



**Readiness Resilience Resourcefulness Reflectiveness Responsibility**

# **Newton Poppleford Primary School Late Collection Policy**

## **LATE COLLECTION POLICY**

### **January 2020:**

#### **Late Collection Policy**

Policy adopted by Governing Body:

Review Date:

#### **Aim**

We aim to provide a safe and caring environment. In the event that a child is not collected or delayed, they will be reassured in order to cause as little distress as possible. We inform parents/carers of our procedures so if they are unavoidably delayed they will be aware of procedures being followed. In the event that an authorised adult does not collect a child, we put into practice the agreed procedures, unless agreement to walk home alone has been obtained.

#### **Methods**

Parents of children starting in the school are asked to provide specific information, which is kept in our data file in the office, including:

- Home address and telephone number of parents/ carers
- Place of work, and telephone number ( if applicable)
- Mobile telephone number (if applicable)
- Names and telephone numbers of emergency contacts who are authorised by the parents/carers to collect their child from the school e.g. childminder, relative, neighbour
- Information about any person who has been denied legal access to the child
- Information about who has primary responsibility for the child

If there are any changes to any of the above, we ask that the school office is notified immediately. When there is a change to the end of the day arrangements, we ask that parents inform either the school office or the class teacher.

#### **Procedures**

- We inform parents that if children are not collected at the end of the day we follow the following procedures:
- In the event that the parent/carer is running late or has made alternative collection arrangements with a friend/relative, they should ring the school to advise us of those changes so that both the teacher and child are aware.
- If it appears that there have been no alternative arrangements made for the collection of a child by the parent/carer, the school staff should take the following steps:
  - ✓ Messages are checked to see if there are any changes to the end of day arrangements.
  - ✓ If the child has not been collected after 10 minutes the child will be taken to the Twilight Club.

The normal school day operates between the hours of 9:00am (gates open from 8:45am) and 3:15pm or 3:20pm (dependant on year group). After-school clubs' times are communicated to parents at least termly. The Twilight Club operates between the hours of 3:30pm and 5:00pm. All children must be collected before the clubs close. Whilst we appreciate that on occasion you might be delayed, there are additional costs involved where children are not collected on time.

### **Charges for late / non-collection of children**

Under Section 457 of the Education Act 1996 and relevant Regulations, the school governing body has the power to impose a charge on parents or carers who fail to collect their child from school within a reasonable time after the close of the school day or after school activity.

The governing body accepts that it is the responsibility of the school to ensure parents and carers are notified of the timing of the school day or after school activity and when those times are varied for a specific event or date.

The governing body has decided that, except in emergency situations, where children are not collected from the school within ten minutes after the school day or after-school activity ending, then a charge will be made to the child's parent or carer. The school accepts that a variety of emergencies can arise due to unforeseen circumstances and will ensure that the charge is not imposed on the parent where there is a genuine unforeseen emergency. Notification must be given to the school as soon as the situation arises or when collecting the child.

### **Procedures for Non-Collected Children**

#### **Late Collected Children**

- School finishes at 3.15pm (Reception & Years 1-2), or 3.20pm (Years 3-6)
- Teachers will remain in the playground or in classroom until 10 minutes after this time.
- After 10 minutes any uncollected child will be taken to the Twilight Club to await collection
- After this 10 minutes a charge will be payable for each uncollected child remaining in the Twilight Club at a rate of £3 per child until 4.00pm. If the child is collected after this time the full Twilight Club fee becomes payable for each child as detailed on the school website.

#### **After-School Clubs**

- Clubs finish at the time advertised in the club's letter
- Staff will remain with the children until 10 minutes after the club finishes
- After 10 minutes any uncollected child will be taken to the Twilight Club to await collection
- After this 10 minutes a charge will be payable for each uncollected child remaining in the Twilight Club at a rate of £3 per child for the next 10 minutes, after which time the full Twilight Club fee becomes payable for each child as detailed on the school website.
- Where children are collected more than 10 minutes late from a school-run after-school club on 2 occasions they will automatically lose their place at after school-clubs for the rest of the academic term.

