St Andrew's CE VC Primary School

'Roots to grow, Wings to fly'

They will soar on wings like Eagles.

Isaiah 40:31

Pupil independent travel to school policy

Signed (chair):	Name: Anthony Parker	Date: October 2026
Signed (Head):	Name: Graham Pike	Date: October 2026
Ratified by Governing Body on		Next Review: October 2027

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This policy has been assessed with regard to its impact on equalities issues. The equality impact assessment has been conducted by the relevant Governors' sub-committee and focused on race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and religion/belief. Community Cohesion has also formed part of the impact assessment work in order to ensure respect for diversity, alongside a commitment to common and shared bonds.

EqIA outcomes

[x] *The assessment found no areas of potential negative impact and actions resulting in positive impact are in place.*

Pupil independent travel to school policy

Rationale: At St. Andrew's CE VC Primary School, we encourage pupils and parents/carers to travel to school by walking, scooting and/or cycling (active travel) wherever possible.

We believe it is extremely important for our pupils to develop independence and make well-informed decisions for themselves. Being independent allows our pupils to transition to secondary school full of confidence, self-belief and self-sufficiency.

Introduction: 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 shops or school.'

Parents are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend regularly, but this does not disallow independent travel.

However, as a school we are responsible for the welfare of our children and therefore must consider what we believe is good practice in ensuring their safety.

We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's safety or welfare is at risk.

Early Years / Key Stage 1 / Lower Key Stage 2 (year 3 & 4):

- Our agreed school policy is that no pupil in Early Years, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 should walk to or from school on their own or be left on their own outside the school premises either before or after school.
- We will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings, provided they are over 16 years old.
- Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless a parent has informed the school. We also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements, preferably by letter/email
- If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents contacted. We will not allow older siblings in school to collect younger siblings.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 & 6):

There is no set age when children are ready to walk/cycle/scooter to and from school on their own. It very much depends on their maturity and confidence. Regarding UKS2 pupils, it is up to the parents to decide if their child is ready for this responsibility.

When deciding, parents should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence.

Parents should work with their child child to build their independence while walk/cycle/scooter to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

Safeguarding is paramount and parents/carers need to ensure their child is fully aware of stranger danger and how to report any concerns to an appropriate adult.

If you are not confident about how your child would react, then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to walk/cycle/scooter on their own. If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, then you must inform the school by completing the attached form.

Your child will be prevented from walk/cycle/scooter home alone unless we have permission in writing.

Your child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst on the school premises either before or after school.

Should their behaviour not be acceptable you will be asked to accompany them until they can be trusted again.

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

Guidelines:

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility parents should consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to travel 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 know what to do if they needed help?

6. Would they know who best to approach to get help?

Parents should train their 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 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 the 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

When cycling alone, pupils:

- MUST wear a helmet (this is non- negotiable)
- SHOULD be visible and wear a reflective jacket or coat
- CONDUCT a pre- ride bike check
- AVOID distractions and pre-empt hazards
- SHOULD plan a safe route with their parents
- MUST have a bike that is in a roadworthy condition.

Appendix 1

St. Andrew's CE Primary School **Permission/ Agreement for pupils to travel to and from school unaccompanied**	
Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school. **A new form MUST be returned every year.**	
Name of child:	
Year group:	
• I wish to inform you that my child will be walking/cycling/scootering to/from school to home on a regular basis. • I will notify the school immediately should this arrangement change. • I have read and understood the 'Pupil independent travel to school' policy.	
I fully understand that once I give permission for my child to walk/cycle/scooter to and from school alone, I take full responsibility for their actions or whereabouts when they are not on school premises.	
I confirm that I consider my child is ready for the responsibility of independently travelling to and from school.	
Signature:	
Print:	
Date:	
IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE, PLEASE ENSURE YOU LET US IMMEDIATLEY IN WRITING	