Walking to School

Use **www.maps.google.co.uk** to help **plan** and discuss the route with your child.

Remember the shortest route may not be the safest

Your child will almost certainly walk with friends so it might be a good idea to walk the planned route together.

You could also try:

www.cycle-route.com

click on the cycle route planner double click on the different parts of the route – you have to draw your own route.

Having something hi-viz that alerts road users to your child's presence is important. Too many high school pupils wear dark clothing without any reflective material. The Road Safety Unit have ordered resources from the suppliers below and believe them to be reputable organisations. However listing these suppliers does not represent an endorsement by the Road Safety Unit. Check out google or go to:

- **www.safetyreflectives.com**
- **www.scanglo.co.uk**
- **www.vizreflectives.com**
- **www.colan-uk.net**
- **www.leotextiles.co.uk**

If your child is walking to school on their own or with friends for the first time you may be worried about bullying issues – if so you may want to check out **www.kidscape.org.uk**

Reinforcing Road Safety Messages:

✓ Always try and be on time for school – pupils who are late tend to risk take more.

✓ The shortest route is not always the safest.

✓ Be aware of vehicles coming into and out of driveways and school car parks.

✓ Use crossing patrols and other pedestrian crossings (one of the most common mistakes made by children at crossings is not checking traffic has stopped).

✓ **Pay Attention** – 1 in 10 teenagers involved in accidents say they were not paying attention!

✓ Warn your child about the dangers of distraction – using ipods, making mobile phone calls or text messaging when walking is a big distraction.

✓ When walking in groups, which can be safer and reassuring, do not follow others blindly into what could be dangerous situations. Learn to make your own safe decisions.

✓ Practise judging speed and distance of approaching vehicles on busy roads. Learn how to identify safe gaps in traffic.

Staffordshire County Council