

St. Luke's Church of England School



Missing Child Policy

This policy is intended to be read by teachers, teaching assistants, parents, governors, inspectors, support staff and staff from other schools with which we may have links.

Date Approved: Spring 2023

Date of Review: Spring 2026

This policy covers pupils who go missing during the school day.

Missing Children

When a pupil's whereabouts cannot be established and where the circumstances are out of character or the context suggests the person may be the subject of a crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another.

Overview

- Children should never be allowed to leave the premises during school time except if they are signed out by an authorised adult.
- This policy is put in place to ensure that every action possible is taken to ensure the quick and safe return of that child to school.

Objectives

1. To locate any missing child quickly.
2. To ensure that all children are kept safely on the school premises during school hours unless they have permission to leave from an adult.
3. To ensure that the building, grounds and play areas are safe and secure during school hours.
4. To ensure that teachers and staff keep children under proper supervision at all times.
5. To ensure that if a child 'goes missing' during the school day, he/she is located quickly and returned safely to the school.

Is the Pupil at Significant Risk?

A pupil missing during schools hours' incident would be prioritised as significant risk' where:
The risk posed is immediate and there are substantial grounds for believing that the child/young person is in danger through their own vulnerability. Vulnerability characteristics may include;
Children on a plan (Early Help, Child in Need, Looked After or Child Protection Plan);
A disability and/or special educational needs;
Substance misuse;
Education health care plan.
There are indications that the child/young person has already come to harm (CSE, grooming, radicalisation etc.).

Strategies – see appendix i

1. If a child cannot be found by their teacher/learning support assistant/ lunchtime supervisor, the Headteacher or Senior Leadership Team member must be notified immediately and told when and where the child was last seen. Time is of the essence and prompt actions must be taken by all.
2. Commence filling in a Missing Child Incident Form.
3. As soon as possible, the parents/carers and Social Worker (where appropriate) will be notified that their child is missing.
4. The remaining children will be left safe in the care of suitable staff. All other available staff will conduct a thorough search of the child's classroom, play areas, storage areas, toilets, the school building and the school grounds.
5. If the child is not found within a short period of time (5 minutes after recorded as missing), the police must be called by the Headteacher or staff member.

6. Members of staff, who are not supervising children, will be sent to search the area in the immediate vicinity of the school. The members of staff will take their mobile phones with them for communication purposes.
7. If a child goes missing during an outing or school visit, the teacher in charge must ensure that the remaining children are safely cared for by the other staff and adults. An urgent and thorough search should be made of the immediate vicinity and if the child is not found quickly the police must be called and the Headteacher notified. If in an enclosed space the appropriate staff in that environment can be initially informed before calling the police, for instance to give a message over the tannoy.
8. The LA will be notified by the Headteacher that a child is missing.
9. If a member of staff finds the child, parents, police and other authorities will be notified.
10. The Headteacher will investigate how the incident occurred and will take appropriate action to ensure that similar events do not happen again.

Outcomes

The safety of all children will be given our highest priority. A missing child should be an extremely rare happening. This policy is designed to put into place swift and effective actions to locate any missing child and to notify and involve parents and the authorities at every appropriate point.



Appendix i

Missing child protocol

- Report to office
- Headteacher or Member of Senior Leadership Team to be informed and to co-ordinate procedure
- Missing Child Incident Form to be commenced (appendix ii)
- General support LSA's to report to office
- Staff to be directed to check building and grounds and to report back within 5 minutes
- Senior Leadership member to collate information below and contact police – phone 999
 - Name
 - Aliases/Nicknames
 - Date of birth
 - Nationality/Ethnicity
 - Height/Build
 - Description – Hair colour and type/features and distinctive features
 - Address
 - Contact numbers
 - What the child is wearing
 - Circumstance prior to disappearance
 - Time last seen, by whom and location
- Search party members to be allocated areas close to school to search – must have mobile phones with them.

Appendix ii

INCIDENT FORM
Missing Child Investigation

Date:

Time Child Identified as lost:

Time to notify the Police:

(5 minutes after the child has gone missing)

Reporting adult:

Reported to:

(Find a photograph of the child and attach to the form – provide colour copies to members of the search party that require it)

Time child last seen and location:

Any significant events preceding the child going missing:

Child seen with whom:

Known friends of the missing child:

Adults available to participate in the search – Roles to be appointed		
Adult	Role	Contact Number
	<u>Search Co-ordinator</u> – To stay in agreed central location to co-ordinate the work of the Search Party	
	<u>Telephone Communicator 1</u> – To call parents/ carers	
	<u>Telephone Communicator 2</u> – To call friends parents/ carers	
	<u>Member of the Search Party 1</u> – Location to search:	Mobile:
	<u>Member of the Search Party 2</u> – Location to search:	Mobile:
	<u>Member of the Search Party 3</u> – Location to search:	Mobile:
	<u>Member of the Search Party 4</u> – Location to search:	Mobile:
	<u>Member of the Search Party 5</u> – Location to search:	Mobile:
Contact made with Police: Time: Name of allocated Police Officer: Advice given:		

Actions taken by the Incident co-ordinator: 1. 2. 3.
Search Update information
Time:
Time:
Time:
Time:
Outcome: Time child found: Reason for going missing: Possible lessons to have learnt:

Signed (Headteacher/SLT Member):

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Date:

INCIDENT REVIEW
Post Incident Investigation & Review: Review undertaken by:

Actions to be taken following the Incident Review:	DATE ACTIONS COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFF AS CLOSED
1.	
2.	
3.	

Signed (Reviewer):

Date: