



Thameside Primary School: Travelling To & From School Alone Policy

Overseen by Governors: May 2025

Review date: May 2027



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Policy reviewed by:	Ingrid Burton
Key Changes:	The policy remains fit for purpose.



Information for parents and carers

All mothers and most fathers have legal rights and responsibilities as a parent - known as 'parental responsibility'.

If you have parental responsibility, your most important roles are to:

- provide a home for your child
- **protect** and maintain your child

Excluding school trips, when children are not on the school site, they are legally the responsibility of their parents or carers and this includes their actions and behaviours towards property and others.

This policy has been written to support you and your Year 5 and 6 children to walk to and from school safely.

Thameside want to support your decision to allow your child(ren) to walk alone by ensuring they know what behaviour is expected of them in the community and towards their peers.

Using the expectations set out in the policy, Thameside Primary will support parents and carers to put suitable consequences in place if their child(ren) experience anti-social behaviour from others or if they act in an anti-social way themselves.

What does this policy say?

Thameside Primary School and your parents believe that you can travel to and from school on your own now, but you need to read this policy first. After reading this policy, you will know:

- What you are and are not allowed to do when travelling alone.
- How to safely travel when around roads.
- What to do if a stranger talks to you.



1. The rules

When you reach Year 5, the school might let you travel to and from school alone by walking, scooting or cycling. The school and your parents have to agree that you can travel to and from school alone – you'll only be allowed if the school and your parents think you'll behave and that you will be safe.



Seven things to understand before you can travel to and from school alone

Before you're allowed to travel to and from school alone, the school and your parents will make sure you:

- ✓ Can be trusted to travel straight to and from school.
- ✓ Will only travel on the route that your parents have said is ok.
- ✓ Can be trusted to be sensible.
- ✓ Know how to behave near roads.
- ✓ Know what to do if a stranger approaches you.
- ✓ Know how and where to ask for help.
- ✓ Have the correct safety equipment, i.e. helmet, if you scoot or ride a bike



If the school and your parents think you understand the seven points above, then you'll be allowed to travel to and from school alone!

When can you travel to and from school alone?

A teacher will be at the school every morning and at the end of the school day, to make sure that you arrive on time and that you're safe when you leave. If this teacher doesn't think it's safe for you to travel home alone, the school will call your parents to come and pick you up.

You **won't** be allowed to travel home from school alone if:

- The school deems your behaviour to be unsafe or anti-social (please refer to the Thameside Behaviour Policy for examples of unsafe/antisocial behaviours)
- You have been sent home ill.
- You are expected to be the responsible person for younger siblings – your parent/carer still needs to drop them off or collect them from school.
- The school closes because of bad weather e.g. snow.
- The school closes because of a fire or serious event.



If you go to an after-school or before-school club, you will be allowed to travel to and from school if the school and your parents say it's ok. There can be more cars when before-school and after-school clubs are on, so your parents and the school might not think it'll be safe for you to walk alone.

If you go to **Aftercare**, you will not be able to travel home alone and will need to be collected by your parents or carers.

Which way can you walk home?

If you have been allowed to travel to and from school alone, both the school and your family expect you to only travel on the route your parents have said is ok for you to use.

What if you're late or don't arrive?

If you don't turn up to school, the school will call your parents to make sure that you're safe.

You need to get to school on time so that you don't miss anything important – if you're regularly late, the headteacher and your parents might not let you travel to and from school alone anymore.

Remember your behaviour!

Travelling near roads means that it is really important for you to behave sensibly. It is important that you don't run, push or be silly when around roads, as this can lead to accidents.

It is also important to remember that you are representing the school and you should not behave in a way that would make the school look bad – this means that you shouldn't shout, swear or be rude.

You should behave as the school always expects its pupils to behave.

2. Road safety

To be sure that you're safe on the roads, you should follow the road safety **ABC**:

A stands for awareness: you need to understand that roads can be dangerous and people can get hurt.

People often do silly things when travelling near roads, such as playing on phones while crossing a road – you should concentrate properly when you are near roads, so that you can spot any dangers.



B stands for behaviour: you should know how to behave when around roads and how to follow road rules so that you're safe.

When you're travelling to and from school, you should always walk on a **path** and cycle on the **left-hand** side of the road.

Only cross the road when it is **safe** to do so.

Puffin/pelican crossings: These are crossings where there is a traffic light for pedestrians.

Zebra crossing: These are crossings which are painted with white lines and have amber lights flashing at them – cars must stop at these if you're waiting at them. You should always make sure that the car has stopped before you start crossing.

If you're crossing the road at traffic lights (puffin crossing), you should only cross when you see the green person on the traffic light, the red person means stop, like the ones below.

Go.



Stop.



You shouldn't push or run near roads and if you see your friends misbehaving near a road, you should tell them that it's dangerous. Never give in to peer pressure and take any risks near roads.

