



Independent Travel to and from School Policy

September 2026

Approved by: Mrs W Lynam, Headteacher
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1. Introduction and aims

At Loscoe Church of England Primary School and Nursery, we recognise that some families wish for their older children to build independence by walking to and/or from school without a parent or carer.

This policy sets out the school's approach to independent travel, including who it applies to, how parents/carers can give permission, and how this links to our Mobile Phone Policy.

Our policy aims to:

- Support pupils in developing independence and road safety awareness in a way that is safe and appropriately risk-assessed
- Set out clear eligibility criteria and a consistent consent process for parents/carers
- Clarify where responsibility for a child's safety sits once they leave the school site unaccompanied
- Support our other policies, particularly our Mobile Phone Policy and safeguarding procedures

2. Relevant guidance and legal context

This policy should be read alongside Keeping Children Safe in Education and the school's Mobile Phone Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and Health and Safety Policy.

There is no legal minimum age at which a child may travel to or from school unaccompanied; this is a decision for parents/carers to make based on their knowledge of their child's maturity and the route involved. The school's role is to provide a clear, consistent framework so that decisions to permit independent travel are made jointly with parents/carers, recorded, and understood by staff. At Loscoe Primary School we only allow children who are in the academic year 5 or 6 to travel to and from school independently.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for approving this policy, monitoring its implementation, and deciding on any exceptional requests that fall outside the standard eligibility criteria.

3.2 Class teachers

Class teachers are responsible for knowing which pupils in their class have permission to walk to and/or from school independently, for collecting and securing mobile phones from those pupils in line with the Mobile Phone Policy, and for raising any concerns about a pupil's readiness for independent travel with the headteacher.

3.3 Parents/carers

Parents/carers are responsible for deciding whether independent travel is appropriate for their child, completing and returning the permission slip (Appendix 1), talking through road safety and emergency arrangements with their child beforehand, and for their child's safety and welfare from the point they leave the school gates until they arrive home, and vice versa.

3.4 Pupils

Pupils granted permission to travel independently are expected to go straight to or from school by the agreed route, follow any agreed safety rules, and follow the school's Mobile Phone Policy if they bring a phone with them.

4. Who this policy applies to

Independent travel is only available to pupils in Years 5 and 6. Parents/carers may choose to give permission for their child to walk to school, from school, or both, without being accompanied by a parent or carer.

This is a choice for families to make; the school does not require or expect any family to take up this option, and parents/carers remain free to continue accompanying their child to and from school at any point.

5. Giving permission

Before giving permission, we ask parents/carers to talk this through with their child, including:

- How to stay safe near roads and when crossing
- What to do in an emergency, or if their plans change
- The agreed route, and that they should go straight to or from school
- Whether their child feels happy and confident walking on their own

Parents/carers who wish to proceed should complete the permission slip at Appendix 1 and return it to the school office or their child's class teacher. Separate permission can be given for the journey to school and the journey from school.

By giving permission, parents/carers are taking full responsibility for their child once they are outside the school gates. The school's duty of care applies while a child is on the school site and during the school day, and does not extend to the independent journey to or from school.

6. Mobile phones

In line with our Mobile Phone Policy, pupils who walk to and/or from school independently are welcome to bring a mobile phone with them for that journey, if their parent/carer indicates this on the permission slip.

- On arrival at school, the phone must be turned off and handed to the class teacher, who will store it securely until the end of the day
- Pupils who do not follow this procedure may have permission to bring their phone withdrawn, in line with the Mobile Phone Policy
- The school accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while a pupil is travelling to or from school

7. Withdrawing or reviewing permission

Permission for independent travel can be withdrawn at any time, by either the parent/carer or the school.

- Parents/carers can withdraw permission at any time by informing the school office or class teacher in writing
- The school may pause or withdraw permission where there are safeguarding concerns, persistent lateness or non-arrival, or where a pupil does not follow the agreed safety arrangements or the Mobile Phone Policy

Where the school has concerns about a pupil's safety in relation to independent travel, staff will follow the procedures set out in Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education and will discuss any concerns with the parent/carer promptly.

8. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher, or sooner if there is a change in guidance or a significant incident that requires it. When reviewing the policy, the school will take into account feedback from parents/carers, pupils and staff, and any relevant safeguarding or road safety considerations.

Any concerns regarding this policy should be raised with the headteacher, Mrs W Lynam, at headteacher@loscoe.derbyshire.sch.uk.

9. Appendix 1: Permission slip for independent travel to and from school

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Loscoe, we want all of our children to travel to and from school safely, and this usually means being accompanied by a parent or carer. From Years 5 and 6, families can choose to let their child walk to and from school by themselves, with written consent using the slip below.

If you're considering this, please talk it through with your child first - make sure they know how to stay safe near roads, what to do in an emergency, and that they feel happy walking on their own.

In line with our Mobile Phone Policy, children walking independently are welcome to bring a phone with them - just let us know on the slip below. On arrival, they'll need to turn it off and hand it to their class teacher, who will keep it safe until home time.

By giving permission, you're taking full responsibility for your child once they're outside the school gates. Please complete the slip below if you're happy to go ahead, and do get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lynam

Headteacher

Permission slip: Walking to and from school independently

PUPIL DETAILS	
Child's name:	
Class/Year group:	

☐ I give permission for my child to walk to school by themselves, without a parent or carer.

☐ I give permission for my child to walk from school by themselves, without a parent or carer.

☐ My child will also bring a mobile phone with them for this journey. I understand that, in line with the school's Mobile Phone Policy, the phone must be turned off and handed to the class teacher on arrival at school, and will be returned at the end of the day.

I understand that, by giving this permission, I am taking full responsibility for my child outside of the school gates.

Parent/carers name: _____

Parent/carers signature: _____

Date: _____

FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY	
Authorised by:	
Date:	