



Hereford Cathedral Junior School Walking home policy

Section 175, Education Act 2002 places a duty on schools to make ensure the safeguarding of children and the promotion of their welfare. The exchange or responsibility for the care of children, from leaving school to arriving home, is one area of risk.

Best practice recommends that all children below Year 5 should have supervisory arrangements in place from point of release from school. Children from Year 5 and above are capable of completing their journey in safety without direct supervision. However, in each case, it is particularly important to consider carefully the child's level of understanding and awareness of risks.

Parents who wish to request permission for their child to be released from school at the end of the day without supervisory arrangements are asked to complete the 'Walking Home from School' form, available from the school office or as a download from the school website. Once permission has been granted, the child's name will be added to a list held by a member of staff on duty and it will be **the child's** responsibility to ensure that he or she is checked out before leaving school. This is to ensure that staff have an accurate record of which children have left the school. Failure to sign out would be an indication that the child in question was not yet ready for this kind of responsibility and could lead to permission being withdrawn.

Parents should note that children who have been granted permission to walk home unsupervised will no longer be the school's responsibility from the time when they are signed out by the member of staff on duty.