

WALKING HOME SAFETY

Guidance for Primary-Age Children (Ages 7–12)

Last Updated February 2026

Purpose

This document provides practical guidance to support safe travel between school and home.

It is intended for parents, carers, and primary-aged pupils. It does not replace existing school safeguarding policies or local authority advice.

Before Leaving School

Children should:

- Know their agreed route home
- Confirm who they are walking with
- Know what time they are expected to arrive
- Understand what to do if plans change

Consistency and routine reduce uncertainty. Guidance should always reflect the child's age, maturity, and local environment.

Choosing a Route

Whenever possible, children should:

- Use familiar, well-used roads
- Avoid isolated shortcuts
- Walk in pairs or small groups
- Remain in areas where other adults are present

Predictable routes are safer than variable ones.

Safe Walking Habits

Children should be encouraged to:

- Keep their head up and remain aware of surroundings
- Avoid using phones or headphones while walking
- Stay near open shops, crossings, and busier streets
- Trust their judgement and change direction if uncomfortable

Early awareness prevents most avoidable situations.

If a Child Feels Unsafe

Children should understand that they can:

- Go straight into a nearby shop or public building
- Approach a parent with children and ask for help
- Return to school if it is close and open
- Call a trusted adult immediately
- Speak clearly and confidently to attract attention

Clear action reduces hesitation and builds confidence.

Mobile Phones and Location Sharing

If a child carries a mobile phone, parents may wish to consider enabling built-in location sharing features.

These are not a substitute for supervision, but may provide reassurance where appropriate. Location-sharing tools should only be used with parental consent and clear discussion about privacy.

For iPhone users:

Apple's built-in "Find My" feature allows location sharing within Family Sharing settings.

For Android users:

Google Maps provides a built-in location sharing feature between trusted contacts.

Parents should ensure:

- Location sharing is enabled only between trusted adults
- Children understand how and when the phone should be used
- Privacy settings are reviewed periodically

Technology should support communication, not replace it.

For Parents and Carers

- Walk the route together initially
- Discuss practical scenarios calmly
- Reinforce that asking for help is always appropriate
- Avoid creating unnecessary fear

Calm preparation builds independence and resilience over time.

Safeguarding

Any concerns about a child's safety should be reported in line with the school's designated safeguarding lead procedures.