



Appendix 1

OAKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Walking Home Alone and Sibling Supervision - is it right for my child? Guidance for parents

We would ask parents to consider the following in deciding whether or not to leave child/ren unsupervised at home; walking to/from school or in the care of a sibling:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have you considered the risk/s posed by leaving your child alone, walking to/from school or in the care of a sibling?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How old is/are the child/ren?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How mature is/are the child/ren? What is their level of understanding/awareness about being unsupervised/walking to or from school?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How comfortable is/are the child/ren with the arrangements (this includes both the younger child and the older child who is acting as 'carer')?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where will the child/ren be left? Is this a safe place?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How long, and how often, will the child/ren be left?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is your home environment safe and secure? Have you assessed the home environment/journey to or from school for risks? Has the older child or 'carer' been involved in this risk assessment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How far will the child/ren have to walk (if appropriate)?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How far away will you be? Will you be easily contactable?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do/es any of the child/ren (this also includes the older sibling or 'carer') have additional needs – medical, emotional, behavioural, learning difficulties/disabilities? How will these needs be met in your absence?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does your child or sibling caring for another child know what to do in an emergency? Does your child know who they can contact in case of an emergency? Have instructions been left e.g. in case of a fire?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the expectations of the child/ren during this time? i.e. are they expected to cook for themselves etc.?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the child have knowledge about how to keep themselves and younger siblings safe e.g. road safety, not answering the door to strangers, cooking etc?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is their level of knowledge when it comes to first aid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How well do the siblings get on? How will any tension be managed during your absence?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is/Are the child/ren clear about rules and boundaries of what they can and can't do while you are out? If they are looking after a younger sibling, do they have the confidence and authority to implement these rules consistently? What will they do if the younger children misbehave?