



## **Kingswood House School**

### **Missing Child from Education Policy & Procedures Including a child not being collected from School**

#### **Contents of policy**

This policy covers the whole school including EYFS and set out the procedures Kingswood House School will follow when a child is missing from education or if a child is not collected from School at the agreed time.

Parents should have their attention drawn to these procedures, in the school's Staff Behaviour and Code of Conduct; and Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and, for example, the School's EYFS policy covering the information for parents. There are clear links between this policy and policies on staff behaviour and child protection, all of which apply to EYFS in exactly the same way as they apply to the whole school. This policy is kept under regular review and updated to keep pace with changes to DfE and ISI guidance as well as the EYFS framework.

#### **Related policies:**

- Child Protection Policy
- Staff Behaviour Policy / Staff Code of Conduct
- Educational Visits Policy
- Policy for Induction of New Staff, Governors and Volunteers in Child protection

This list is not exhaustive.

**Policy reviewed by:** Campbell McKelvie

**Dated:** 25 May 2023

**Policy next review:** 25 May 2024

#### **Missing Child from Education Policy and Procedures**

#### **Introduction**

The welfare of all of our children at Kingswood House School is our paramount responsibility. A child going missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect, including child sexual and/or criminal exploitation and county lines. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation, so called 'honour'-based abuse or risk of forced marriage. 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. This includes the importance of effective information sharing to ensure our children are safe and receiving suitable education. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future. Where staff have concerns that a child is missing from school, this policy should be followed.

Every member of our staff who works with children has read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE).

This policy was drawn up having had regard to the Independent School Regulatory Requirements (paragraph 7 and 15), Early Years Statutory Framework (paragraph 3.73) and Department for Education guidance Children Missing Education (September 2016).

### **Admissions and leavers**

Kingswood House School (KHS) will ensure that there is a record of joiners and leavers as defined in [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) 2006 \(amended 2016\)](#).

When removing a child's name, the school will notify the Local Authority of: (a) the full name of the child, (b) the full name and address of any parent with whom the child normally resides, (c) at least one telephone number of the parent, (d) the child's future address and destination school, if applicable, and (e) the ground in regulation 8 under which the child's name is to be removed from the school register.

KHS will make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of a child jointly with the Local Authority, before deleting the child's name from the school register if the deletion is under regulation 8(1), sub-paragraphs (f) (iii) and (h) (iii) of [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) 2006 \(amended 2016\)](#).

KHS will:

- Enter children on the admissions register on the first day on which the school has agreed, or has been notified, that the child will attend the school.
- Notify the Local Authority within five days of adding a child's name to the admission register. The notification must include all the details contained in the admission register for the new child.
- Monitor each child's attendance through their daily register and follow the SCC procedure in cases of unauthorised absence.
- Remove a child's name from the admissions register on the date that the child leaves the school.
- The school will notify the Local Authority when they are about to remove a child's name from the school register under any of the fifteen grounds listed in the regulations, no later than the date that the child's name is due to be removed.
- Where parents notify the school, in writing, of their intention to Electively Home Educate (EHE) the school will forward a copy of the letter to the Local Authority Education Inclusion Team.

- Where parents orally indicate that they intend to withdraw their child to EHE and no letter has been received, the school will not remove the child from roll and will notify the Education Inclusion Team at the earliest opportunity.

If a child joins or leaves the school at non-standard transition times, the Admissions team will alert the Local Authority.

### **Action to be followed by staff if a child fails to attend first day of school**

All new pupils are placed on the School's admission register at the beginning of the first day on which the School has agreed that the pupil will attend the School. If a child fails to attend on the agreed date, staff must inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay. After communication with the parents or carer, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider notifying the local authority at the earliest opportunity.

Where there are changes affecting the child (including a change of address or school), these will be reflected in the admission register. This will assist the School and external agencies when making enquiries to locate any missing children.

### **Duty to Report**

The school monitors attendance of its pupils closely and will take action to address poor or irregular attendance.

The School will inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more without permission.

Where a pupil has been continuously absent without authorisation for a period of not less than 20 school days (and there are no reasonable grounds to believe the pupil is unwell or unable to attend because of any unavoidable cause), and the School and local authority have failed, following reasonable enquiry, to ascertain where the pupil is, the School may delete the pupil's name from the admission register. The school will inform the local authority of such deletion no later than the time at which the pupil's name is deleted from the register.

The school also recognises its wider reporting duties following deletions from the admission register, in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, to help identify children who are missing education and/or otherwise at risk of harm.

### **Procedures to be followed by staff when a child is not collected on time**

If a child is not collected within half an hour of the agreed collection time, the School will call the contact numbers for the parent or carers. Where reasonably possible the School will hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil. If there is no answer, the School's Secretary or a member of SLT will begin to call the emergency numbers for this child. During this time, the child will be safely looked after by the School. If there is no response from the parents' or carers' contact numbers or the emergency numbers within a one hour period, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of SLT, will contact the Children's Services – Single

Point of Access (C-SPA) on **0300 470 9100**. C-SPA 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. The School will make a full written report of the incident.

The School will look after the child safely throughout the time that they remain under the School's care, until such a time as they have been collected by a parent, guardian or carer, or until appropriate alternative care arrangements have been made with C-SPA and/or the Police in order to prioritise the child's safety. The School's DSL will keep a record of incidents where parents/carers do not collect a child from school or are late for no explained or good reason, or where there are repeated incidents. If any concerns about the child's safety and welfare result, these will be dealt with in accordance with the School's child protection policy and procedures detailed in its staff behaviour and child protection policies.