

## Child Missing Education Policy

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Governors Lead	
This policy is Reviewed by	Deputy Head
Group	
ISI Reference	
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Tick which category this document refers to:

ISI requirement to be made available	
ISI requirement to be on website	
Internal staff only	
Internal students only	
Internal staff and students	
Statutory requirement to have on website (non ISI)	

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### **Definition of Children Missing Education**

In Children Missing Education - Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (2016), children missing education are defined as those who are not on a school roll or receiving suitable education otherwise than at school. Those who are regularly absent or have missed 10 school days or more without permission may be at risk of becoming 'children missing education'. There will not always be a safeguarding concern for children and young people who are missing education. Most children and young people are moving schools supported by their parents/carers, schools and local authority admissions services. A smaller number, however, are at risk of dropping out or disengaging from education and, being out of school, they are at risk of exploitation, going missing and significant harm.

### **Risks**

These 'missing' children can be vulnerable; it is essential that all services work together to identify and re-engage these children back into appropriate education provision as quickly as possible. It is important to establish, at the earliest possible stage, the reasons for the child being missing.

Possible reasons that should be considered include:

- Failure to start appropriate provision and never enter the system;
- Stopped attending, due to illegal exclusion or withdrawal by parent/carers;
- Failure to complete a transition between schools;
- Children from refugee and asylum -seeking families;
- Children from families who are highly mobile;
- Children at risk of a forced marriage;
- Children experiencing abuse and neglect.

Children supervised by the Youth Justice System Children who remain disengaged from education are potentially exposed to higher degrees of risk such as anti-social behaviour and/or sexual exploitation.

Families moving between local authority areas can sometimes lead to a child becoming 'lost' in the system and consequently missing education. When a child has moved, local authorities should check with other local authorities, either regionally or nationally, and share information to ascertain where the child is living. Once the location of the child is established, the relevant local authority must ensure that the child is receiving an education either by attending a school or otherwise.

### **Signing In / Signing Out procedure**

All prep-school students are registered in their form by a tutor or teacher at the start of the day (08.15) and pre-prep at 09:00. They are also registered after lunch (the exact time is dependent on the age of the child) (See attendance policy). This registration is done using the school's Management Information system (3Sys –WCBS)

Class/Subject teachers or Activity supervisors also carry out their own register at the start of each lesson to make sure all children are accounted for.

At the end of the day, all children are signed out by a duty member of staff from their section. In the case of Pre-Prep this is done by form teachers. If a child has not signed out, a member of staff on duty will check that the child is not on the school premises; checking prep and any activities that are taking place. If the child is not found to be at school, parents will be phoned by the school office to make sure the child has been collected.

### **What To Do If You Suspect child is missing during the day**

If a child is missing from a lesson or activity, which a member of staff would expect them to attend, then the following action should be taken.

1. At the earliest opportunity the staff member should contact the school office to see if there is a reason for the absence.
  - a. This may be done by telephone
  - b. This may be done by a teaching assistant
  - c. In the case of the older children a note may be sent to the office stating who is missing
  - d. This may be done with the red card system if the absence is thought to be an emergency (this is likely to depend on the child missing and their particular circumstances)
2. The office will check with the School Nurse, the Music and Drama departments and the Learning Support department as these may provide the answer to the absence.
3. If the child is still found to be missing then the Headmaster will be informed and a full search of the building and immediate grounds will take place. This will be done by any available staff.
4. If this does not yield results, the school fire alarm will be activated and the building evacuated so that a full head count can be carried out. In the event of bad weather it may be necessary to congregate in the Sports Hall.
5. If the child is still not accounted for then the Headmaster will phone the child's parents and the Police while the search of the building and immediate grounds continues. At this point the students will either be held in a central location or return to normal lessons depending on circumstance.
6. Once the police have arrived on site all further action will be guided by them.
7. Once the child is found a decision will be made as to whether the child should remain in school or go home with parents. The Headmaster will be involved in this decision.



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If the child is taken from the premises against their will the police would guide the school and the school will do all it can to assist and support the child and family.

If the child's absence was of their own making, the child will receive appropriate support and be given time to explain why they chose this course of action and what had caused it. This support could come from the Form Teacher/Tutor, Head of Section or Deputy Head, but may include other staff members or outside assistance (such as CAMHS) if required.

### **Recording the incident**

The Headmaster will ensure that a written record is kept of any incident stating action taken. The reason given for absence must be recorded and action will need to be taken in order to ensure that it does not happen again. All Missing Child incidents must be recorded using MyConcern software.

### **The Green Card system**

Every classroom has a green card, which can be used in the event of an emergency. In such an emergency the card should be given to a student to take to the nearest adult or the school office. All cards are marked with the name of the room so that it is known where help is needed. When presented with the card the adult knows that immediate help is required.

### **Wraparound Care Signing In / Signing Out procedure**

Regular users of Wraparound Care are booked in in advanced. For 'occasional' wraparound care users, parents are to give the school as much notice as possible (24hrs), although it is understood that there may be circumstances when this is not possible.

During registration children confirm their after-school commitments (e.g. afterschool wraparound care, prep, sporting activities) with their tutor.

(Parents should have already informed the Form Tutor/Wraparound Care Supervisor about these arrangements). The tutor adds this information to the school management information system (3Sys - WCBS).

At the end of the school day (4.30pm), the whole-school sign out sheets indicate pupils' after-school commitments based on the information from morning registration. A member of staff oversees pupils' movements to the various activities and staff taking the activities (including prep) conduct a register.

Wraparound Care staff have lists of which pupils should be with them. At 6pm they will go to the Dining Room for tea with the Wraparound Care staff. When they are collected from school they will sign out with the Wraparound Care staff.

What To Do If You Suspect a child who should be in Wraparound care is missing

If a child is missing from an activity, which a member of staff would expect them to attend, or is not in tea when they were expected.

1. At the earliest opportunity check the lists and absence records in case the child was not in school
2. If the above does not provide a satisfactory explanation, he or she should check with the Wraparound care Supervisor
3. If this does not yield results, the Wraparound Care Supervisor will authorise a search and inform the Headmaster
4. If the search is unsuccessful and no clear clues are forthcoming, activating the school fire alarm to evacuate the building will be done to make sure all pupils still in school are fully accounted for.
5. If the search is still unsuccessful the Wraparound Care Supervisor will inform the police and the child's parents, while the search at the school continues. At this time all children will either be held in a central location or continue with their activities depending on circumstances
6. Once the police have arrived on site all further action will be guided by them.
7. Once the child is found a decision will be made as to whether the child should remain in school or go home with parents. The Headmaster will be involved in this decision.



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