



**GLENMERE COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



At Glenmere we are GREAT! Because
we:
Grow, Respect, Enjoy, Achieve
Together

Collecting Children from School Policy

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Statement of intent

Glenmere Primary believes it is essential to ensure all pupils are safe when they leave school at the end of the 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 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.

Signed by:

_____	Headteacher	Date: _____
_____	Chair of governors	Date: _____

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 (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education'

DfE (2023) 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'

DfE (2018) 'Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility'

2. General collection procedure

- 2.1. Parents will promptly collect pupils at the end of the school day, which is:

3:10 pm for **Reception** pupils.

3:15 pm for **KS1 & KS2** pupils.

- 2.2. Parents will wait outside the KS1 entrance for Years 1 and 2 for their child to arrive. Years 3 and 4 parents will wait outside the KS2 entrance by the main entrance. Parents of Year 5 and 6 may collect their child by the year 5 or 6 classroom outside door.
- 2.3. Reception parents will be let in to the Reception playground just before 3.10pm and they will then line up at the gate of their playground, where their children will be sent out to them.
- 2.4. Class teachers will escort pupils into their exits at the end of each day.
- 2.5. Staff members supervise the pupils until all pupils have been collected, accounting for the school's late collection procedure.
- 2.6. Sufficient staff-to-pupil ratios are met at all times during the collection process, including statutory ratios in relation to EYFS pupils.
- 2.7. Under no circumstances will staff members take pupils home themselves.
- 2.8. Parents are aware of what is expected of their behaviour when they are collecting pupils, e.g. that the school is a smoke-free zone.
- 2.9. Upper KS2 Pupils (pupils Year 5 and 6) will be allowed to walk home on their own as long as the necessary 'permission to walk to and/or from school alone letter' is completed prior to it commencing. The school would strongly advise pupils in Year 3 and 4 aren't allowed to walk home alone, however, in exceptional circumstances, children from lower Key Stage 2 will be considered on a case by case basis.
- 2.10. 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.
- 2.11. Pupils will only be permitted to leave the premises with adults who are registered with the school as a person with collection responsibility, or if they are in upper KS2 and have permission from parents to walk home

3. After-school club collection procedure

- 3.1. All after-school clubs and extra-curricular activities will finish at 4pm or 4:15 pm.
- 3.2. Parents will use the normal collection procedure, as outlined in [section 2](#), when picking up children from after-school clubs unless otherwise stated on the club letter.
- 3.3. Where after-school club provision is provided by an external organisation, it is the responsibility of that organisation to implement an appropriate process for the collection of pupils.
- 3.4. We will strongly advise against any child during the darker nights walking home from school on their own. Requests to do this will be considered on an individual basis.
- 3.5. After school coaches will be told if any child is walking home on their own.

4. Late collection procedure

- 4.1. Parents will notify the school at the first possible opportunity if they believe they will be late to collect their child.
- 4.2. If the pupil's parents cannot be reached via the contact number provided, emergency contacts will be phoned.
- 4.3. The school will continue to try and contact the parents.
- 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 In relation to late collection on a recurrence – please see the Late Collection Policy

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.
- 6.2 Social workers are not permitted to collect pupils from the school to attend carereview meetings without the prior consent of teachers, foster carers, parents and the pupil themselves.
- 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 may be collected from school by an older sibling if the sibling is aged 16 or older.
- 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, this must be put in writing to the school.
- 6.6 In an emergency, verbal consent may be given for an agreed person to take their child home. This will be recorded, and a letter will be sent to the parents confirming that the arrangement was made at their request.
- 6.7 Verbal consent must include a full physical description of the person, unless already known to the school.
- 6.8 In some cases, a password may be requested to be used by both parties to ensure the identity of the person collecting the pupil is the individual arranged by the parent.
- 6.9 Staff members who are unsure of an adult's identity will ask to see identification.
- 6.10 If a member of staff has any concerns about letting a child leave, they will speak to the headteacher or the designated DSL that day.
- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 Under no circumstances will a pupil be allowed to leave the school with someone if they are showing signs of distress or anxiety.

