

after practice

practice — present

My son wants to walk to school on his own. ||
He's reach the stage when having dad walk with him &
is seriously uncool and anyway, as he regularly points out, —
school is only 5 minutes walk down the road —

- But I still struggle with letting him go alone. ||
Intellectually, I know that's daft. —
but emotionally I am as affected by the culture of fear &
and being risk averse as anyone else. ||
- Yet I am not only in danger of making my son seem uncool &
in the eyes of his mates, (worse crime ever), —
but in over protecting him, ||
I could do as much damage as I think I am saving him from. —

- A few years ago, ||
a fellow councillor approached me &
to try to get some-one police checked more quickly. |
The person in question ran the local football team &
but whilst he was not police checked, everyone lost out. |
- I tried to explain why police checks were necessary and slow |
but my colleague stopped me mid flow and said, —
No Ewan, you don't understand, —
the reason I am annoyed with this situation ||
is that this guy who needs police checking is a police man —

I was in a school recently, ||
well run with professional experienced confident staff. —
But they are not having a school camp this year &
because those good quality teachers —
fear being sued for anything that happens.

Just who is being protected here and from what risk, ||
why have we reached this stage of collective emotional fear and crisis &
where a 5 minute walk for a 10 year old becomes such a big issue | &
but it was safe for my grandmother to walk 6 miles each way to school —
or that a policeman can be trusted by society &
to protect children during the day |
but need a bit of paper saying society says he safe &
to kick a ball with those same kids at night |
or good quality experienced teachers feel so fearful
that they will not risk taking risks with young people, || helping yr take risks. |
meaning their professionalism is undermined —
and young people lose out

