



6 Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults procedures

6.5 Missing child

In the building

- As soon as it is noticed that a child is missing, the member of staff informs the designated safeguarding lead who initiates a search within the setting.
- If the child is found on-site, the designated safeguarding lead checks on the welfare of the child and investigates the circumstances of the incident.
- If the child is not found on site, two members of staff search the immediate vicinity, if there is no sign of the child, the police are called immediately.
- The parents / carers are then called and informed.
- The designated safeguarding lead contacts their designated committee member, to inform them of the situation and seek assistance as soon as practically possible.

Off-site (outing or walk)

- As soon as it is noticed that a child is missing, the senior staff present carries out a headcount.
- One member of staff searches the immediate vicinity.
- If the child is not found, the senior staff calls the police and then contacts the designated safeguarding lead. If able, staff from the setting will be sent to meet the children and staff at their location
- The designated safeguarding lead informs the parents.
- Members of staff return the children to the setting as soon as possible if it is safe to do so. According to the advice of the police, one senior member of staff should remain at the site where the child went missing and wait for the police to arrive.
- The designated safeguarding lead contacts the designated committee member, who will attend the setting as soon as practically possible.

Recording and reporting

- A record is made on **6.1a** Child welfare and protection summary and **6.1b** Safeguarding incident reporting form or CPOMs. The manager / or designated safeguarding lead completes and circulates **6.1c** Confidential safeguarding incident report or CPOMs entry and alerts the designated committee member on the same day that the incident occurred.

The investigation

- Ofsted are informed as soon as possible (and at least within 14 days).
- The designated committee member carries out a full investigation.
- The designated safeguarding lead and the designated committee member speaks with the parents / carers together and explain the process of the investigation
- Each member of staff present during the incident writes a full report using **6.1b** Safeguarding incident reporting form or statement or entry on CPOMs. Staff do not discuss any missing child incident with the press.