



**West Monkton Church of England School**

A place for growing together and learning to fly.



# **Collecting Children from School Policy – Primary Settings**

**September 2024**

September 2026

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## Aims and Intent

The Oak Partnership are committed to ensuring all pupils are safe when they leave at the end of a school day. We appreciate that, for many families, arrangements need to be flexible and it may be that several people care for the child after school. For this reason, we have set out clear procedures that all staff and parents must adhere to, to ensure the safeguarding and wellbeing of all pupils.

The aim of this policy is to:

- Keep pupils safe.
- Ensure all staff members are aware of the correct procedures for the end of the school day.
- Make parents aware of the expectations regarding collecting children.
- Highlight the importance of parent-school communication.

## 1. Legal Framework

1.1 This policy has due regard to statutory legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Section 175 of the Education Act 2002
- DfE (2024) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2024) 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'
- DfE (2023) 'Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility'

1.2 This policy will be used in conjunction with the following Trust policies:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Parent Code of Conduct Policy

## 2. General Collection Procedure

- 2.1. Parents will collect pupils at the end of the school day, which is:
  - at 3:15pm for all pupils (gates close at 3.30pm).
- 2.2. Parents will wait by the designated class/gate for their child to arrive.
- 2.3. Class teachers will escort pupils to the relevant doors/exit points at the end of each day.
- 2.4. Staff members supervise the designated doors/exit points until all pupils have been collected, accounting for the school's late collection procedure.
- 2.5. Sufficient staff to pupil ratios are met at all times during the collection process, including statutory ratios in relation to EYFS pupils.
- 2.6. Under no circumstances will staff members take pupils home themselves.

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- 2.7. Parents are aware of what is expected of their behaviour when they are collecting pupils in line with Parent Code of Conduct policy, e.g. that the school is a smoke-free, mobile-free zone.
- 2.8. Years 5 and 6 pupils will be allowed to walk home on their own during daylight hours as long as the class teacher has been informed of this arrangement by the pupil's parents, prior to this commencing, and in line with the school's procedures (i.e. appropriate permissions given). **Note, this is only applicable for the end of school day, not if the pupil is attending an after-school activity club.**
- 2.9. Staff members will not release a pupil if it is felt that the parents are not in a fit state to ensure the pupil's safety or if the pupil shows signs of distress or anxiety.
- 2.10. Pupils will only be permitted to leave the premises with adults who are registered with the school as a person with collection responsibility or the parent/carer has contacted school giving them the name of who is collecting and a password.

### **3. Extended Services (After-school Care) and After-school club activities collection procedure**

- 3.1. Where pupils attend the Trust school's 'After School Care Provision' (which parents are charged for) and led by a named school staff supervisor, pupils must be collected **before 5.45pm (if booked for a full session) from the school office**. Staff leave at 6.00pm.
- 3.2. **All after-school activity clubs and other extra-curricular activities** will finish by 4.30pm the latest unless otherwise stated in advance.
- 3.3. Parents will use the normal collection procedure, as outlined in section 2, when picking up children from after-school activity club **with the exception of Year 5/6 walking home. For any Year 5/6 pupils attending an after-school activity club, parents will need to agree with school for each club collection arrangements**. This recognises the increased risk of the later time, for example, it could be dark.
- 3.4. Where an after-school activity club is provided by an external organisation, it is the responsibility of that organisation to implement an appropriate process for the collection of pupils, ensuring that they effectively identify and respond to safeguarding concerns.
- 3.5. Pupils who have not been collected following an after-school activity club will be escorted to the school's paid-for after-school care club where this is available. Where this is not available, the 'non-collection' procedure will be followed.
- 3.6. If parents are late to collect their children following an after-school activity club, which results in the pupils attending the after-school care club, parents will be charged in accordance with the school's charging policy.

