



# Missing Child Policy

**840/2043**  
**Westlea Primary School**

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**Key Contacts**

**Please find the details of those with overall responsibility.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Contact details</b>
Deborah Scothern	Head Teacher	01915813658
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## Child Gone Missing On or Off Site

We believe this policy relates to the following legislation:

- Children Act 1989
- Police Act 1997
- Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) Regulations 2002
- Education Act 2002
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (No. 2) Regulations 2009
- School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

The following documentation is also related to this policy:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges (DfE)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children

We have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as described in section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and that we have due regard to the guidance 'Keep Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges (DfE)' as the safety and protection of children is of paramount importance to everyone in this school.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is best defined as:

'protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes'. (Keep Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges (DfE))

We believe that all children have the right to be safe in our society. Therefore, we recognise that we have a duty to ensure arrangements are in place for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

We believe it is essential to have in place exceptional school security systems to prevent pupils going missing from the school or when they are on an educational visit. The welfare of all of our pupils is our principal responsibility with all school personnel ensuring the safety of pupils at all times.

We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

We believe it is essential that this policy clearly identifies and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the procedures and arrangements that is connected with this policy.

## **Aims**

- To ensure that security procedures are in place to deal with the unlikely event of a missing child.
- To work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

## **Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure**

### **Role of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body has:

- appointed a Site Manager/Caretaker to put into practice school security measures;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to oversee all school security measures;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and visitors to the school are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- nominated a designated governor (Chair) to ensure that appropriate action will be taken to deal with all prejudice related incidents or incidents which are a breach of this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents;
- nominated a link governor to visit the school regularly, to liaise with the Headteacher and the coordinator and to report back to the Governing Body;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

### **Role of the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team**

The Headteacher will:

- ensure that security measures are in place and are effective;

- ensure that all school personnel are aware of security procedures and the roles of school personnel;
- notify parents of school security procedures and the procedures for dealing with a missing child;
- work closely with the link governor;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy by:
  - monitoring learning and teaching through observing lessons
  - monitoring planning and assessment
  - speaking with pupils, school personnel, parents and governors
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy.

### **Role of the Nominated Governor (Chair)**

The Nominated Governor will:

- work closely with the Headteacher;
- ensure this policy and other linked policies are up to date;
- ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of this policy;
- attend training related to this policy
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy.

### **Role of School Personnel**

All school personnel will:

- be aware of and abide by this policy;
- undertake appropriate training in security procedures;
- inform and remind pupils of security procedures such as the reporting of unidentified school visitors;
- remind pupils that they should not leave the school premises or to wander off while on an educational visit;
- be aware of all other linked policies;
- maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour within and outside school and not to undermine fundamental British values;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions on equality;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community.

### **Role of Pupils**

Pupils will promote a positive image of the school by:

- be aware of and comply by all security measures that are in place;
- listen carefully to all instructions given by the teacher;
- ask for further help if they do not understand;
- treat others, their work and equipment with respect;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure the smooth running of the school;
- liaise with the school council;
- take part in questionnaires and surveys

## **Role of the School Council**

The School Council will be involved in:

- discussing improvements to this policy during the school year;
- organising surveys to gauge the thoughts of all pupils;
- reviewing the effectiveness of this policy

## **Role of Parents**

Parents/carers will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- ensure they provide correct and updated contact details;
- be aware of school security procedures especially at the beginning and end of the school day
- be asked to take part periodic surveys conducted by the school;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure smooth running of the school

## **Risk Assessments**

Risk assessments are:

- in place in the event that a child should go missing on or off site;
- reviewed if a child should go missing

## **Reducing Risk of a Missing Child**

All security procedures must be reviewed annually.

Every day school personnel must be aware of the following:

- entrances and exits are secure
- windows are secure
- challenging and dealing with unauthorized people on the school site
- alarms are switched on
- outside lighting is switched on
- security of valuables and personal possessions
- visitors and contractors
- wearing identification badges

## Procedures to Follow in the Event of a Child Going Missing

In the event of a child has gone missing in school:

- Inform the Headteacher/Senior Leadership Team/School Office
- Search the premises
- If the child is still not found (maximum 20 minutes) then contact the police giving full details of the child
- Search the immediate area surrounding the school
- Contact the child's parents
- When the child is found review security procedures

In the event of a child has gone missing off site:

- Inform the party leader
- Search the area (Maximum 20 minutes)
- Inform the police
- Notify the school
- When the child is found review security procedures

## Training

All school personnel:

- have equal chances of training, career development and promotion
- receive training on induction which specifically covers:
  - All aspects of this policy
  - Safeguarding & Child Protection
  - School Security
  - Health & Safety
  - Pupil Behaviour & Discipline
  - Attendance & Truancy
  - Supervision of Pupils
  - Pastoral Care
  - Troubled and Vulnerable Children
  - Risk Assessment
  - Dealing with Critical Incidents
  - Equal opportunities
  - Inclusion
- receive periodic training so that they are kept up to date with new information
- receive equal opportunities training on induction in order to improve their understanding of the Equality Act 2010 and its implications.

## Raising Awareness of this Policy

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- the School Prospectus
- the school website
- the Staff Handbook
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- school events
- meetings with school personnel
- communications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of half term newsletters
- reports such as annual report to parents and Headteacher reports to the Governing Body
- information displays

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.

### **Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy**

The practical application of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises by the Headteacher and the nominated governor.

A statement of the policy's effectiveness and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be presented to the Governing Body for further discussion and endorsement. (See Policy Evaluation)

### **Linked Policies**

▪ Safeguarding & Child Protection	▪ School Security
▪ Behaviour	▪ Health & Safety
▪ Attendance	▪ Supervision of Pupils

