At Umina Beach Public School, we understand that many families live within walking distance to our school and choose to walk to and from school. Walking can have many benefits, especially when parents and children to walk together. When families decide their child can walk independently to school, it is important to be aware of safety. Please ensure your child is aware of the potential dangers, such as traffic and unfamiliar routes. Have open conversations with your child about the importance of being cautious around strangers, especially if someone offers them a lift or tries to engage them in conversation. Please read the important reminders below:

**Important reminders for parents/carers:**

* [**NSW department of education**](https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/safe-travel/walking-safely-to-and-from-school)reminds parents and carers that they are responsible for their child’s safety when travelling to and from school.
* Road safety experts recommend your child should be at least 10 years old before they walk independently to school.
* **Discuss Safety Rules**: establish clear safety rules with your child. This includes being aware of their surroundings, not talking to strangers, and knowing what to do in various situations.
* **Plan Safe Routes**: help your child plan a safe route to school, then practice walking or riding the route together.
* **Buddy System**: It is recommended that children travel with a friend or in groups.
* **Identify Safe Places**: identify safe places along the route where your child can go if they feel uncomfortable or need help, such as a trusted neighbour’s house or a local shop.
* **Teach Communication**: ensure your child knows how to contact you or another trusted adult if they need assistance. This could mean having a mobile phone or knowing important phone numbers.
* **Be cautious**: Have conversations with your child about the importance of being cautious around strangers, especially if someone offers them a lift or tries to engage them in conversation. If a situation feels uncomfortable or unsafe, they should seek help from a trusted adult or head to a safe location.
* **Communicate with us:** if your child experiences any interaction in which they feel unsafe or uncomfortable when walking to or from school, please contact us so that we can provide support and reassurance for your child.

**Communicating with us:**

if your child experiences any interaction in which they feel unsafe or uncomfortable when walking to or from school, please contact us so that we can provide support and reassurance for your child. Please ring the school and ask to speak to a member of the executive team, or send us an email: umina-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au. By working together, we can support our students to make safe and healthy choices on their journey to school, while ensuring they are aware of their surroundings and the importance of personal safety.For any questions or further assistance, please contact the school office.

**Umina Beach Public School**
**0243 411630**

***Umina-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au***