



## CHILDREN MISSING/ ABSENT FROM EDUCATION POLICY 2025

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Signed by Chair of Governors	D Bondt
Committee Delegated	S/G BA & PD
Renewal Period	1 year

## **Children missing/ absent from education**

Children missing education (CME) is defined as those who are of a compulsory school age, but are either not registered at a school or else not receiving suitable education in place of a school setting. CME may be at a significant risk of: not meeting their academic potential and underachieving.

Children absent from school for prolonged periods and/or on repeat occasions can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues including neglect or mental health problems. This may include full days and parts of the day.

There are many circumstances where a child may become missing/ absent from education, but some children are particularly at risk. These include children who:

- Are at risk of harm or neglect
- Come from the families of service personnel
- Go missing or run away from home or care
- Cease to attend a school
- Come from new migrant families

We will follow our procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children who go missing/ absent from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including criminal and sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of going missing in the future.

This includes informing the local authority if a child leaves the school without a new school being named, and adhering to requirements with respect to sharing information with the local authority, when applicable, when removing a child's name from the admission register at non-standard transition points.

If a staff member suspects that a child is suffering from harm or neglect, we will follow the school's child protection procedures. If appropriate we will make an immediate referral to the local authority children's social care team, and the police, if the child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or in immediate danger.

Parents are regularly reminded of the importance of good attendance and punctuality, and having good communication with the School.

If a child is not present on the register, with no reason having been given, a text will be sent to the parents – by 10.00am. If no reply is received by early afternoon, then a call will be made to the parent. In the unusual situation of still having had no direct

contact, then other contacts (as on the Essential Information sheet) will be rung. If there are then concerns about the absence the DSL will be informed and the school's child protection procedures will be followed.