



4th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Walking Home Alone Permission

At Burwell School we all appreciate that working patterns and hours can, at times, make picking up at the end of the school day very challenging. Whilst there is no clear law about when it is safe to leave a child alone at home or to walk home alone, the NSPCC gives some very clear guidance. In brief they suggest that some (but not all) children aged 10 and over are mature and responsible enough to walk home alone but only if the parents have put in to place all reasonable measures. At Burwell we would not expect a child under the age of 10 to walk home alone.

The NSPCC also suggest that no child under the age of 16 should be put in charge of a younger child. This means that at Burwell we would not normally expect any child to walk a brother or sister home unsupervised. We ask all parents to make sure that the teachers know if their child is walking home alone or being accompanied by a brother or sister.

At Burwell we believe that walking home alone is a vital part in developing a child's confidence, maturity and independence before they go to secondary school. However if we believe that a child is being put at risk we have a statutory obligation to speak to and follow any guidance from Social Care.

As children coming into Year 5 and Year 6 are potentially walking home alone, we would be grateful if you could go onto your online Scopay account, go into the heading marked 'Walking Home Permission' and tick the relevant box to indicate if your child is allowed to walk home alone.

Please only tick the box if you are happy for your child to walk home alone. If you do not tick the box we will assume your child is not allowed to walk home alone. There is now an option to add additional information for your child.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to Mr Kern or Miss McNally.

Yours sincerely

A Kern

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