



Absconding Policy

SCHOOL POLICY & PROCEDURE

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Absconding Policy

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Absconding Policy

Statement of intent

All children are entitled to a full-time education, regardless of their circumstances. Unfortunately, children missing education (CME) risk underachieving, being victims of abuse, and not being in education, employment, or training (NEET) in later life.

Safeguarding our young people is our highest priority. In reality, on some rare occasions, young people may decide for a variety of reasons, that they are going to absent themselves from the supervision of the adult they are with. It may be that they stay within the building or the premises, or that they will remove themselves from the premises altogether. It is at this point that concerns will be raised about safeguarding and the health and safety of young people. The success of any intervention often depends on the good relationships we have with parents/carers/professionals and also the positive partnership working with other community groups. Every effort is made to keep all of our young people safe and securely within the building.

For the purpose of this policy children missing from Education falls into two categories:

- Missing from Education (safeguarding policy)
- Absconding from school

Absconding Policy

1. Absconding from School

Responses to a young person going missing will vary depending on a range of criteria associated with risk: age, distance from home, and judgment relating to the emotional state of the young person at the time. The focus has always to be on ensuring the young person is safely located, whether that is on- or off-site.

2. Guidelines

We must always initially look for young people within the building and the premises. If we are satisfied that the missing young person is not on site then we initiate the agreed procedures to inform others and gain support.

It is often the case that other children at school can help in the process of locating their missing peers. To gain this support, it needs to be done sensitively as the children may think they are being disloyal if they help a person in authority.

2.1 If a young person goes missing:

- The member of staff who initially identifies a pupil absconding from school, whether on site or off site during enrichment, will inform the Head Teacher or other DSLs / Deputy DSLs.
- The most appropriate adult will contact the police ensuring they have all the information required to report the abscondment.
- The most appropriate adult will liaise with the police when they arrive.
- The most appropriate adult will contact the parents/carers and, if appropriate, other professionals involved with the child.
- If the child is located, contact will be made with the parents/carers and any other professionals that have been involved.
- CCTV can be used to trace the child's whereabouts if they have absconded from school; e.g. the images might be able to show us which direction the young person travelled in when they left the premises.

3. Follow-up Actions once a Young Person has been Located:-

- Ensure the incident is recorded on CPOMS.
- Discuss with young person the dangers of leaving the supervision of an adult; this can be carried out through reflection.
- Try to find out what was the underlying cause of the young person leaving the supervision of the adult; this might help prevent it from happening again. This could involve discussions with the young person and/or the parent/carer.
- With the appropriate age range, use the incident as a way to get the whole group to discuss Health & Safety issues.

4. Missing from Education

See Safeguarding Policy.