

TWERTON INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY



Excel at Twerton
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Collecting Children from School Policy

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Statement of intent

Twerton Infant School and Nursery 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.

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Legal framework

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 (2020) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2017) 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'
- DfE (2018) 'Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility'

General collection procedure

Parents will promptly collect pupils attending school at the end of the school day at 3:00pm.

Parents will wait outside their child's classroom from 2:55pm. The class teacher or a teaching assistant will stand at the classroom door at the end of each day whilst the children sit on the carpet waiting to be called.

The class teacher (or TA) will call each child separately before handing them over to the care of their parent, or other person registered with the school with collection responsibility, at the classroom door.

Sufficient staff to pupil ratios are met at all times during the collection process, including statutory ratios in relation to EYFS pupils.

Under no circumstances will staff members take pupils home themselves.

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.

Pupils will not be allowed to walk home on their own under any circumstances.

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.

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

After-school club collection procedure

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, ensuring that they effectively identify and respond to safeguarding concerns.

Pupils who have not been collected following an after-school club will be handed over to a member of the school's leadership team.

If parents are late to collect their children, they will need to complete a Late Collection form at the school office.



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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 allows 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 office before trying to contact the pupil's parents.

If the pupil's parents cannot be reached via the contact number provided, emergency contacts will be phoned.

The school will continue to try and contact the parents.

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.

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.

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.

If the parents cannot be contacted, the non-collection procedure will be followed.

Recurrence of late collection

The length and frequency of late collections are monitored by the school.

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.

The school will keep a record of incidents where parents are late with no reasonable explanation.

In the event of recurrence of late collection, where no notification of the delay has been given and there is not a reasonable explanation, 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.

The school will charge a £15 fine for parents who are late to collect their child more than three times in an academic year without notification and a reasonable explanation.

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Collecting a child on someone's behalf

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.

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.

Pupils may be collected from school by an older sibling if the sibling is aged 16 or older.

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.

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.

Verbal consent must include a full physical description of the person, unless already known to the school.

A password will 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.

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:

- 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.

Under no circumstances will a pupil be allowed to leave the school with someone if they are showing particular signs of distress or anxiety.

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.

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If no contact has been made with the pupil's parents or emergency contacts, and no one has arrived to collect the child by 4.00pm, the school's child protection procedure will be followed and children's services and the police will be contacted. If the situation remains unchanged at 4:15pm the school will contact Social Care to request that a Social Worker makes arrangement for the collection of the child.

A member of staff will stay with the pupil until children's services 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.

Monitoring and review

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

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Headteacher and DSL.

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

Last updated: October 2020