

RICE LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



Late Collection of Pupils Policy and Procedures

AGREED BY GOVERNORS: March 2024

To be reviewed: March 2025

Policy aim:

- To ensure the prompt collection of all children from the school
- To ensure the safety and well-being of children at Rice Lane Primary School and Nursery;
- To enable staff to attend training, meetings and carry out professional duties.

Collection of children at the end of the School day

It is the responsibility of parents to collect their child(ren) on time at the end of each school day. Rice Lane Primary School and Nursery recognises that it has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, and that this duty extends to having arrangements in place for dealing with children who are not collected at the end of a school day, or at the end of an authorised activity.

On admission to the School, parents are asked to provide:

- Names and full addresses of parents/carers (and confirmation of parental responsibility);
- Home and work telephone numbers;
- Mobile phone numbers where appropriate;
- Two emergency contacts who may be called in the event of the parents/carers being unobtainable or in the case of an emergency

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure this information is updated annually or whenever circumstances change. Parents and carers are reminded regularly to update contact details if they have changed. If a telephone number does not work or a letter is returned "with not known at the address/doesn't live here" we follow this up at the earliest opportunity with the parent/carer.

Action is a child is not collected

If a pupil is not collected at the end of the school day or after attending after school clubs, (and there is no prior written parental consent for the pupil to walk home alone), the school puts into practice agreed procedures. These ensure the pupil is cared for safely by an experienced and qualified adult who is known to them.

If a child remains uncollected by 3.35pm the child is taken by the teacher or TA to Afterschool club whilst the following procedure is adopted:

The teacher or appropriate member of staff will:

Check Arbor to ascertain whether the child is usually in an after-school activity that night and may have just forgotten to attend (if applicable).

Check with the school office to see whether a phone call or note has been received

Write the child's name in the late collection register.

The school office will attempt contact with parents/carers.

If the parent cannot be reached, the emergency contacts provided will then be called. Contact numbers are kept in the office and on Arbor the School Management Information System.

If a parent has not made contact or arrived after an additional 15 minutes, a further phone call will be made and a member of the senior leadership team will be informed.

If a child is uncollected after an activity club or at the end of the school after school childcare (and office staff have gone home) the supervising adult should assume responsibility for attempting contact with the parents or emergency contacts, informing a member of the senior leadership team.

Change of Collecting Adult

Periodically, the School sends out a letter asking parents to update emergency contact details for up to three named adults who have permission to pick up the child at the end of the day. This information is collected and updated on the School's dismissal drive to allow the School to make a quick and informed decision if somebody less familiar seeks to collect a child or if the class is being dismissed by a supply teacher. The letter also provides parents the option to provide a password which can be given by any adult wishing to collect the child to verify that adult is known to the parent.

If an adult who is not named on the consent form and/or does not know the password attempts to collect the child, the School will, for matters of safeguarding, need to contact a parent to confirm whether they are genuine and do have permission to collect the child.

Parents are reminded that any changes to normal collection arrangements (e.g. child going on a playdate, being collected by another parent) should always be detailed in an email to the school office by 2.00pm on the day.

Suitable Person to Collect for School

It is essential that parents nominate a responsible person to pick up their child if they are unable to do so themselves. It may well not be deemed appropriate for another older, primary school-aged child (or early secondary school aged child) to have this responsibility, and it would be a judgment call based on the age and maturity of any other young person nominated to collect who is under the age of 18.

If staff feel that the person collecting a child may be under the influence of either alcohol or drugs and the safety and well-being of the child may be compromised, the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead or any member of the Senior Leadership Team will be contacted to assess the situation and decide whether the adult concerned appears able to take responsibility for the child.

If the judgment of the Senior Leader is that the child might be at risk, alternative appropriate action will be taken and this might include contacting another person named on the emergency contact list or another suitable member of the family to collect the child. If another emergency contact or family member is not available then the School will consider contacting Children's Social Care or the Police.

