



Saint Mary's Aughlisnafin

Collecting Children from School Policy

Reviewed – November 2023

Policy on Collecting Children from School

November 2023

Introduction

It is essential that the school ensures all children leave school at the end of the day with a safe adult. We appreciate that for many families, arrangements need to be flexible and it may be that a few people care for the child after school. Sometimes there will be 'one-off' arrangements. For this reason we have set out clear procedures which all staff and parents/carers must adhere to.

General collection procedures

- Children are to be collected at the end of the school day at the front gate from their child's class teacher.
- Children must inform their teacher when their agreed adult has arrived.
- Children are not to be released from school with someone if they are showing signs of distress or anxiety.
- Children are not to be released if the teacher feels that the parent is not in a fit state to ensure their child's safety.
- Members of staff should never take a child home themselves.

Late collection procedures

- When a child has not been collected by 2.00 pm, the child is taken to the reception (school foyer) where they are registered by the member of staff on duty.
- The member of staff on duty or school secretary makes contact with the parents by telephone.
- If parents are unavailable, the emergency contact is called.
- When a child has not been collected by 4.00 pm, the child is enrolled within the school's afterschool club. The parent is liable to pay the cost for this service.
- Lateness of collection is monitored by the school. The school may share information with regard to persistent lateness with the Educational Welfare Officer or Social Care.

Non-parents collecting children

Parents must have provided clear verbal or written permission to the class teacher for children to be released to an adult who is not the parents or carers of the child. This permission should be given with a description of the person collecting (if not already known to the school). Where possible, this person will be introduced to the class teacher in advance of the first collection.

- If any member of staff is unsure of the adult's identity they may ask to see identification.
- If, after checking identification, there is any uncertainty about the person collecting, the member of staff should take the child to the school office and contact the parents by telephone to seek further guidance/advice, and inform a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- If the parents/carers are not contactable then the member of staff should refer to the procedures for children uncollected from school.
- Children will only be released from school to young people over primary age, including older siblings, when the teacher is satisfied that it is safe and reasonable to do so.

Children travelling home independently

Children in Primary 6 or 7 may be allowed to leave school independently provided parental consent has been given in writing. The school keeps a register of children who have permission to travel to and from school independently which is shared with the child's class teacher. Children must notify the class teacher when leaving school. This permission only applies to children leaving school at the end of the school day: any child leaving school early (e.g., for medical reasons) must be collected by a responsible adult.

Parental Responsibility

The school acknowledges that those with Parental Responsibility have a legal right to collect their children from school which will be respected by the school. In the event of any dispute, it is the responsibility of the parents to notify the school of the arrangements that have been made. The school will of course comply with any court orders that may be in place.

Links to other policy documents

See also:

- Health and Safety Policy

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/639/doc/letter/20220412034515_42_Health_and_Safety_Policy_Reviewed_2022.pdf

Contacts

Conor Murphy: Headteacher

Michael McKibben: Board of governors chair

Peter Higgins: Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection

Policy Monitoring and Review

A copy of this guidance is available to all staff and parents and is published on the school website.

Parents will be made aware of this policy when their child is admitted to this school.

This policy is reviewed annually by the Governors' Safeguarding Committee