

**The Park Federation Academy Trust
The Godolphin Junior Academy
Walking Home Policy 2026-27**

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Policy Detail	Information
Document Owner	Senior Leadership Team / Designated Safeguarding Lead
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Pupils Walking Home Safely Policy

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1. Policy Statement and Aims

At The Godolphin Junior Academy, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our pupils. This policy outlines the framework and conditions under which upper Key Stage 2 pupils (Years 5 and 6) may be permitted to walk home from school independently. It aims to balance the development of children's independence with strict safeguarding protocols.

2. Year Group Restrictions and Collection Rules

Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4): All pupils in these year groups must be collected from the school premises by a parent, carer, or a named responsible person **over the age of 16**.

Sibling Collections: Pupils in Year 5 and 6 are strictly not permitted to escort or walk home with siblings who are in Year 3 or Year 4. The school does not allow pupils this level of responsibility for safeguarding reasons.

Older Sibling Exception: If a Year 5 or 6 pupil is normally collected by a sibling who is under the age of 16, the parent/carers must submit a completed Independent Walking Permission Form. The school will not release a Year 5 or 6 child to anyone under 16 without this explicit consent.

3. Eligibility Criteria for Independent Walking (Years 5 and 6)

Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 may only walk home independently if the school has received a signed Independent Walking Permission Form from a parent or carer, and if the following safety criteria are met:

- **Assessment of Capability:** The parent/carers must deem the child fully capable of navigating the journey home independently.
- **Road Safety Awareness:** The pupil must possess a thorough understanding of road safety rules.
- **Route Verification:** The parent/carers must assess the route home, ensuring it is safe, does not require crossing major main roads without assistance, and avoids secluded areas.
- **Personal Safety Knowledge:** The pupil must be fully aware of personal safety protocols ("stranger danger") and know how to report concerns to a trusted adult.

4. School Authority and Refusal of Permission

The school reserves the right to refuse or revoke permission for a child to walk home alone if:

- The school determines the child lacks the maturity or ability to travel safely.
- The child lives an excessive distance from the school (defined generally as a journey exceeding 15 minutes).
- Any specific safeguarding concerns arise regarding the journey.

5. Timings and Extra-Curricular Activities

Standard Dismissal: Independent walking permissions apply strictly to the end of the standard school day at **3:30 pm**.

After-School Clubs: The independent walking policy ****does not apply**** to after-school activities. All pupils who attend an after-school club must be collected by an adult or named responsible person at **4:30 pm**.

6. Parent and Carer Responsibilities

- It is the sole responsibility of parents/carers to notify the school immediately of any changes to the child's travel arrangements, emergency contact details, or if consent needs to be updated or withdrawn.

- Parents/carers must ensure an accurate Parent/Carer walking home contract (Appendix 1) is on file before the child is permitted to leave the premises unaccompanied.

7. Policy Review and Governance

This policy is maintained and reviewed in line with the school's commitment to the highest standards of safeguarding and child protection.

- **Review Cycle:** This policy will be reviewed **annually** by the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to ensure it remains compliant with statutory safeguarding guidance and continues to meet the needs of the school community.
- **Triggered Reviews:** A review will be expedited ahead of the annual schedule in the event of changes to national safeguarding legislation, local authority guidelines, or specific incident assessments that warrant policy amendments.
- **Approval and Publication:** Any updates to this policy will be formally approved by the Senior Leadership Team and communicated directly to parents and carers via the school portal.

8. Appendix 1 Parent/Carer walking Home Contract



Parent/Carer Walking Home Contract

Please read and sign the agreement below. Your child will only be given permission to walk home alone once this agreement has been signed and returned to school.

- I agree my child in Year 5 or Year 6 is capable of independently walking to school.
- My child is fully aware of and understands road safety.
- I have assessed the route on which my child will use when walking home from school and am confident that my child has the ability to walk home safely on their own.
- I have checked the route and am confident that my child will not be crossing busy main roads or walking through secluded areas. I have made my child aware of this as well.
- My child is fully aware of stranger danger and how to report any concerns to an appropriate adult.
- I understand the school may refuse my request if the school determines my child is not able to walk home alone.
- I understand if the school has concerns about my child's ability to travel safely to school or lives too far away (more than 15 minutes) from school then the school can refuse permission for my child to walk home alone.
- It is my responsibility to notify the school and update the consent form in the event of any changes.
- I will collect my child at 4.30pm if they have attended an after school club

I have read the above walking home contract and agree to the terms.

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer (circle one please)

Full Name: _____

I give permission for my child: Full Name: _____ in Class: _____

☐ To walk home alone

☐ To be collected by: _____ Above 16 years old ☐

Relationship _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Relationship to child: _____

Emergency Contact Number: _____