



Hilpertons Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Travelling to and from School Policy

Policy Ratified: March 2021

Next Policy Review Date: March 2025

Policy Reviewed: every 4 years

Policy Reviewed by: Teaching and Learning Committee

Policy Ratified by: Teaching and Learning Committee

This Policy links to the Statutory Child Protection Policy

This policy is adapted from Collaborative Schools Limited (CSL)

Travelling to and from School Policy

Parents and carers are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend regularly, but this in itself does not disallow independent travel. However, as a school we are responsible for the welfare of our pupils and therefore have to consider what we believe is good practice in ensuring the safety of our pupils. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Pupils in Foundation Stage or KS1

Our agreed school policy is that **no pupil in Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1** should walk to or from school on their own, be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school or travel alone by taxi to and from school. In addition, we will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings. Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made this arrangement. We also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups they will be kept in school and parents contacted. We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings.

Pupils in KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6)

There is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own. It very much depends upon their maturity and confidence. Therefore, as regards pupils in KS2 we believe that parents and carers need to decide whether their child is ready for this responsibility. We would still highly recommend that pupils in year 3 and 4 at least are still brought to and collected from school.

In deciding whether a child is ready to walk to school parents and carers should assess any risks associated with the route and the child's confidence. It is recommended that parents and carers work with their children to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness.

If parents and carers decide that their child is ready for this responsibility then they must inform the school in writing or by email. This information should be held on the child's pupil record. The school will prevent the child from walking home unless permission has been given in writing.

Travel by Taxi

Hilpertons C of E Primary School does not recommend that pupils of primary school age are routinely allowed to travel to and from school in a taxi when unaccompanied. Where this is a necessity school should be made aware of this arrangement by completing the appropriate form (Appendix 1) to inform school that such a journey will be made and what the frequency of such journeys may be. The expectation placed upon parents, guardians or carers is that children should be dropped off and collected at school by a responsible adult. This would mean that pupils who need to travel by taxi are accompanied on that journey by a parent, guardian or carer. If a pupil travels "occasionally" in a taxi, we would expect school to be notified by phone to allow the school to ensure that the pupil arrives safely and when expected.

Appendix 1

**IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE PLEASE
ENSURE YOU LET US KNOW IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY.**

.....

Hilpertown C of E Primary School

Permission for pupils to travel unaccompanied by taxi

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to school.

Name of child:

Class:

There may be occasions when pupils need to travel between school and home in a taxi. Although many taxi firms and taxi drivers are careful to ensure the safety of young passengers, children can be very vulnerable when travelling alone. Hilpertown C of E Primary School do not recommend that pupils are routinely allowed to travel to and from school in a taxi when unaccompanied.

By signing this agreement, you acknowledge that school has informed you of the associated risks when a young child travels unaccompanied in a taxi. As part of this you agree to inform school when a journey by taxi will be taking place and that you will inform the school when the pupil has reached their intended destination safely.

Signed _____ Print name _____ Date _____
