St Cuthbert's Primary School
Walking to and from School Policy

Vision:

In our family school, we strive to be the best for today, for tomorrow, for ourselves, for each other, the wider world and for God.

As a Christian family we nurture an understanding that we are all of equal value and infinite worth.

In the safety of our unique family we will flourish and grow towards being Global Citizens and Courageous Advocates.

('You are now citizens together with God's people and members of the family of God'. Ephesians 2:19)

Mission statement:

Learning to love, loving to learn in the family of Christ.

('Encourage one another and build each other up'- 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Rationale

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 the shops or school.*"

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

In addition, as a school we have a duty of care for the safety and well-being of our children and therefore this policy is to help advise parents/carers in the decisions they make for their children in relation to safety to and from school. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Pupils in Foundation Stage (Nursery & Reception), KS1 (Years 1 & 2) and Years 3, 4 and 5

Our agreed school policy is that pupils in Foundation Stage or Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 should NOT walk to or from school on their own or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school.

In addition, we will only hand over pupils to named adults who are on the school data form. Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made this arrangement. We also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements. If someone turns up to collect your child and we have not been notified, the adult will have to wait until we have verified his or her identity.

If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents contacted.

If the child is not collected within 45 minutes and you have not made contact with school, we have a duty of care to refer to social services.

Pupils in Year 6

For pupils in Year 6, we believe that if children live within walking distance to school and are able to walk a safe route then you, as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and from school alone. If your child is attending an extra-curricular activity, then we request that permission forms are completed as usual for individual activities.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school, you should assess any risks associated with the route to school and assess your child's confidence. There are many ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. One way is to follow them a few times on their journey, so you know how safe and sensible they are.

When deciding whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and/or from home you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight to school or straight home, using the agreed safe route?

2. Are there roads to cross on the route and how busy/safe are those roads?

3. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend or group of friends?

4. Are they road safety aware?

5. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?

6. Would they know what to do if they needed help?

7. Do they understand about keeping themselves safe and not to make any dangerous choices, either by themselves or with a group of friends?

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, please complete the attached form.

<u>How to complete the form</u>

1. Mark 'yes' or 'no' for each statement (please note that if you circle 'no' for any of the statements, your child may not be ready to walk to or from school)

2. Read the information and if you agree please sign and date if you want your child to walk to school alone

3. Read the information and if you agree, please sign and date if you want your child to walk home alone

4. Please hand the form into the office – for safeguarding purposes, the form needs to be submitted prior to any independent travel

5. If at any time you need to change the arrangements, please ensure you let us know in writing.