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Year Five Walking To and From School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As our pupils get older, we are often asked about whether children can walk to or from school on their own. Technically, the law doesn't state a minimum age limit for children walking to and from school alone. A families' guide to the law states:

"There is no law prohibiting children from being out on their own at any age. It is a matter of judgement for parents/carers to decide when children can play out on their own, walk to the shops or school."

Ultimately, only a parent/carer knows if their child is ready to walk to school alone. At Green Ridge, we want to encourage children's independence, particularly in readiness for secondary school, and owing to the fact that the vast majority of pupils attending the school live within a very short distance to Green Ridge and will be a short walk away from the main local secondary feeder school.

As your child will be in Year Five in September, we want to draw your attention to our policy which can be found on our website [here](#) and attached to this email. I ask you to read it carefully before you consider whether your child may be allowed to walk to or from school, and if you do wish to give permission, please ensure that you complete and return a copy of the permission slip that was sent home with you child today. The permissions will take place from September when your child is in their new year group.

You may wish to talk to your child's class teacher before you give permission to gain their views on your child's independence and awareness of safety, so that you can feel confident in making your decision of whether to let them walk to or from school independently.

Please note, if you give your child permission, the school may later revoke this if their behaviour when travelling to/from school is repeatedly unsafe or irresponsible.

If you have any questions, as always, please do come and speak to one of the team.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Tom Arnold
Assistant Headteacher – Upper Key Stage Two