

# Children Missing From Education Policy



## **Introduction**

### **What 'children missing education' means**

All children of compulsory school age, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to an efficient, full time education which is suitable to their age, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. 'Children missing education' are those who are not registered at a school, not receiving a suitable education otherwise (i.e. Elective Home Education or alternative provision), are not regularly attending the school where they are a registered pupil or cease attending and/or their whereabouts or destination school is unknown. These children can be at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation and in later life becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training).

A child missing education from school due to repeated and unexplained absence, or by leaving the school unexpectedly is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect, or where a family may be in need of additional support.

This policy applies to children who have significant absence from school without good reason, including persistent absentees (90% and below attendance) and those that go missing unexpectedly.

The school has drawn up this policy to deal with children who miss schooling in these circumstances, particularly on repeat occasions and for those children who leave school without clear indications of where they will be continuing their education. It also aims to prevent the risks of their going missing in the future.

## **Context**

This policy should be read alongside the school's Attendance Policy and in particular with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy of which it is an integral part.

The policy has regard to the DfE guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for Schools and Colleges 2021 and the LSCB's guidance: Child Protection Record Keeping Guidance for Schools. Policy and Procedures The school will carry out daily registration and absences will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Attendance Policy.

This policy covers those instances where:

- There is a repeated pattern of absence
- The reason for absence is unclear or unexplained
- A member of staff has concerns about the nature of a pupil's absence
- A parent informs the school that their child is to leave.

In these instances the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs Graham, or the deputy DSLs, Mrs Challenger or Mrs Routledge should be consulted and a record of any concerns made on CPOMS.

When a pupil leaves the school, the school will make contact with the receiving school to ensure the child is registered at the school and has started to attend.

We will inform the Local Authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more.

The link to the North Yorkshire Missing from Education protocol can be found below:

<https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Safeguarding/Children%20missing%20education/Children%20%20Missing%20Education%20Protocol%20-%20June%20%202019%20Final.doc>