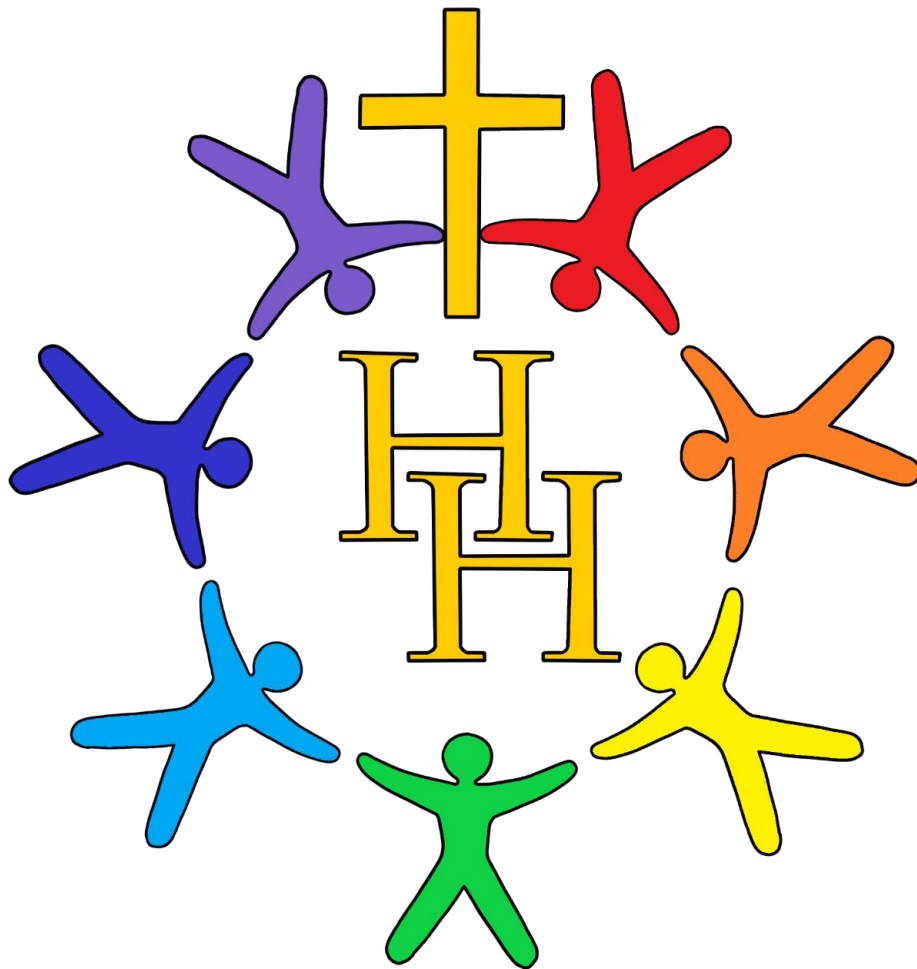


Hanging Heaton CE (VC) J&I School



Walking to and from School Policy 2026 – 2027

'Let all that you do be done in love' - (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Introduction

Parents take full and due responsibility and care to ensure that their child arrives safely at school each morning. Where children walk to school it is understood by the school that parents ensure that their child takes the safest route to school as is possible and that they are accompanied to school by a responsible adult.

Parents are advised to talk to children about road safety even if children are accompanied to school by an adult.

In the later years of Primary School, parents may decide that their child is capable of walking to or from school alone, particularly if they live very close to the school and do not need to cross any roads. The following guidelines set out the school's advice, policy and procedures should parents wish to consider allowing their child to walk to or from school without an adult.

Walking to School Without an Adult

Although it is up to parents' discretion how children travel to school each day, the school recommends that all children in Year 4 and below are accompanied by an adult on the way to school and that older children only do so if the parent is fully satisfied that it is safe for them to do so. Parents/carers are asked to inform the school if their child will be regularly walking to school alone so that a register can be compiled should they not arrive at school at the appropriate time in the morning. A letter is sent out in the September of each year to make sure that this is the case. See Appendix 1.

