



Walking Home Permission Policy



Avonwood Primary School

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Rationale:

This document outlines the process, communications and expectations of the school when granting permission for a child to travel to/from school unaccompanied by an adult.

At Avonwood we seek to support working families whilst maintaining the safeguarding of children in our care. The legal obligations of 'in loco parentis' must be taken into account when granting approval for a child to travel to/from school unaccompanied by an adult.

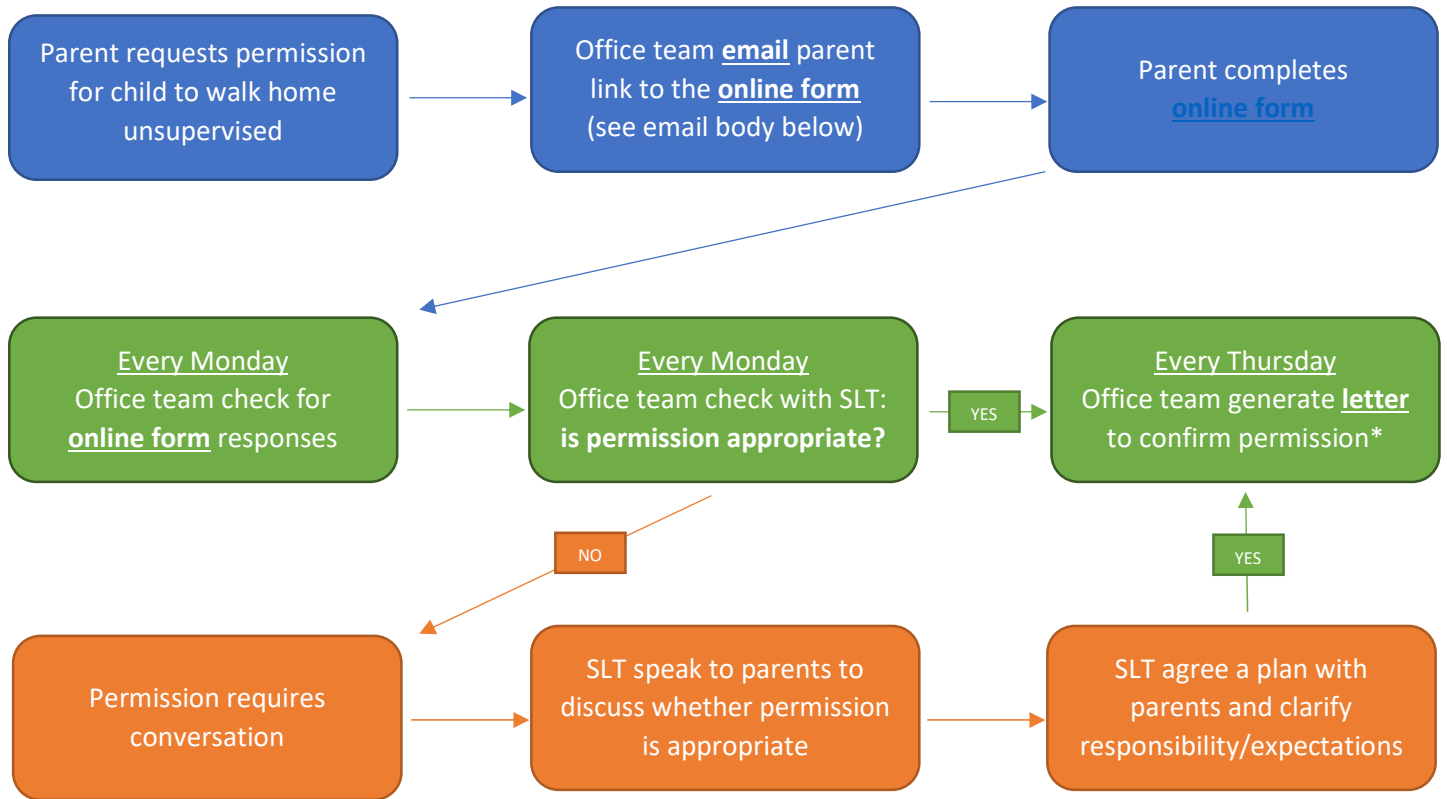
Walking home alone is a significant responsibility and there are potential safeguarding dangers. This responsibility is only granted for children in Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and Year 6), in line with the [NSPCC's recommendations](#).

The first step is for parents to complete the [online form](#) to register a request for their child to travel to/from school unaccompanied by an adult. The link can be requested from our office team: office@avonwoodprimaryschool.org.uk

Every request will be reviewed and in certain cases will be followed up by a discussion with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Once approval has been granted, a letter will be issued to confirm permission and underline school expectations.

The Headteacher's decision is final regarding permission to travel to school unaccompanied by an adult and failure to comply with school expectations may result in permission being revoked.

Process:



*Record on Arbor under **'Transportation'**: *'Add transportation method' > 'Walking'*

Email to parents who request walking home permission:

Dear parent

Thank you for your request to establish permission for your child to travel to and from school alone. To support your decision regarding this please carefully read the contents of this email before completing the online request form (link to this can be found below).

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility, you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly 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 didn't want to do (scream, shout, kick and fight)?
7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. Would they know how best to approach to get help?

Should you, as parents, feel your child is mature enough to cope with this responsibility would you please complete this online form: <https://forms.office.com/r/7LM4wk5ZSr>

No child will be allowed to walk home without prior written consent from a parent/guardian and written approval from the Headteacher. After we have reviewed your completed [online form](#), you will receive a letter confirming approval from the Headteacher.

Kind regards

Avonwood Primary School

Letter home to confirm approval:

Dear parent

RE: *Name of Student and Class*

Thank you for completing the online form to request permission for your child to travel to and from school unsupervised.

The expectation is that, representing our most senior pupils, your child continues to act as a role model before and after school, including:

- Being punctual in the morning arriving just before 08:40.
- Behaving respectfully towards adults and other children at all times.
- Leaving the school site promptly and in an orderly manner at the end of the school day.

In completing the online form, you have confirmed the following:

- ✓ That you have spoken to & coached your child about staying safe whilst walking to/from school, including:
 - Crossing roads safely.
 - Being aware of potential dangers.
 - What to do if you feel unsafe (such as returning to school, speaking to any other adults they recognise, seeking refuge in an agreed place).
- ✓ That you understand it is the responsibility of your child to inform the class teacher on a daily basis of whether they are being collected by an adult or walking home independently.
- ✓ That you understand that if an after-school club is cancelled, your child will be permitted to walk home unaccompanied.
- ✓ If your child travels to/from school unsupervised by an adult, your parental responsibility is in effect until they are physically admitted inside the classroom in the morning and your parental responsibility recommences as soon as they are dismissed at the end of the day.

Please note that permission may be revoked if there is a failure to comply with school expectations for safely travelling from/to school, and that the Headteacher's decision regarding this is final.

I am sure you are aware but determining the right time for your child to responsibly walk to/from school is a significant decision. Whilst we appreciate the pressures on working families, please be absolutely certain your child is ready for this responsibility.

Thank you for working in partnership to keep your child safe as they are given greater responsibility.

Kind regards,

Mr Jackson
Headteacher