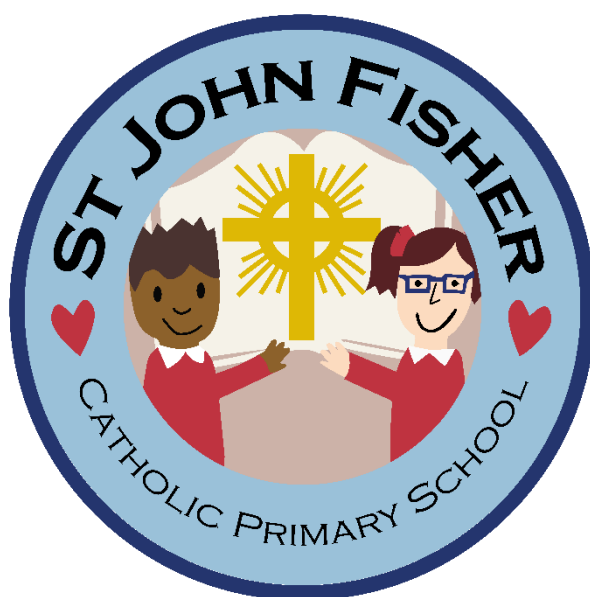


St John Fisher

Collecting Children from School Policy



Date policy last reviewed: 7/11/2025

Signed by:

Paul Higgins

Headteacher

Date: 7/11/2025

Ian Courtney

Chair of governors

Date: 7/11/2025

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Statement of intent

St John Fisher is committed to ensuring the safety of all pupils 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:

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

Please note that this policy only applies to instances where pupils are collected from school.

1. Legal framework

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

1. Education Act 2002
2. DfE 'Keeping children safe in education 2025'
3. DfE 'Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

1. Health and Safety Policy
2. Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The headteacher will be responsible for:

1. The overall implementation of this policy.
2. Communicating this policy to all members of staff and parents.
3. Ensuring effective procedures are in place for pupils travelling to and from school.
4. Liaising with parents to establish whether individual pupils need extra assistance.
5. Informing parents where their child has not turned up to school to coordinate an effective response.
6. Ensuring arrangements for dedicated school transport are in place.

Staff will be responsible for:

1. Ensuring all pupils are collected safely at the end of the school day.
2. Being wary of suspicious behaviour at the school gates.
3. Monitoring the behaviour of pupils as they leave the school.
4. Reporting any safeguarding concerns identified during the end of the school day to the DSL.

Parents will be responsible for:

1. Adhering to the principles outlined in this policy.
2. Ensuring their child is aware of, and adheres to, the established route for travelling to and from school.
3. Informing the headteacher when their child has not returned home from school.
4. Communicating to the school if they are going to be late to collect their child.

Pupils will be responsible for:

1. Behaving appropriately when travelling to and from school.
2. Making sure they arrive to school on time.

3. General collection procedure

Parents will promptly collect pupils at the end of the school day, which is 3:15pm, from classroom doors (KS2) and from the KS1 Gate (KS1 and Reception). Parents will be made aware of what is expected of their behaviour when they are collecting pupils, e.g. that the school is a smoke-free zone and parents should not be on their mobile phones.

Staff members will supervise until all pupils have been collected, accounting for the school's [late collection procedure](#). Sufficient staff to pupil ratios will be met at all times during the collection process.

Parents will be advised to be mindful of encroaching on the KS1 gate as this makes it extremely difficult for staff to see parents for collection. Please do not come forward to the gate to try and collect your child, we will send them to you

Pupils will be allowed to travel home on their own as long as this arrangement is appropriate for their age and their parents are aware of this. This is allowed for Y6 pupils upon filling in the appended form, and for Y5 pupils on an individual basis after a meeting with the headteacher to discuss. This permission can be removed on days where we feel it would be unsafe and need to speak to an adult.

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. In these cases, the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be followed and children's social care, and the police if appropriate, will be contacted.

Pupils will only be permitted to leave the premises with adults who are registered with the school as a person with collection responsibility, names must be given to the school office.

4. After-school club collection procedure

After school clubs finish at various times, with the initial club ending at 4.30, and wraparound at 5.45.

