

LARKS HILL JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL



Missing Child Policy

Reviewed: Autumn Term 2015

Larks Hill J & I School

Missing Child Policy

Every effort is made to ensure the safety of your child whilst they are in our care at school. This policy sets out our procedures for maintaining safety and dealing with the unlikely event of a child going missing.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- It is the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that all relevant staff are aware of this policy, to ensure relevant staff are aware of their responsibilities, what is expected and the procedures to follow and to ensure that the policy is reviewed on a timely basis.
- It is the responsibility of all staff to read the policy and act at all times according to its guidance.
- It is the responsibility of parents to ensure they provide correct and updated contact information on a timely basis and know the procedures for hand over of the child at the beginning and end of sessions.
- It is the responsibility of Governors to ensure they are aware of the school's procedures and to challenge/support the school in its review of this policy.

PROCEDURES AIMED AT REDUCING RISK OF A MISSING PUPIL:

Start of the Day

- Ensure parents are fully aware of the points at which responsibility for the care of their child passes from staff to them and vice versa. (Open door policy with Teaching staff and support adults)
- Clear procedures for welcoming pupils into school. Staff meeting and greeting on the door.

Doors into classes closed at 9.00am.

- Pupils use playground entrances and Foundation/KS1 pupils are escorted to their Classrooms by their Classteacher and/or Support Assistant.
- Main entrance used between the hours of 8.55am and 3.20pm once gates are padlocked.
- Staff complete electronic registers (Integris G2) promptly (by 9:10 a.m. and 1:10 p.m. respectively) and accurately – mornings and afternoons. Any children who are absent without absence notification will be noted. Then Admin Assistants will call home to check why that child is absent or if they should have reached school. (First Response Procedure)

Outside Time/Lunch/Playtime

- When children are outside they are protected by fencing/hedges and padlocked gates and are supervised by adult(s)
- If pupils leave the classroom security to work in other parts of the school ensure that adequate supervision is maintained at all times and all pupils are accounted for on return to the classroom.
- Updated contact information for parents and carers is sought and maintained.
- External class doors leading onto the field are locked before and after playtime and dinner time.

Hometime:

- Staff ensure that all pupils leave school in a timely and appropriate manner.
- If children/pupils know their parent/carer is going to be late they will go to the School Office and await pick-up under supervision of a member of staff.
- if any children leave the school premises and a parent/carer is not there to greet them –they know to return to the safety of the school building and inform member of staff.
- Children who leave school with a Child Care provider e.g. Stepping-Stones have a designated place to wait. A list of these children is kept in the school Office.

Visits:

- Thorough risk assessments and adequate staff/pupil ratios, no less than one staff member to 8 pupils are provided when pupils leave the school premises.
- Adequate communication contact and a list of pupils/groups to be taken on visits out of school.
- Mobile phones taken on every visit and mobile contact numbers left at school.

PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A CHILD GOING MISSING:

In the event of a member of staff fearing that a child has gone missing while at school:

- Member of staff who has noticed the missing child will calmly inform the nearest member of the SLT.
- Staff will count and name check all the pupils present against the register while the group are assembled in one place. –to ascertain the name of the missing child.

- All other available staff will conduct a thorough search of the premises and notify the SLT member if the child is found immediately.
- A thorough check of all exits to be made to make sure all gates/doors were locked/bolted and there are no other ways a pupil could have left the school. If something is discovered this needs to be drawn to the attention of the staff immediately.
- If the child has not been found by the time the register check is completed the SLT member will notify the Head teacher. Staff will begin a search of the area immediately.
- If the child has not been found after 10 minutes from the initial report of them as missing then parents should be notified. The Head teacher or next most senior member of staff on site will decide at which point the police need to be contacted.
- When contacting parents or carers please ask them to bring with them a recent photograph of their child.
- Staff must try to remember and write down a description of what the child was wearing and any distinguishing features.
- If the missing child has any special medical or learning needs then these need to be noted, to be disclosed to police or other agencies.

If the event of a member of staff fearing that a child has gone missing while off school premises:

- Visit leader must ensure safety of remaining pupils.
- One or more adults should immediately start searching for the child.
- Visit leader should contact school to alert them.
- If the child is not found within 5 minutes Visit Leader must contact police by phoning 999.
- Visit leader should alert school that the police have been contacted and school will make arrangements to notify parents, after which procedures above to be followed