

Unstone Schools Federation

Travelling Home Alone Policy



Approved by:	Governors	Date: September 2025
Last reviewed on:	September 2025	
Next review due by:	September 2026	

This policy is devised for the general health and safety of children. In deciding whether your child is ready to travel home from school alone you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
3. Are they road safety aware?
4. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
5. Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?
6. Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they didn't want to do (scream, shout, kick, fight)?
7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. Would they know who best to approach to get help?

If you are not confident about how your child would react then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to travel home on their own.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, then you must inform the school by letter or by completing the slip below. Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing.

Parents of children who wish them to travel home unescorted by an adult, at the end of the school day (3:15pm), must adhere to the following guidelines;

- Parents must have registered with the school that they are prepared for their child to travel directly home from school at the end of the day.
- It is the parent's responsibility to check the route that their child may walk or travel home, in order that they may make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey. Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas is to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed.
- Parents must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure they are sufficiently happy that their child is capable of undertaking the proposed journey safely.
- During winter months and/or inclement weather, children must be dressed appropriately.
- Children should preferably walk in a group and not alone.

- Children should know their home phone number (plus one other emergency contact).

- If travelling home via public transport the child should have a mobile phone which is fully charged and has credit. This to be handed into the school office during school hours.

- There must be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival.

- Any child must be capable of arriving home within 30 minutes (if walking) of the end of the school day (3:15pm). Journeys over 30 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this stage. Journeys via public transport a child must be capable of arriving home within an hour.

- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe, parents must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken.

- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe and direct contact with the child has not been established by either school or parents, school will instigate the missing person's procedure in conjunction with the relevant authorities.

- If the missing person procedure is initiated there must be a point of contact remaining at both the home and school location until further advised by the relevant authorities.

- If your child does arrive home after the missing person procedure has been instigated, immediate notification to the relevant authorities/emergency services must be made. This is to enable the missing person procedure to be stood down.

- Once the missing person procedure is initiated responsibility will pass to the relevant authority to further any enquiries. Both parents and school will be guided by them in order that a successful outcome is achieved.

Should your child's behaviour not be acceptable you will be asked to accompany or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again.

Please Return to the School Office

**CONFIRMATION THAT MY CHILD MAY WALK OR TRAVEL BY
PUBLIC TRANSPORT HOME ALONE**

I confirm that _____ (name of child)

who is in Year _____ at Unstone Junior School may travel home from school alone.

I confirm that I have read and understood the School's Travel Home Alone Policy.

Signed _____

Name (printed) _____

Date _____