## 4. Late collection procedure

- 4.1. If the pupil's parents cannot be reached via the contact number provided, emergency contacts will be phoned.
- 4.2. The school will continue to try and contact the parents.
- 4.3. The pupil will join the after-school care club (where available) and the parents are liable to pay the cost for this service.
- 4.4. All staff members, including those in charge of after-school activities, are aware of the school's internal procedure for late collection and will ensure that the situation is resolved whilst causing as little distress as possible to the pupil.
- 4.5. Pupils will be supervised at all times, ensuring appropriate staffing ratios are met – including those outlined in the 'Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage' where necessary.
- 4.6. Where appropriate, a staff member will sensitively ask the pupil whether they are aware of any reason that could account for their parents being late.
- 4.7. If the parents cannot be contacted, the non-collection procedure will be followed.

## 5. Recurrence of late collection

- 5.1. The length and frequency of late collections are monitored by the school.
- 5.2. Concerns regarding a pupil's safety and welfare associated with late collection will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- 5.3. The school will keep a record of incidents where parents are late with no reasonable explanation using the school's recording system.
- 5.4. In the event of recurrence of late collection, where no reasonable explanation has been given, a letter will be sent home to the parents inviting them to a discussion about their circumstances.
- 5.5. Parents will be made aware of the arrangements that may be put in place if they continue to collect their child late, including the school's right to charge for the cost of providing supervision for your child/ren.

## 6. Collecting a child on someone's behalf

- 6.1. The school never releases a pupil into the care of another adult who is not a family member or named emergency contact without the consent of their parents.

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- 6.2. Social workers are not permitted to collect pupils from the school to attend care review meetings without the prior consent of teachers, foster carers, parents and the pupil themselves (where age appropriate).
- 6.3. The school will not accept a list of people who may collect the pupil as a substitute to calling the school office and informing the school directly of the change in collection.
- 6.4. Pupils from Reception to Year 6, may be collected from school by an older sibling if the sibling is **aged 15 or older**. *(In extenuating circumstances the Headteacher/member of the senior leadership team may authorise exceptions to this).*
- 6.5. If parents wish for their child to be collected by another party who does not have parental responsibility, whether this is a regular occurrence or a single occurrence, they must contact school office BEFORE 3pm informing the school of the following:
  - the name of the person they wish to collect their child(ren)
  - the relationship between themselves/the child(ren) and the person they wish to collect
  - a physical description/photo of the person, unless already known to the school
  - a password which will be used by both parties to ensure the identity of the person collecting the child(ren) is the individual arranged by the parent.
- 6.6. In an emergency, verbal consent may be given for an agreed person to take their child home.
- 6.7. Staff members who are unsure of an adult's identity will ask to see identification.
- 6.8. If there is uncertainty about a person's identity following the checking of their identification, the following procedure will be followed:
  - A staff member will take the pupil to the school office.
  - The pupil's parents will be contacted for further advice.
  - A member of the SLT will be made aware of the situation.
  - If the pupil's parents are not contactable, the standard procedure for uncollected pupils will be followed.
- 6.9. Under no circumstances will a pupil be allowed to leave the school with someone if they are showing signs of distress or anxiety and/or there is any uncertainty around who the person collecting is.

## 7. Non-collection procedure

- 7.1. The school will continue to try and contact the parents and named emergency contacts in the event of a non-collection.
- 7.2. A detailed record of the action taken, and the calls made, will be kept using the schools recording system.
- 7.3. Under no circumstances will staff members go and look for the parents.
- 7.4. A staff member will supervise the pupil at all times.
- 7.5. If no contact has been made with the pupil's parents or emergency contacts, and no one has arrived to collect the child within an hour since the original collection time (i.e. end of the school day/4.30pm if it was pre-arranged for a pupil to attend a school club/5.45 if attending full session for after-school provision), then the school's child protection procedure will be followed and children's services/police will be contacted.
- 7.6. A member of staff will stay with the pupil until children's services arrives.
- 7.7. Once the situation has been resolved, the reason the circumstances arose will be established and noted, and steps to avoid recurrence will be taken by the school and parents.

## 8. Monitoring and review

- 8.1. Following an event of non-collection, the relevant procedures will be reviewed to ensure they were effective and amended where necessary.
- 8.2. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by Trust Leads including the Trust Safeguarding Lead.
- 8.3. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all teaching and other relevant staff as well as parents.