



Langton Primary School

Absconding Policy

**Adopted by: Full Governing Body
February 2017**

Review date: February 2020

At Langton School, we actively work to provide a secure, safe environment, a school where children want to come to enjoy learning with others as part of a caring community. We recognise that it is highly unlikely that a child will try to abscond from our school but this policy is written to ensure we are ready to deal with this eventuality should it occur.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- a) The head teacher (or deputising teacher in their absence) is responsible for all decisions made when a child absconds from school.
- b) The class teacher or the teaching assistant (if working independently with the pupil) is responsible for caring for the child (until the child leaves the premises). They will be responsible for seeking additional help if this is felt to be necessary.
- c) Parents / carers of pupils are responsible for supporting the work of the school. They are responsible for encouraging their children to keep to all school procedures and policies.
- d) Once school has informed the parents that their child has absconded, parents and carers are responsible for actively supporting the school with the subsequent procedures and actions. This could include coming to school to help secure the safety of the child after he / she has absconded as well as meeting with the head teacher in order to agree subsequent actions.

Procedures

If a pupil is suspected of leaving the school site without permission, in an emotional state or for any other unforeseen reason:-

1. The member of staff will alert the headteacher or (in their absence) the deputising teacher.
2. If the child appears to be missing but there is no evidence that he / she has left the site, a quick but thorough search of the site should be conducted before the parents / Police are informed and the search widened.
3. If there is no doubt that the pupil has absconded, the school will contact the pupil's parent(s) to inform them and call the police. Staff will not chase the pupil as this could lead to the pupil wandering further afield, acting impetuously or causing a traffic accident. However professional judgement will be deployed and consideration given to the age of the child, the given situation and the relationship between the child and adult.
4. If the child is within an easy distance of the school, staff are not to engage in conversation as the child might be in a distressed state and unable to act in a controlled manner but remain with the child/alert other staff members to the pupil's location.
5. If the pupil returns of his / her own volition, parents and (if necessary) the police will be informed.