



St George's Junior School & Woodfield Infant School Safer Schools Committee



Walking Safely to and from School Independently

The Safer Schools Committee welcomes the opportunity to ensure that our children are walking as safely as possible on every trip to and from school.

RoSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) have some very useful road safety advice in terms of keeping our children safe on their journey walking to and from school:

- They recommend that until a child is **AT LEAST** 10 years old, they are accompanied or supervised by an adult when crossing the road.

In Year 3, your child will take part in “Stepping Out” training which is a pedestrian skills/awareness course provided by a Road Safety Officer from Mouchel Consulting (on behalf of Shropshire Council). Taking into account the content of this course and RoSPA advice, we have provided a few tips for you, and welcome your help to reinforce them.

When considering whether your child is ready to walk independently, the key things to consider are:

- the safety of the route
- pavements, pedestrian crossings, traffic volumes and speeds, safer routes to school
- your child's traffic awareness and pedestrian skills

They should be able to:

- walk sensibly and not run or play
- use the Green Cross Code – Stop, look, listen and think
- not get too close to the edge of the kerb whilst walking or waiting to cross the road
- choose a safe place to cross e.g. at a pedestrian crossing, on a straight stretch of road, avoiding bends and places where there are lots of parked cars
- always stop at the kerb before crossing the road
- look all around before crossing (listening too), checking no vehicles are coming in all directions
- not attempt to cross when traffic is near, be patient
- cross in a straight line not diagonally, i.e. the shortest distance to get across the road
- keep looking for traffic whilst crossing
- always check vehicles have stopped at pedestrian crossings and keep looking when crossing
- be observant at driveways - checking for vehicles driving in or out
- the visibility of the child “**Be Bright, Be Seen**”

In Year 6, we appreciate that your child may benefit from walking to and from school independently, in preparation for their transition to secondary school; we hope that these tips are helpful to you in helping to keep children safe.