



ST JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headmistress: Mrs D Titus

Dear Year 6 Parents and Guardians

Wednesday 02 September 2026

I am writing to you as you may be thinking about when your child could be ready to start going home alone.

We understand that parents may feel that the last year of primary school is a good time to prepare their children for independent travel. However, this clearly does not need to be for the whole of Year 6. In fact, you may wish to consider if there is any benefit to this preparation at all as your child will be taking a different journey from their secondary school to home.

The NSPCC gives the following information:

There's no legal age that your child can travel home from school alone – this is up to you and your best judgement, or your school's rules and policies. However, you should never leave a child alone who isn't ready or is unable to care for themselves.

When your child arrives at school, they are placed into our care. We therefore have the responsibility to share with individual parents any concerns we have about allowing a child to leave the school alone at the end of the day.

The main concern for the school is the number of serious incidents that occur in the local area throughout the year. We receive reports about harassment, verbal abuse, and robberies taking place in the local area at the end of the school day. The number of incidents occurring on or around public transport is also concerning and it is often school children that are targeted as they are particularly vulnerable.

We appreciate that there may be other reasons why you may need your child to go home alone. This may include your working hours or other commitments. In these situations, you may wish to consider what support could be available from the parental community or through your family and friends network. Have you considered the after school provision at St Joseph's or at other local settings? The local Children's Centres may also have information about after school provision and childcare.

We are aware that it is often the children themselves that are requesting they go home alone even if their parents are able to collect them. If you would like support with explaining to your child why you do not want them to go home alone yet, Mrs Studd will gladly meet you and your child together.

This letter is not intended to cause alarm but to provide a reminder of the very real challenges our children may face when they are alone in the community. If you would still like your child to go home alone in Year 6, then please complete the [Home Alone form](#) providing full details of where your child is going to after they leave the school premises.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Titus
Headmistress