The school recognises a clear responsibility to contact parents if their child has not attended morning registration and no contact has been made by the parent to the school to inform the school of absence due to illness or other reason.

The school will therefore ensure that registers are checked and will then make attempts to contact the parent/carer to ascertain a reason for absence or to highlight that a child has not attended registration.

Contact will be sought with the parent/carer within 1 hour (maximum) of registers being taken and an absence without reason being noted by classroom staff.

Where a child has left their parent with the intention of walking to school but has not arrived and the school has made contact with the parent/carer and an issue of a missing child is therefore noted, the school will immediately contact the police to report a missing child. The school's designated senior person for child protection will then be immediately informed and safeguarding procedures for child protection will be followed.

Parents are responsible for informing the school immediately should their child be unwell or otherwise unable to attend school.

Home-time

It is important that both teacher and child knows which adult will be collecting the child at the end of the school day so please inform the school in advance of any changes. If a change is made without informing the school, it may be necessary to contact the parent for confirmation. Children in Classes 1 and 2 will be released from the classroom when their teacher sees an adult, with children in other classes to seek their parents or carers in the playground and to return back to their teacher if there is no one there.

Walking Home from School Without an Adult

All children from Reception to Year 4 must be collected at the end of the day. Children in Year 5 and 6 may go home on their own only if the parent has made a request to the school (see appendix). If the school has concerns about a particular child's ability to travel safely or if the child lives too far away, permission for the child to travel home alone may be refused.

Parents therefore must make an informed decision that they are confident that their child is able to walk home sensibly and must be aware that they are responsible for their child's safety on their way to school even when they are not physically present. Parents are advised to consider the following before deciding whether to request permission for their child to walk home alone:

- How long is the journey?
- Are there any roads to cross and, if so, does your child know how to cross them safely?
- What time will your child be walking home? (It is recommended that children do not walk home in the dark or in failing light)

- Are you confident that your child is aware of safety rules around stranger danger?
- Does your child have some friends to walk home with? If so, are you confident that they will walk together sensibly?

The school maintains a register of children who have permission to be dismissed by a member of staff at the end of the school day to walk home alone.

If a child has left the school to walk home alone but does not arrive home, the parent should contact the school in the first instant to seek clarification from the responsible adult as to when the child left the school site.

If the parent feels that a period of time has passed and their child has not arrived at home and that this is unusual or causing concern the school recommends that the parent/carer calls the school to report their concern. The school can then offer assistance in using contacts to search for their child. It is recommended that the police are informed if the child is not traced within half an hour of this action or if school deem police involvement is necessary.

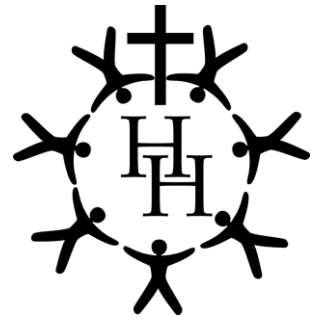
Date of Policy: March 2026

Review Date: March 2027

Senior Member of Staff Responsible: Mrs S Caspell

Designated Member of Staff: Mr T Wildey

Appendix 1



2nd September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of pupils in Year 5 and 6,

We are aware that as children approach Years 5 and 6 they can wish to become a little more independent and part of that involves walking to and from school. The purpose of this letter is to ask you to advise us if this is the case for your child and, if it is, to ask you to complete the attached slip. The only time we insist on your child being collected is after an after-school club.

As I am sure you understand your child's safety is paramount and we are happy to follow your wishes if you wish your child to leave school unaccompanied, however if authority is not given then your child will remain at school until someone picks them up.

Please contact either myself or Mr Wildey if you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Caspell

I give permission for _____ (child's name) to walk home from school on their own. I understand that this will not apply to leaving school after an after-school club when I will ensure that my child is picked up.

Signed _____

Date: