

Blackpool Skills Academy

Absent Without Authority for Education Settings Policy: BSA053

Date of Protocol: 8th of January 2024

Member of Staff responsible: David Hodge

Review date: September 2024

Introduction

1.1. Blackpool Skills Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all its students, both within the centre premises and beyond.

As part of this commitment, we adhere to both the PAN LANCS Strategy for Children Who Go Missing and the Joint Protocol for Children and Young People Who Run Away or Go Missing from Home or Care, aiming to prevent and respond effectively to instances where children go missing or run away.

Definitions

2.1. For the purpose of this policy:

a) "Child" refers to any student enrolled at Blackpool Skills Academy who is under the age of 18 and absent without authority for education settings.

b) "Missing Child" refers to any child who is absent from the centre or placement without explanation and whose whereabouts cannot be immediately accounted for.

d) "Joint Protocol" refers to the collaborative framework between agencies for responding to cases of children and young people who run away or go missing from home or care.

Prevention Measures

3.1. Blackpool Skills Academy will implement preventive measures to reduce the risk of children going missing, including but not limited to:

- a) Regular attendance monitoring.
- b) Providing a supportive and nurturing environment.
- c) Offering support services to students who may be experiencing difficulties.
- d) Collaborating with schools, parents, guardians, and relevant agencies to address any concerns or issues that may contribute to a child's risk of going missing or running away.

Response Procedures

4.1. If a child is reported missing, Blackpool Skills Academy will initiate the following procedures:

- a) Attempt to contact the child on their own device or via peer's devices if available to do so.
- b) Parents/carers will be contacted regardless of whether successful contact of the child has been achieved.
- c) Notify the designated safeguarding lead from the school the child belongs to, other relevant staff members regardless of whether contact with the child has been made via previous steps and report outcome or current situation. Should there be a need to contact appropriate agencies immediately.
- d) Assist the child's school in conducting a thorough risk assessment to determine the level of risk to the child's safety and well-being.
- e) Coordinate with local authorities and other agencies involved in the Joint Protocol to ensure a coordinated and effective response.
- f) Maintain accurate records of all actions taken and communications made during the process.

Support and Follow-up

5.1. Blackpool Skills Academy will provide support to the missing child, their family, and other students affected by the incident, including access to counselling services and other appropriate support mechanisms, either directly or liaising with the child's/children's schools.

5.2. Following the resolution of a missing or runaway child case, Blackpool Skills Academy will conduct a review to identify any lessons learned and implement any necessary improvements to prevent future occurrences.

Training and Awareness

6.1. All staff members at Blackpool Skills Academy will receive training on the Lancashire Strategy for Children Who Go Missing, the Joint Protocol for Children and Young People Who Run Away or Go Missing from Home or Care, and their roles and responsibilities in implementing this policy.

6.2. Information about this policy and related procedures will be communicated to parents, students, and relevant stakeholders through appropriate channels.

Review and Revision

7.1. This policy will be reviewed annually by Blackpool Skills Academy leadership to ensure it remains up-to-date and effective in addressing the needs of our organisations community.

7.2. Any revisions to this policy will be communicated to all stakeholders in a timely manner.

Compliance

8.1. Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with Blackpool Skills Academy's disciplinary procedures.

This policy is effective from the 8th of January 2024 and will remain in effect until superseded or amended by subsequent policy.

Contact Information.

If you believe that a child is at immediate risk, this should be reported without delay to the Police service; for emergencies use 999, or for urgent/immediate reporting 0845 125 3545 as well as contacting Children's Services for Look After Children (LAC) or contact Parents/carers, school or placements that the child is known to attend.

Return to home Interview

Blackpool Skills Academy will provide a quiet room for the Completion of a return to home interview and forms should be sent to the relevant AWAKEN team. Please note that the email address below is for non-urgent contact and should only be used for sending the completed return interview forms.

duty.assessment@blackpool.gov.uk