7. Collecting Children during the school day

- 7.1. If a child needs to be collected during the school day, the child will be collected and taken down to the office.
- 7.2. The office will ask all adults, who collect the child for their individual password
- 7.3. The child's name, reason for collection, who has collected them and the password will be recorded down.
- 7.4. If staff members are unsure of identity they may request further identification.
- 7.5. If a child is showing any signs of distress towards the person picking them up, the child will not be allowed to leave.

8. Non-collection procedure

- 8.1 The school will continue to try and contact the parents and named emergency contacts in the event of a non-collection.
- 8.2 A detailed record of the action taken, and the calls made, will be kept.
- 8.3 Under no circumstances will staff members go and look for the parents.
- 8.4 A staff member will supervise the pupil at all times.
- 8.5 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 – the end of the school day, after a club if it was pre-arranged for a pupil to attend a school club – the school's child protection procedure will be followed and children's services and the police will be contacted.
- 8.6 A member of staff will stay with the pupil until children's services arrives.
- 8.7 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.

9 Monitoring and review

- 9.1 Following an event of non-collection, the relevant procedures will be reviewed to ensure they were effective and amended where necessary.
- 9.2 This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher and DSL.
- 9.3 Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all teaching staff and parents.

Permission to walk to and/or from school alone

Child's name _____ Year group _____

The route to school is within safe walking distance	yes/ no	
I consider the route to school to be a safe route	yes/ no	
I have provided school with a map of my child's route to and from school		yes/ no
My child does not need to cross any busy/main roads	yes/ no	
My child does need to cross a busy/main road(s) and I have taught them to cross safely at a crossing labelled on the map of the route	yes/ no	
My child is aware of the potential dangers regarding roads/ traffic and how to avoid dangers and stay safe	yes/ no	
My child understands and follows the green cross code	yes/ no	
My child understands stranger danger	yes/ no	
My child knows what to do if they need help	yes/ no	
My child knows what to do in an emergency	yes/ no	
My child will have a mobile phone	yes/ no	
They will have my number, the school number and an emergency contact on their phone		yes/ no
I acknowledge that there will be other risks	yes/ no	
When walking home – my child will go straight home	yes/ no	
When walking home my child will not wait in the library or in other public buildings		yes/ no
When walking home, a responsible person will be at home to supervise them		yes/ no

Permission slip – Please tick relevant boxes

- ☐ I fully understand that the school does not recommend children below Year 5 walking to and/or from school alone.
- ☐ I fully understand that it is my responsibility to ensure my child gets to and from school safely including getting to school on time. If circumstances change then I will communicate this with school.
- ☐ I fully understand that if they are at an extra- curricular activity/After School Provision they should always be collected by an adult.
- ☐ I have provided a map of the route to/from school.
- ☐ My child will be walking to school alone
- ☐ My child will be walking home from school alone

The days in which my child is able to walk from school on their own are: Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri

Signed _____ Name _____

Date _____

Letter to Parents: Collecting Pupils from School

Address line one

Address line two

City/town

Postcode

Date

RE: Collecting pupils from school

Dear name of parent,

I am writing to you today with regards to pupils who are being collected late from school, who are being collected by other people than those specified and who are often uncollected altogether.

I would first like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who abide by the school's policy for collecting pupils from school.

Our school has a Collecting Children from School Policy, which I have included with this letter for parents to review. Despite this, it has come to my attention that some parents are not following the procedures that are in place. It is for this reason that I would like to take the opportunity to explain the importance of the school's Collecting Children from School Policy and why there is a need for consistent procedures to be established and adhered to.

Through this letter, I hope to provide clarification on the school's procedures for collecting your children, and avoid any confusion, inconvenience and frustration in the future. I urge parents to read the contents of this letter thoroughly.

At our school the safety of your children is of the utmost importance to us, which is why we have the following procedures in place.