Parents will follow the normal collection procedure, as outlined in this policy, when picking up children from after-school clubs.

Where after-school club provision is provided by an external organisation, it will be 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.

Pupils who have not been collected following an after-school club will be escorted to the school's wraparound club.

If parents are late to collect their children, which results in the pupils attending the after-school care club, parents will be charged accordingly.

Upon the end of Wraparound care at 17.45, parents will have a 10 minute grace period and then will be charged £1 per minute after.

If a parent is continuously late, the provision may be removed at the discretion of the headteacher.

5. Late collection procedure

Parents will notify the school at the first possible opportunity if they believe they will be late to collect their child.

The school will allow for a 15-minute window for late arrival. If a pupil has not been collected 15 minutes after the specified collection time, a staff member will escort them to the school's after-school care club before trying to contact the pupil's parents. If the pupil's parents cannot be reached via the contact details provided, emergency contacts will be contacted, and the school will continue to try and contact the parents. If the parents and emergency contacts cannot be contacted, the non-collection procedure will be followed as outlined in this policy.

The school will hold at least one emergency contact for each pupil and will have more than one where reasonably possible.

The pupil will join the after-school care club, which parents will be liable to pay the cost for this service.

All staff members, including those in charge of after-school activities, will be 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.

While awaiting collection, pupils will be supervised at all times, ensuring appropriate staffing ratios are met.

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.

6. Recurrence of late collection

The length and frequency of late collections are monitored by the school. The school will keep a record of incidents where parents are late with no reasonable explanation.

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.

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.

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 enforce a penalty charge.

7. Collecting a child on someone's behalf

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

Social workers will not be 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.

All persons responsible for collection must be registered with the school office for the children in question.

Pupils may be collected from school by an older sibling if the sibling is aged 14 or older with prior written permission following a discussion with the headteacher, if the child is over 16, this will not be necessary.

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 will notify the school in writing.

In exceptional circumstances, verbal consent may be given for an agreed person to take their child home on that day.

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 if deemed necessary.

Staff members who are unsure of an adult's identity will ask to see identification. If there is uncertainty about a person's identity following the checking of their identification, the following procedure will be followed:

1. A staff member will take the pupil to the school office
2. The pupil's parents will be contacted for further advice
3. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be made aware of the situation
4. If the pupil's parents are not contactable, the standard procedure for uncollected pupils will be followed

8. Non-collection procedure

The school will continue to try and contact the parents and named emergency contacts in the event of a non-collection. A detailed record of the action taken, and the calls made, will be kept.

Under no circumstances will staff members go and look for the parents. A staff member will supervise the pupil at all times.

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 or at 4.30pm if it was pre-arranged for a pupil to attend a school club – the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be followed and children's social care, and the police if appropriate, will be contacted.

A member of staff will stay with the pupil until children's social care arrives.

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

Following an event of non-collection, the relevant procedures will be reviewed to ensure they were effective and will be amended where necessary.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher and DSL. The next scheduled review date for this policy is 6/11/2026

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all staff and parents.

4th September 2025

PARENTAL CONSENT FOR YEAR 6 CHILDREN TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your child's safety is of paramount importance to us.

We recognise that some children in Year 6 may feel confident enough to travel to and from school without the accompaniment of their parents.

Should you, as parents, agree that your child is mature enough to cope with this responsibility then please complete and return the permission slip below.

No child will be allowed to travel to or from school alone without prior consent from at least one of their parents.

Please note, if we have concerns about your child's well-being or behaviour on any given date, then we will contact you to collect them from school, removing their right to walk home alone.

Thank you for supporting us in caring for your child.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Higgins

Principal

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YEAR 6 – TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE PERMISSION SLIP

I give permission for my child to travel to and from school on their own.

I have explained to my child the safety requirements for travelling to and from school alone.

I understand that once my child has left the school premises, the school are no longer responsible for their wellbeing and safety.

I understand that if the school has concerns about my child's well-being or behaviour, their permission to walk home will be removed.

Child's Name: -----

Date: -----

Parent Signature ----- Parent Name (printed):
