Children should know their home phone number (plus an emergency contact)
- It is recommended that there is someone at home to meet the child on arrival
- It is advised that the journey should not be longer than a 30 minute walk
- Parents must sign the Walking Home Confirmation Form (WHCF) before the arrangement for the child/ren walking home has been initiated, see appendix A
- Parents are responsible for the well-being of their child/ren once the child/ren are not on the school site, either travelling to or from the school site if the WHCF has been signed and returned to school. School will retain the original with a copy being sent home
- Conduct between pupils travelling to and from school could be in violation of the school Behaviour Policy if the 'common denominator' regarding the relationship is school itself





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RE: Walking Home Consent Form (WHCF)

Dear Parents/Carers

We require parental permission if your child is to go home independently as referenced the school's Walking Home Policy.

I give permission for _____ class _____

to make their way home from school independently.

Please note your child will be dismissed from the school playground and will need to make their own way to the school gates.

Only children in Years 5 and 6 at GJS are permitted to leave school independently at the end of the school day. Children in the lower school are only permitted to leave without an adult if they are accompanied by their older sibling from the upper school at GJS. Parents must have an 'emergency plan' in place in case there is no adult at the pick-up point at the collection time or at home. We advise that this 'emergency plan' is to walk back to the school office where help will be available via the **Hallam Road gate**.

Please ensure you have read our 'Walking Home Policy', which can be found on the school website under 'About the School' and 'Policies'.

Signed: _____ Date: _____