

Children walking/cycling to and from their Academy Alone Policy

Policy Type	
Adopted by the Trustees	
Chair of the Trustees	
Date	
To be reviewed	
On Website	

Introduction:

It is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure their child arrives safely and promptly to their Academy each morning. Whilst walking to their Academy it is understood that parents/carers ensure that their child takes the safest route possible and is accompanied at all times by a responsible adult.

During Years 5 and 6 parents/carers may decide that their child is capable of independently walking/cycling to their Academy. If this is the case, parents/carers make the informed decision that they are responsible for their child's safety on their journey to their Academy, even if they are not physically present.

It is advised that parents/carers ensure their child is fully conversant with road safety, the bike is road worthy and appropriate safety gear is used.

The following guidelines set out Elevate Multi Academy Trust advice, policy and procedures should parents/carers wish to allow their child to walk to or from their Academy without an adult.

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to assess the route on which the child will walk home from their Academy to ensure they are confident their child has the ability to walk home safely, even if their child is accompanied to their Academy by a parent/carer. Crossing busy main roads and walking through secluded areas is discouraged.

It is also advised to the parents/carers that their child knows their own home phone number and other emergency contacts and either has a mobile or money for a pay phone should they need to call home in an emergency. Some mobile phones have a GPS tracking system and having an emergency ICE (In Case of Emergency) number in contacts is recommended.

Safeguarding is paramount and parents/carers need to ensure their child is fully aware of stranger danger and how to report any concerns to an appropriate adult.

Should a parent/carer wish to allow their child to walk to their Academy unaccompanied by an adult, parents/carers are asked to inform their Academy and the walking/cycling/travelling consent form is completed/updated so that a register can be compiled of key children to identify should a child not arrive at the Academy at the appropriate time in the morning.

It is essential that written consent is provided by the parent/carer to authorise independent travel to and from the Academy. The cycle/walking home policy must contain all emergency contact numbers and the parent/carer must notify their Academy and update the consent form in the event of any changes.

A model walk/cycle alone consent form is set out below.

The Academy may refuse a proposal if a child is not deemed able to walk/cycle home alone:

If the Academy has concerns about a particular child's ability to travel safely or if a child lives too far away more than 15 minutes away permission for the child to walk home alone may be refused.

There must always be an appropriate adult/parent/carer at home to meet the child on their arrival. Parents/carers need to be aware when walking home/cycling home the Academy will not know if a

child arrives home as planned. Hence the parent/carer needs to ensure adequate safety protocols are in place should an emergency/accident arise.

If the Academy feels the welfare and safety of the child walking/cycling to their Academy is compromised the Academy may revoke the arrangement and will notify parents/carers accordingly.

Years 5 and 6:

It is recommended that ONLY children in Years 5 and 6 be allowed to walk to their Academy unaccompanied by an adult and only then if the parent/carer is confident that it is safe for them to do so. However individual cases will be discussed with parents/carers.

From Home to the Academy:

As the responsible body receiving children from home at the start of the day, the Academy will ensure that morning registrations are taken in each class. If a child is found to be absent and no prior notice of such absence has been received from the child's parent/carer, the Academy recognises a clear responsibility to contact the parent/carer to ascertain the reason for absence or highlight that a child has not attended morning registration.

It is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure that the Academy is informed should their child be unable to attend the Academy for any reason in accordance with Elevate's Attendance policy. If a child who walks/cycles to their Academy unattended is not in Academy contact will be sought with the parent/carer within 30 minutes or the Academy's protocol] of morning registration taking place and an absence without reason being noted by the classroom staff.

If upon contact it is confirmed that a child has left home with the intention of walking/cycling to the Academy but has not arrived and therefore an issue of a missing child is noted, the Academy will contact the police immediately. The Academy's designated senior person for safeguarding/child protection will then be immediately informed and safeguarding procedures for child protection/children missing procedures will be followed.

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to assess the route on which the child will walk home from their Academy to ensure they are confident their child has the ability to walk home safely. Crossing busy main roads and walking through secluded areas is discouraged.

A register of children who have permission to walk/cycle home alone after the school day will be kept by the Academy.

From the Academy to Home:

If a child has left their Academy to walk home but does not arrive home when expected and direct contact with the child has not been established, the parent/carer should contact the Academy in the first instance to seek clarification from the responsible adult who dismissed their child as to the time they left the Academy. However, the Academy may not be contactable after home time and therefore it will be parents/carers responsibility to notify the police.

Cross Referenced Policies:

- Health and Safety
- Children Missing Procedures
- Collection – Uncollected School's Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Child Missing Education Policy

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Behaviour and Rewards

Name of Academy

Return to the Academy office:

CONFIRMATION/CONSENT THAT MY CHILD MAY WALK/CYCLE TO AND FROM THE ACADEMY/HOME ALONE

I confirm that _____ who is in Year _____ at _____ Academy may walk/cycle home from the Academy alone on the following days: (please tick)

Monday:	before school club:	am:	pm:	afterschool club:
Tuesday:	before school club:	am:	pm:	afterschool club:
Wednesday:	before school club:	am:	pm:	afterschool club:
Thursday:	before school club:	am:	pm:	afterschool club:
Friday:	before school club:	am:	pm:	afterschool club:

I confirm that I have read and understood the Academy's walking/cycling home alone policy.

In the event of an emergency please contact:

_____ (PARENT/CARER) on _____
 Please print Telephone number

Or: _____ (Name/Relationship to child) on _____

_____ (Name/Relationship to child) on _____

Name:

Dated:

I will notify the Academy immediately of any changes to the emergency contact details.

I understand the Academy may revoke this consent if child safety is compromised.