



GREAT ECCLESTON COPP
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL



WALKING TO AND
FROM SCHOOL
POLICY (CHILDREN)

Reviewed and updated September 2020

Copp Cares

"Let us love, not in word, but in truth and action." (1 John 3:18)

Talk to me and I will listen, show me and I will remember,
Involve me and I will learn, encourage me and I will thrive.

Copp, the village school, where everyone is special and where God will help us grow



PLEASE NOTE THAT, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, CHILDREN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CYCLE/SCOOTER TO SCHOOL AS WE DO NOT HAVE THE FACILITIES TO STORE BIKES OR SCOOTERS IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE.

WHEN CYCLES ARE ALLOWED BACK IN SCHOOL, CHILDREN WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CYCLE TO AND FROM SCHOOL UNTIL THEY HAVE PASSED THEIR CYCLING PROFICIENCY IN YEAR 6.

Walking to School

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.

Pupils must also maintain social distancing and must arrive at their designated time (surnames A - I from 8.30am - 8.45am and surnames J - Z from 8.45am - 8.55am) and enter at their designated entry point.

Older children (Y5/6) may walk to school independently of an adult where parents have made arrangements for them to do so. Parents therefore take an informed decision that they are responsible for their child's safety on their way to school, even when they are not physically present.

Children should NOT arrive at school prior to 8.30am, as there will be no members of staff on duty before this time.

Parents must inform the school if their child will, at any time, be walking to school without an adult, so that the arrival of such pupils can be monitored and parents informed, should they not arrive at school at the appropriate time in the morning.

As the responsible body receiving children from home at the start of the day, 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 to ascertain a reason for absence or to highlight that a child has not attended registration.

Contact will be sought with the parent by 9.10am if there is an absence without reasons being noted by classroom staff or the office.

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 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 before 8.30am on the day of absence, should their child be unwell or otherwise unable to attend school. This includes informing the school prior to taking their child for any early morning medical examinations (eg doctor or dentist) which may cause



their child to miss registration in the morning and arrive in the school later than 8.55 am. This **MUST** be done with a phone call, (leaving an answerphone message if necessary) not a message on Class Dojo.

Walking Home from School

It is the policy for the school to seek written clarification from parents/carers in Y5/6 who wish their child to walk home alone at the end of the school day.

The school maintains a register of those known children whose parents have made the request that their child is dismissed by a member of staff at the end of the school day to walk home alone.

Any child walking home **MUST** complete the Walking Home Book which is kept in the Y5 and Y6 classrooms.

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 instance to seek clarification from the school 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 calls the school to report their concern. The school can then offer assistance in using contacts to search for the child. It is then recommended that the police are informed if the child is not traced within half an hour of this action being taken, or indeed, as soon as the parent deems police involvement is necessary.

If school feels, for whatever reason, that it is not safe for a child to walk to school or to walk from school without a responsible adult, then permission will be withdrawn and parents informed.

Social Events Out of School Hours

Parents are not required to accompany their children during school discos but they must drop them off at school and arrange collection at the end of the disco by a responsible adult (18 years of age and above). **Under no circumstances will children be permitted to leave the disco on their own, whether or not their parents have signed a walking home letter.**

For all other social events, eg summer fete, Christmas fair, etc, all pupils **MUST** be accompanied by a responsible adult.

At no time will pupils be able to arrive or leave school functions on a bicycle.

The term parent/parents refers to any parent or carer who has responsibility for a given child.