Running late

If, when coming to pick your child up from school, you are running late, I ask that on each separate occasion you ring the school office on 0116 2882228 and inform the school that you are running late and when you can be expected at the school. We also ask that you be mindful of the time at which you notify the school; wherever possible, we ask parents to notify the school no later than 30 minutes before the specified collect time.

If applicable, please also name the person who will be collecting your child on your behalf. The school may ask you for a description of the individual that you have stated if they are unknown to the school. Additionally, we may request that a password is put in place, for us to ask the individual who comes to collect your child. Pupils of the school will not be released from the school unless staff are completely satisfied that they are safe. When parents are not at the school on time to collect their children, pupils will be kept in the school office and will be supervised by their classroom teachers.

Recurring late pick-ups

As our policy states, the length and frequency of late collections are monitored by the school, and any concerns regarding a pupil's safety that may be associated with late pick-ups will be appropriately addressed by the school's DSL, where applicable.

Non-collection

It is unfeasible to expect school staff to watch pupils after the end of the school day. A section pertaining to non-collection can be found in the Collecting Children from School Policy and should be read with care.

A member of staff will supervise the pupil and the school will try to contact parents, and other listed emergency contacts, in the event that a child is uncollected from the school. Under no circumstances will school staff go looking for parents. If no contact can be made and no specified adult (someone that has been approved to collect the pupil) has come to collect the pupil within an hour of the original collection time, the school will have no alternative but to follow their child protection procedures and contact children's services or the police.

Collecting a pupil on someone's behalf

The school will never, under any circumstances, allow a pupil to leave the premises with an adult who has not been specified as someone with responsibility for collecting the pupil. If there is a change in who will be coming to collect a pupil, this **must be communicated to the school**, where a description of the person and a password will be asked of you, to ensure your child's safety.

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. Having a list of potential adults who may or may not be collecting a pupil is a gateway to confusion and inconsistencies, which is where mistakes can be made.

If you are running late, or are unable to collect your child up due to some other unforeseen circumstances, please ring the school office on 0116 2882228, to inform us who will be collecting the pupil on your behalf. Please be ready to provide a description of the individual as well as a password.

It should also be noted that the school will ask the individual who is collecting the pupil for proof of identification, and they should be ready to provide this and a pre-selected password will be asked for and recorded.

Finally, please have the same consideration for the above when your child is attending an after-school club – the procedures outlined in this letter and in the included policy are still enforced and should still be followed. In addition, parents are responsible for arranging and ensuring that their child is taken from the school to another club that is held at a different site – teachers will not fulfil this responsibility.

I understand that sometimes emergencies happen which may make the above procedures seem cumbersome; however, I would like to reassure you that the school has these procedures in place for the sole purpose of protecting the pupils of the school. The whole school appreciates your cooperation with following these procedures and we will be understanding of valid explanations and emergencies.

Also included in this letter is a slip which should be completed and handed back to the school office by the end of the week. The slip outlines the emergency contact details for your child. I am asking that parents complete this slip to ensure that the school holds accurate and up-to-date emergency contact details for all pupils.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I would also like to reiterate my thanks to the vast majority of parents who follow the school's procedures.

Kind regards,

Headteacher

Signature

Non-collection of Pupil Letter Template

Address line one

Address line two

City/town

Postcode

Date

RE: Non-collection of pupil

Dear name of parent,

As you are aware, name of child was not collected from school on day/date and we were unable to contact you, or the emergency contact, via the details you provided to the school.

I would like to remind you that, in the event of non-collection of a pupil, Glenmere Primary must work in accordance with child protection procedures. For this reason, children's services and the police were made aware of the situation on date.

I hope the reasons for the late collection of your child are not serious, but I encourage you that if you are experiencing difficulties collecting your child on time, or arranging transportation for them, please do come in and speak to either myself or your child's teacher and we can discuss ways in which we may be able to help.

Kind regards,

Name

Job role