



Drop off/Collection & Walking to From Home Policy

2025-2026

Aims

As children mature, we recognise the importance of allowing children to walk to and from school. It nurtures independence, responsibility and enables them to develop a sense of accountability as well as the importance of earning trust from adults.

SEC recognises the benefits of walking to and from school:

- Walking is a form of exercise and has a positive effect on focus, mental health and physical health.
- Walking can instil a vital understanding of road safety.
- Walking fosters a sense of environmental stewardship, which is a key Catholic Social Teaching.

Legalities

There are no laws dictating at what age or over what distance children should be allowed to walk/commute to school independently. 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."

A parent's legal responsibility is to ensure their child gets to school safely and attends regularly. School also has the responsibility to safeguard the welfare of their pupils. In order to do this, we follow clear policy that dictates good practice in ensuring the safety of our pupils. We will work with relevant authorities if we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Pupils in EYFS – Year 5

At St Edmund Campion Primary School, no pupil in year groups EYFS to Year 5 is permitted to walk/commute to or from school on their own or be left on their own on the school premises, either before the school gates have opened or at the end of the school day. In addition, children in these same year groups should not be accompanied to school by an older, primary-aged sibling, for example, a Year 6 child should not be expected to accompany their younger sibling to and from school alone.

At the start of the day, pupils in these year groups should arrive on the school premises no earlier than 8.35 am. At the end of the day, pupils in these year groups should be collected on time. Pupils will only be handed over to named adults or older siblings over the age of 12 years (the age recommended by the NSPCC). Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made this arrangement.

If a child is not collected at the end of the day (3:20pm), parents/carers will be contacted. If this happens repeatedly, a meeting will take place between parents and school so that they can work together to ensure the safety and well-being of the child.

Pupils in Year 6

Only Year 6 children can walk/commute to and from school independently.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, then you must complete the agreement form (available from the school office or website). Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing.

Mobile Phones

We understand that, for safety reasons, you may wish for your child to carry a mobile phone if walking home unaccompanied. Mobile phone devices are permitted **only** for children walking to and from home alone.

For safeguarding and educational reasons, mobile phones must be switched off and out of sight once children are on school grounds. Once inside the building, devices must be handed to the school office each morning to be stored securely. All devices must be clearly named. Devices will then be returned at the end of the school day, with the expectation that they will not be switched on or visible in any way until the children leaves the school premises. If a child does not follow this code of conduct, devices will be confiscated.

Please see SEC's 'Mobile Phones and Smart Devices Policy' for further clarity.

**IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE THE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE, PLEASE
CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE IMMEDIATELY**

Walking To and From School Parent Agreement

Child's Name:

Class:.....

✓ I give permission for my child to walk to and from school unaccompanied each day at the appropriate times.

- **Every day**
- **Specific days. Please List:**

✓ I understand that my child is my responsibility outside of school hours (walking to and from school).

✓ I understand that if my child brings a mobile phone to school, it must be switched off and out of sight once on the school premises, and handed to the school office once inside the school building.

✓ I understand that the mobile phone will be the responsibility of my child at all other times.

Signed: Date:

Relationship to child: