**Rationale**

At Oakfield, all children from Nursery up to Year 4 are to be collected every day at 3.15am and dropped off at 8.45am.

For older children (Y5-Y6), the responsibility for their child’s safety rests with parents and carers who choose for them to walk independently to / from school. The most important factor to consider about suitability of a child walking to/from school alone is any risk to the child. If parents/carers wish to let their child travel to/from school independently, then they must assess the risks associated with the school route and their own child’s confidence. Parents should work with their children to build up their independence while walking to and from school together, through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

**Pupils walking to/from school independently**

School policy for children to walk home independently is that:

* Children must be in Year 5 or Year 6.
* It is the parents’ responsibility to check the route that their children may walk home in order that they may assess the appropriateness of the journey.
* It is parents’ responsibility to ensure they are sufficiently happy that their child is capable of undertaking the proposed journey safely.
* Children must be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.
* Children should preferably walk in a group and not alone.
* Children should know a phone number they can ring in an emergency. Mobile phones can be brought to school but MUST be handed to the class teacher at the start of each day.
* There must be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival.

**Drop off/collection by an older sibling**

If parents wish older siblings (aged 14 + ) to drop off/collect younger children, they must contact the school to discuss this and seek agreement from all parties. Ultimately, parents/carers are responsible for anything that should go wrong in their absence.

School policy for children to be collected by an older sibling:

* Children in the Early Years (Nursery and Reception) and KS1 (Y1 and Y2) must not be collected by anyone under the age of 18.
* Children in Y3 to Y6 must not be collected by anyone below the age of 14.

**Late collection/non-collection**

We do not expect any child to be collected late. If a parent/carer is delayed for any reason it is the parent/carer’s responsibility to call an authorised adult to collect the child/children from school on their behalf.

**Consideration**

If there are any reasons parents are struggling with drop off and collection please communicate with us, to that we can consider your individual needs and see where we might be able to support you. All parents who have parental responsibility are able to collect their child, unless there is a legal reason why this is not the case.