

Thursday 7th March 2024

Dear Y5 Parents / Carers,

At Sacred Heart, we allow our Y5 children to **leave school independently** in the summer term of Y5 with parental permission. We believe this is the best time to start this journey of independence rather than waiting until Y6 as the nights are getting lighter and the weather is improving.

As part of our PSHE programme, we work with the children on road safety, what to do in an emergency, 'stranger danger' etc. If you give permission for your child to walk, we would recommend you talk to them about these things as well.

We understand that all families have their own unique circumstances that impact on their after-school arrangements. You may want to continue to collect your child, or have them meet you at an agreed point. **Each family needs to make their own decision in the best interests of their child.**

Detail about things to consider are in the **guidance sent with this letter** – we recommend you read this carefully before making a decision.

You may decide that you would like to wait before giving permission – you are welcome to give and withdraw permission at any time. Permission is given by **completing the form** sent with this letter.

If, when your child is leaving school without an adult, you would like them to have their mobile phone, please complete this form too. It is not necessary to have a mobile phone to leave school independently and, due to the increased risks associated with having a phone, we would actually **discourage** children from bringing one. However, we will leave this to parental discretion. Permission to bring a mobile phone to school will only be given to those children walking independently.

Kind regards
Ms. L Tuplin
Headteacher