

Children Absconding from Site

Due to the nature of young people who attend Take 1 it may sometimes arise that a pupil will leave premises without permission. Prior to this occurring every effort will always be made to de-escalate and deter a young person from leaving site. However, this may not always be possible and therefore the following protocol needs to be taken should a young person leave site:

If a staff member is present:

- Staff member present follows young person at a distance to encourage to return to site.
- Staff member should have a school mobile phone on their person and keep the senior member of school on site informed while following the young person.
- The senior member of school staff will give verbal advice throughout. Extra staff may be deployed if available to help encourage young person from site.
- Should a young person abscond, we will try and re-engage them for 15 minutes unless the student is showing aggressive behaviour. In which case, we shall call commissioning school and parents
- Incident forms will be completed following absconding and refusal of Education

No staff member is present to follow, or should a staff member discover that a young person is not on site as expected, or if they are following and lose sight of them are they are to:

- Inform senior member of staff on site immediately
- Complete a grounds search taking no more than ten minutes
- Senior staff member and any other available staff are to search the local area on foot or by car to try and gain sight of young person for no more than ten minutes
- Certain cases of absconding will require police assistance and we shall determine this by their risk assessments. However, 101 have stated to us that if a child goes missing during school hours it is simply classes as truanting, and can not be logged as a missing person, it is then up to the parent to decipher this if the child does not return home after school hours. So only in relevant cases such as we believe the child could be in immediate danger, or engaging in criminal activity shall the police be called
- If the police have been contacted, Parents will be notified immediately
- The referring school should also be called and updated.
- Staff available will continue to search periodically in the local area on foot or by car to try and locate the young person, keeping the senior staff informed at all times.
- A return debrief must be held with the young person to explore reasons for leaving site, support that can be put in place to reduce risk and any concerns they had while off site.
- Parent, carers and social workers will be informed when a young person is returned to site. The Police will also be informed should they not be aware.
- The young persons risk assessment may require updating



Senior staff members will regularly look for information around missing incidents for young people and any concerns will be escalated to ensure support is put in place for the young person.