In the case of relationship breakdown between parents and/or guardians, unless there is a court order (which the School must have seen a copy of) or there are any identified child protection issues preventing one parent having contact with a child, the school is unable to deny a parent's right of access.

Procedure if a child is collected late by less than 45 minutes.

On many days, teachers have professional development or professional meetings and cannot look after children who are not collected on time. Because of the additional administrative and supervision costs, the Governors impose a late collection charge for children who are not collected from school by 3:35pm. On the first occasion of late collection at or after 3:35pm, the school will send a formal warning letter that charges will be levied in relation to any subsequent occasion of late collection.

On the second occasion when a child is not collected by 3.35pm (and after a warning letter after the first occasion), there is a charge of £5 per child.

The charging procedures contained within this policy will not be followed where School trips, visits or journeys have caused the late arrival of children back to School.

We ask parents to call the School Office if they are running very late to help appropriate provision to be made and children can be kept informed (please note that calling will not exempt a parent from any late charges).

Procedure if a child remains uncollected after 45 minutes.

This aspect of the policy relates to the school's statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, and operates for every situation where a parent or carer cannot be contacted within 45 minutes of the end of the school day/club/activity.

In the case of a pupil not being collected and no contact being made by the parents with the school or the school being unable to make contact with one of the emergency contacts within 45 minutes of the end of the day/end of the club/activity, the School will ring either Police (101) or Childrens Services to discuss the situation and ask for advice. This will allow the Social Care Team to begin to plan for the possibility that they may need to make arrangements for the alternative care of the child.

Discretion should be used with the above procedures in exceptional circumstances such as major disasters or unexpected early closures. Under no circumstances should staff take the pupil home with them.

Extra-Curricular After school clubs

All parents/carers are expected to collect their children promptly at the end of the session

As per the Late Collection Policy failure to collect children on time on the first instance will result in a warning letter being issued. If a 2nd period of late collection arises, the late collection fee will be enforced.

Extended Services Provision

There is NO capacity to provide care for children beyond 5.30pm, therefore it is imperative that children are collected BEFORE 5.30pm. Should late collection occur three times within a half term, provision will be removed.

If a child is not collected from After School Club, SLT School Staff will make every reasonable attempt to contact parents, carers or authorised contacts. If this is unsuccessful, staff will have no option but to adopt the Policy for Late Collection of Pupils which may result in a call to the Police and/or Childrens Services.

Safeguarding Considerations

Frequent late collection of a child from school may give cause for wider safeguarding concerns for the child. In all instances, the first step would be a discussion with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. For parents or carers who repeatedly fail to collect their child(ren) on time from the school or after school childcare facility, meetings with the parent/carer should be set up to address this. Consideration should be given to making a referral for early help at this time (referring to the multi-agency additional needs descriptors to help determine levels of need and which may indicate if a referral to Childrens Services)

Appendices

- (1) First warning letter
- (2) Charge letter

Appendix 1

First warning letter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Name of child.....

I am writing to you to advise you that your child was not collected at the end of the school day until, _____ pm. In accordance with the School's *Late Collection of Children from School* policy, this letter constitutes a first warning. Should there be a second occasion when your child(ren) are not collected by 3.35pm, your child will be placed in afterschool club which may result in a charge of £5 per child.

Please may I ask you to make every effort to ensure that children are collected promptly at the end of school. Not only does this enable staff to attend training, meetings and carry out essential marking and lesson preparation after school, it also reduces the levels of distress that we can see are caused to a child by the late arrival of someone they were expecting to come to collect them.

Should you require any support from school please do contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Roach
Headteacher

Appendix 2

Charge letter

Dear Parent / Carer

Name of Child: _____

I am writing to inform you that your child was not collected from school on _____ until _____pm. As you have already received a first warning, in accordance with the 'Late Collection of Children from School Policy', you will now be charged for late collection.

The amount is £5.00 per child per session and you have been charged for this facility on Arbor.

Please ensure you make your payment immediately and ensure that you collect your child promptly at the end of the day.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Roach
Headteacher