C stands for choice: you need to understand how to make safe choices when you're walking near roads.

If you see your classmates making dangerous choices near a road, you should never follow what they're doing and you should let your teacher know that they are not behaving safely.

You should always cross roads where you know it is safe to do so, such as at a zebra crossing. It is important to remember that cars need to be able to see you – you shouldn't ever try and cross the road from behind parked cars or on a sharp bend. Make sure that you can be seen and that you are standing safely on the path when trying to cross roads, and not on the edge or on the road.



It can be difficult to tell how fast a car is going and, if a car is going fast, it takes them a lot longer to stop – you should never try to rush crossing a road. If you think the approaching car might have to break, you should not cross – always ask yourself, **“Do I have time to walk across the road?”** You should never run across the road.

The Green Cross Code

You should always do the following:

- Find the safest place to cross
- Stop before you get to the edge of the path (the kerb)
- Look all around for traffic and listen
- If traffic is coming, always let it past
- When it is safe, cross the road – do not run

The most important thing to remember when crossing a road is: **Stop, look and listen.**

3. Strangers

Make sure you know what to do if a stranger approaches you by reading this section carefully.

- If someone that you don't know approaches you when you're travelling to or from school alone, you should never talk to them.
- You should never approach people that you do not know.
- Never accept a lift from anyone unless your parents have told you about an arrangement.
- School staff will never offer you a lift. If they do, you should say no and tell your parents and headteacher as soon as you can.
- Never accept sweets or gifts from a stranger.
- If you are approached by a stranger, always tell a trusted adult – such as your parents or a classroom teacher.

Even if a stranger seems nice, you should never talk to or follow a stranger.



What if you feel unsafe?

If a stranger tries to talk to you, you should walk away. If the stranger follows you or tries to touch you, run to the nearest public place – like a post office or a shop. Even though shopkeepers are a stranger, they are adults who work in public places, and it's their job to help people. Once there, you should tell the owner that you feel unsafe and that you would like to call your parents (using the information on your contact card if you do not have a mobile phone) to come and collect you. The following school day, you should tell your class teacher what happened.

If you cannot run away, you should shout for help. You should shout 'Fire!' as loud as you can again and again. People are more likely to come and help if you shout that word. In serious cases, when you feel threatened and a stranger is being violent, call the police as soon as you can.

Pupil promise

A pupil promise is a promise between you, your school and your parents which says that you will follow the rules included in the promise, to make sure that you're safe when travelling to and from school alone. **Whether you have signed this policy or not**, if you do not keep your pupil promise, we may not think your behaviour is good enough or that you are safe enough to travel alone in the future.

As a Thameside pupil, you promise to:

- Behave in a safe and pro-social manner at all times
- Walk straight to and from school, not stopping off anywhere on the way.
- Always use the route that your parents have told you to use.
- Always be sensible when walking to and from school.
- Make sure you know the rules of the road.
- Never run across the road.
- Never push, shove or play next to a road.
- Follow the road safety ABC.
- Follow the Green Cross Code.
- Always stop, look and listen before crossing the road.
- Make sure you know what to do if a stranger approaches you.
- Make sure you know how to ask for help.
- Never accept sweets, gifts or lifts from strangers.
- Not be late to school.
- Behave appropriately when travelling to and from school, not being rude or damaging the school's reputation.



To be completed electronically

Pupil promise!





I will keep my pupil promise

Days my child can walk to school alone: M T W Th F (please circle)

Days my child can walk home alone: M T W Th F (please circle)

Contact card

If your child will not have a mobile phone with them when they travel to or from school, please complete the contact card (appendix 1) with the correct information.

Your child will then receive a laminated version of their contact card.

If your child does have a mobile phone, please add the school telephone number to their contacts so that they have the option of calling us too in an emergency.

Thank you.



Appendix



Contact numbers card

You always have to have a completed version of the below contact numbers card with you if you are travelling to and from school alone.

Your classroom teacher will answer any questions that you have with regards to how to use this card.

Contact numbers card

This card contains all the information needed for if you feel unsafe when travelling to and from school. You should have this card with you at all times

This contact numbers card belongs to:

Name:

What to do

If you get lost, you should call the school first and, if you are unable to get hold of anyone, call your parents. You should wait somewhere safe while someone comes to get you, e.g. in the co-op or other shop.

If you feel unsafe, call the police or the police community support officers straight away.

The school's number

0118 937 5551

Someone will be able to answer your call between: 8am – 4pm



Your personal emergency numbers

Contact 1:

.....

Contact 2:

.....

The police

If you feel threatened, unsafe or you are injured, you should call the emergency services immediately. **Call 999**

In non-emergencies you should call a police community support officer, who will be able to help you and take you home. **Call 101**

School information



Thameside Primary School Primary School
Harley Road
Caversham
Reading
RG4 8DB