

## WALKING TO SCHOOL / WALKING HOME POLICY

### SUMMER 17

*Note that parts of this policy were drafted after discussions took place with children in Year 4 (academic year 2016-2017).*

This policy is devised for the general health and safety of children in conjunction with the police and La Fontaine Academy.

Parents/carers of children who wish them to walk to school or walk home (at the end of the school day (15:30)), unescorted by an adult, must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Parents/carers must have registered with the school that they are prepared for their children to walk directly from home to school, or from school back home.
- Children must be in Year 5 (after the Easter Holidays) or Year 6.
- All children who attend Breakfast Club must be brought to school by an adult.
- All children who attend after-school clubs in the winter months (1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March) must be collected by an adult.
- It is the parent's/carer's responsibility to check the route that their children may walk home in order that they may make an assessment of the appropriateness of the journey. Crossing of fast roads, walking through secluded areas is to be discouraged. A single route must be agreed and it must be shared with the school. Any changes must be shared with the school.
- Parents/carers must be certain that children have an awareness and understanding of the green cross code and stranger danger. It is parent's/carer's responsibility to ensure they are sufficiently happy that their child is capable of undertaking the proposed journey safely.
- During winter months and / or inclement weather, children must be dressed appropriately.
- Children should preferably walk in a group and not alone.
- Children should know their home phone number (plus one other emergency contact) and, preferably, have their own mobile telephone (of a kind that is in line with our Mobile Phone Policy, i.e. **NOT** a smart phone).
- When walking home from school, there must be someone at home to meet the child on their arrival. Not having a person over 16 present at home upon arrival would be a cause for concern and would be treated accordingly, in line with our safeguarding procedures.
- Any child must be capable of arriving to school/home within 15 minutes (see appendix 1). Journeys over 15 minutes are not considered appropriate for children to walk at this stage.
- Drop off points can be used in the morning, but they need to be no more than 15 minutes away from school (see Appendix 1). It needs to always be the same drop off point. Remember that all children who attend Breakfast Club must be brought to school by an adult.

- Pick up points can be used after school, but they need to be no more than 5 minutes away from school (see Appendix 2). Pick up points can only be 5 minutes away, in case you run late and your child needs to come back to school. It needs to always be the same pick up point.
- When walking home after school, if any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe, parents/carers must immediately notify the school in order that appropriate action can be taken.
- If any child does not arrive home within the agreed timeframe and direct contact with the child has not been established by either school or parents/carers, the school will instigate the missing person procedure in conjunction with the relevant authorities.
- If the missing person procedure is initiated there must be a point of contact remaining at both the home and school location until further advised by the relevant authorities.
- If your child does arrive home after the missing person procedure has been instigated, immediate notification to the relevant authorities/emergency services must be made. This is to enable the missing person procedure to be stood down. Once the missing person procedure is initiated responsibility will pass to the relevant authority to further any enquiries. Both parents/carers and school will be guided by them in order that a successful outcome is achieved.

#### **Behaviour expectations:**

- Families of children seen misbehaving or not adhering to road safety rules on their way to school/home will be informed and, should concerns arise in terms of trust, their right to walk to school/home on their own will be withdrawn.
- Likewise, whilst waiting in the playground for the bell to be rung in the morning, families of children seen not being sensible will be informed and, should concerns arise in terms of trust, their right to walk to school on their own will be withdrawn.

#### **Mobile phones:**

- Only allowed for Year 5 (post Easter Break) and Year 6.
- As indicated above, only non-smart phones are allowed. As indicated in our 'Mobile phone Policy', *'the only type of phone permitted is non-smart ones (i.e. the phone can be used for making/receiving calls and sending/receiving text messages). A range of phones meeting these criteria can be found in most supermarkets.'* Read our full policy [here](#).

**CONSENT FORM – WALKING TO SCHOOL ON THEIR OWN**

I give permission for my child to walk to school on their own and I have read and understood all of the guidelines in La Fontaine Academy's Walking To School / Walking Home Policy.

Child's Name: .....

Child's Class: .....

Parent's/carer's signature: .....

Date: .....

**CONSENT FORM – WALKING HOME ON THEIR OWN**

I give permission for my child to walk home on their own after school and I have read and understood all of the guidelines in La Fontaine Academy’s Walking To School / Walking Home Policy.