#### **The Twilight Club**

- Twilight Club finishes at 5.00pm
- Staff will remain with the children until 5.05pm
- From 5.05pm a charge of £5 will be payable for each uncollected child.

#### Non-Collected Children (after 5.05pm)

- Attempts will be made to contact parents on available numbers, but if no contact is made by 5.30pm Social Care will be contacted.

#### **The Charging Arrangements**

In cases where a child is not collected within ten minutes of the end of the school day or after school activity, without reasonable excuse, a charge of £3.00 will be payable for each child remaining in the Twilight Club until 4pm, after which the full Twilight Club fee as detailed on the school website becomes payable. A letter will be sent advising you of the 'Late Collection Charge' and letter reminding them to collect their child from school at 3.15pm (Reception, Years 1&2 pupils only) and 3.20pm (Years 3-6) or at the end of an after-school club/Twilight. (See Appendix 1). The incident will be logged and the Headteacher informed.

On the second late collection, without reasonable excuse, in addition to the late collection charge the parent/carer will be sent a letter advising them that should they be late once more they will forfeit their child's place within the after-school club (if appropriate) or in the case of the Twilight Club consideration will be given to it's continued use. (See Appendix 2). The incident will again be logged and the Headteacher informed.

On the third late collection, without reasonable excuse, in addition to the late collection charge the parent/carer will be sent a letter advising them that their child will no longer be able to attend the after-school club (if appropriate). In the case of the Twilight Club, the parent will be invited in to explain their lateness and a decision will be made on their future use of this facility. (See Appendix 3). The incident will again be logged and the Headteacher informed.

To the Parent of \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent

**First Occasion of Late Collection**

I am writing to advise you that you have incurred charge of £\_\_\_\_\_ today as you did not collect your child(ren) until \_\_\_\_\_pm.

The governing body has agreed that charges will be applied for late collections, in accordance with the school's Late Collection Policy (a copy of which is enclosed).

As we are now a cashless school, this fee is payable using our online system.

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure children are collected on time and being collected late is very distressing for the child/ren concerned.

The School's Designated Lead for Child Protection will keep a record of incidents where parents/carers do not collect a child from school or are late for no explained or good reason, or where there are repeated incidents. If any concerns about the child's safety and welfare result, these will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Vaughan  
Headteacher

## Appendix 2

Date XX

To the Parent of \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent

### **Second Occasion of Late Collection**

I am writing to advise you that you have incurred charge of £\_\_\_\_\_ today as you did not collect your child(ren) until \_\_\_\_\_pm.

This is the second such incident. If you are late collecting your child again you will automatically lose your child's place in the after-school club (if appropriate). In the case of the Twilight Club you will be invited to attend a meeting to explain the lateness and a decision will be made on their future use of this facility.

The governing body has agreed that charges will be applied for late collections, in accordance with the school's Late Collection Policy (a copy of which is enclosed).

As we are now a cashless school, this fee is payable using our online system.

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure children are collected on time and being collected late is very distressing for the child/ren concerned.

The School's Designated Lead for Child Protection will keep a record of incidents where parents/carers do not collect a child from school or are late for no explained or good reason, or where there are repeated incidents. If any concerns about the child's safety and welfare result, these will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Vaughan  
Headteacher

### Appendix 3

Date XX

To the Parent of \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent

#### **Third Occasion of Late Collection**

I am writing to advise you that you have incurred charge of £\_\_\_\_\_ today as you did not collect your child(ren) until \_\_\_\_\_pm.

This is the third such incident and, in accordance with our Late Collection policy, has resulted in your child(ren) losing their place in the after-school club (if appropriate). In the case of the Twilight Club I would like to meet you on \_\_\_\_\_ to discuss this.

The governing body has agreed that charges will be applied for late collections, in accordance with the school's Late Collection Policy (a copy of which is enclosed).

As we are now a cashless school, this fee is payable using our online system.

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure children are collected on time and being collected late is very distressing for the child/ren concerned.

The School's Designated Lead for Child Protection will keep a record of incidents where parents/carers do not collect a child from school or are late for no explained or good reason, or where there are repeated incidents. If any concerns about the child's safety and welfare result, these will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Vaughan  
Headteacher