

Headteacher: Jayne Mullane N.P.Q.H.  
Deputy Headteacher: Claire Chilvers N.P.Q.H.

Valley Road  
Heaton Mersey  
Stockport SK4 2BZ

Phone/Fax: 0161 442 7535  
headteacher@merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk  
www.merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk



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To parents of Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children

### **Release of children without parental presence**

As a result of discussion among local headteachers and after consultation with the Local Authority, we are considering a change to our current procedures. At the present time, as long as we have a signed parental/carer consent, we allow children in Years 4-6 to be released from class and to walk home by themselves. We do expect parents/carers to ensure that there is a responsible person at home to meet the children and continue their supervision. We also expect that only parents/carers who consider their children to be responsible and sensible enough to take the journey home without the supervision of a responsible person (generally someone over the age of 16 years of age), provide such consent.

There is no legal minimum age that children are required to be collected by a responsible person. However, we believe that social and environmental risks in society generally (such as increased traffic in the area and the rare cases reported in the press of children being approached by unknown adults) mean that we feel that the ability to provide consent should be changed to Year 6 only, other than Year 5 from the Summer term each year. We believe that this would be appropriate preparation for high school.

We realise that this might create childcare issues for some working parents but hope that by providing a reasonable notice period, we can avoid or at least help to reduce, such problems. We hope that given the nature of our school community, parents may work together to share the responsibility of collecting children of Year 4 and younger.

The anticipated effective date for this change will be 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at which point, all Year 4 children and younger will need to be collected by a responsible person. Year 5 (from Summer term) and 6 children can still be released from class / walk home without a responsible person present as long as we have the appropriate and signed consent form.

In the event that you have concerns about these changes, please contact either myself or Mr Farrell in the school office and we will be glad to try to help or answer questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jayne Mullane  
Headteacher

