



The Old Hall School

Missing Child Policy and Procedures When a Child is Not Collected on Time

PART ONE: MISSING CHILD POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The welfare of all of our children at The Old Hall School is our paramount responsibility. Every adult who works at the school has been trained to appreciate that he or she has a key responsibility for helping to keep all of the children safe at all times. Our staffing ratios are generous and are deliberately designed to ensure that every child is supervised the whole time that he or she is in our care.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Our companion document, "Parent Handbook - Information for Parents of New Children" describes:

- The arrangements for handing over children to the care of their parents at the end of the day
- The qualifications of our staff and the arrangements for supervising the children whilst they are in school
- The arrangements for registering the children in both morning and afternoon
- The physical security measures which prevent unsupervised access to or exit from the building
- The supervision of the playground and the physical barriers that separate it from the rest of the school

The enhanced supervisory arrangements for outings involving our youngest children are set out in a detailed policy document: "Educational Visits" The Parent Handbook is issued to the parents of new children joining the school and the policy on educational visits can be provided on request. We review these policies regularly in order to satisfy ourselves that they are robust and effective. All new staff receive a thorough induction into the importance of effective supervision of very young children.

ACTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED BY STAFF IF A CHILD GOES MISSING FROM THE SCHOOL

Our procedures are designed to ensure that a missing child is found and returned to effective supervision as soon as possible. If a child was found to be missing, we would carry out the following actions:

- Take a register in order to ensure that all the other children were present
- Inform the Early Years Co-ordinator (for Kindergarten children), Head of Junior Department (for Junior 1 and 2 children), Deputy Head for children in Years 3 - 6)
- Ask all of the adults and children calmly if they can tell us when they last remember seeing the child
- Occupy all of the other children in their classroom(s) by reading to them
- At the same time, arrange for one or more adults to search everywhere within the Kindergarten area and school building, both inside and out, carefully checking all spaces, cupboards, washrooms where a small child might hide
- Check the doors, gates and CCTV records for signs of entry/exit

If the child is still missing, the following steps would be taken:

- Inform the Headmaster and the Child Protection Officer
- Ask the Headmaster to ring the child's parents and explain what has happened, and what steps have been set in motion. Ask them to come to the school at once
- The Child Protection Officer/Headmaster would notify the Police
- The Headmaster will ask staff to search the rest of the school premises and grounds
- If the child's home is within walking distance, a member of staff would set out on foot to attempt to catch up with him/her
- The Child Protection Officer would inform the Local Children Safeguarding Board
- The school would cooperate fully with any Police investigation and any safeguarding investigation by Social Care
- Inform the Chairman of Governors
- Ofsted would be informed
- The Insurers would be informed
- If the child is injured A report would be made under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) to the HSE (Health and Safety Executive)

A full record of all activities taken up to the stage at which the child was found would be made for the incident report. If appropriate, procedures would be adjusted.

ACTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED BY STAFF IF A CHILD GOES MISSING ON AN OUTING

- An immediate head count would be carried out in order to ensure that all the other children were present
- An adult would search the immediate vicinity
- Contact the venue Manager and arrange a search
- The remaining children would be taken back to school
- Inform the Headmaster and the Child Protection Officer by mobile phone
- Ask the Headmaster to ring the child's parents and explain what has happened, and what steps have been set in motion. Ask them to come to the venue/ the school at once
- Contact the Police
- The Child Protection Officer would inform the Local Children Safeguarding Board
- The school would cooperate fully with any Police investigation and any safeguarding investigation by Social Care
- Inform the Chairman of Governors
- Ofsted would be informed
- The Insurers would be informed
- If the child is injured a report would be made under RIDDOR to the HSE

A full record of all activities taken up to the stage at which the child was found would be made for the incident report. If appropriate, procedures would be adjusted.

ACTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED BY STAFF ONCE THE CHILD IS FOUND

- Talk to, take care of and, if necessary, comfort the child
- Speak to the other children to ensure they understand why they should not leave the premises/separate from a group on an outing
- The Headmaster will speak to the parents to discuss events and give an account of the incident
- The Headmaster will promise a full investigation (if appropriate involving Social Services/ Local Children Safeguarding Board)
- Media queries should be referred to the Headmaster
- The investigation should involve all concerned providing written statements

- The report should be detailed covering: time, place, numbers of staff and children, when the child was last seen, what appeared to have happened, the purpose of the outing, the length of time that the child was missing and how s/he appeared to have gone missing, lessons for the future.

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PART TWO: PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY STAFF WHEN A CHILD IS NOT COLLECTED ON TIME

If a child is not collected within twenty minutes of the agreed collection time, we will call the contact numbers for the parent or carers. If there is no answer, the Teacher / secretary will begin to call the emergency numbers for this child.

During this time, the child will be safely looked after.

If there is no response from the parents' or carers' contact numbers or the emergency numbers by end of the school day, the Headmaster will contact the Social Care Duty Officer. Social Care will make emergency arrangements for the child and will arrange for a visit to be made to the child's house and will check with the Police. We will make a full written report of the incident.

We undertake to look after the child safely throughout the time that he or she remains under our care.

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored regularly by the school's S.M.T.

This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary

Signed:

Date: December 09