

Lost / Missing Child Policy

This very rarely happens but complacency is a hazard we must avoid at all costs. The welfare of the children in our care is paramount. Children may go missing and EVERY member of staff has equal responsibility in ensuring the safety of the children and knowing where they are.

Systems in place to minimise the risk of children going missing:

- Appropriate steps are taken to ensure that the premises and surrounding site is secure.
- Parents are required to register the child's arrival.
- It is the responsibility of every member of staff to be aware of how many children are present and a quick head count takes place at intervals during each session.
- Key workers / class teachers of new children always take extra care to be aware of their whereabouts and ensure they know the boundaries of where they can and cannot go. Parents are advised of our security procedures and will be given the opportunity to discuss any concerns, particularly if their child has an adventurous nature.
- Parents are made aware of the need of supervision of children at all times especially of their responsibility to ensure their child's arrival and departure is noted by a member of staff.
- Children in the Foundation Stage are always counted before going out to play and again when they are lining up to come back indoors. A member of staff will always be at the end of the line to ensure no children are left outside.
- Children leaving the classroom, either on their own or as a group, are counted out and in again by the class teacher.

Every care is taken to ensure our children are accounted for at all times. However, in the unlikely event that it is suspected that a child has gone missing the following procedure will be followed.

- The Headteacher / Deputy or most senior member of staff at the time will take an immediate role call of all children.
- If it is discovered that a child is unaccounted for then a full search of the school building and its immediate surroundings will take place.
- On no account will any other children be left unsupervised at any time
- If after a thorough search it proves unsuccessful in establishing the whereabouts of the child, the emergency services and the parent / guardian will be contacted.
- On the arrival of the emergency services and the child's parent / guardian the Headteacher / Deputy or senior member of staff will be responsible for appraising them of all information in respect to the missing child and what action has been taken.
- Once the situation has been resolved an internal investigation will take place to examine how it occurred and to put immediate measures in place to ensure it does not happen again.