Child’s Name: .....

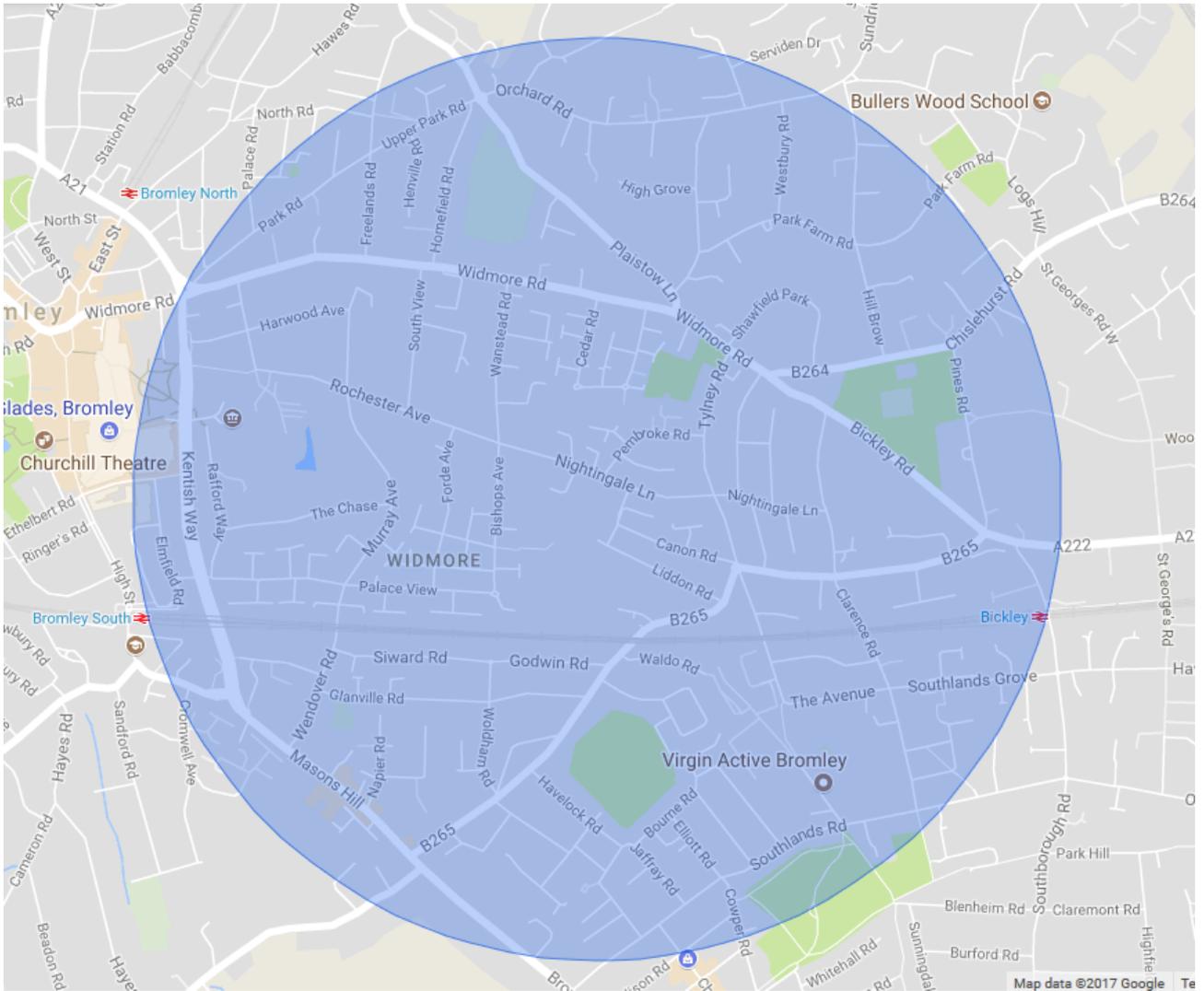
Child’s Class: .....

Parent’s/carer’s signature: .....

Date: .....

**APPENDIX 1:**

Estimated 15-minute radius from La Fontaine Academy (Nightingale Lane, BR1 2SQ)



**APPENDIX 2:**

Estimated 5-minute radius from La Fontaine Academy (Nightingale Lane, BR1 2SQ)

