

# Acorn Trust

## Missing Child

### Policy



Date Written: November 2016

Review date: November 2019

Chairs signature:

## **Mission Statement**

The Acorn Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust established with the aim of providing outstanding learning and opportunities for the children within its care.

Children are our nation's most precious resource. Their school life and learning experience will shape them for the whole of their lives

## **Safeguarding Statement**

At the Acorn Trust we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We work to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

The procedures contained in the Safeguarding Policy apply to all staff, volunteers and governors

This policy covers pupils attending schools within the Acorn Trust.

Children should never be allowed to leave the premises during school time except for medical /dental appointments or organised class/ whole school visits (appointment cards will be requested to authorise absence). It is possible that on some occasions a child may leave the premises without the knowledge or permission of the headteacher. This policy is put in place to ensure that every action possible is taken to ensure the quick and safe return of that child to school.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To locate any missing child quickly.
2. To ensure that all children are kept safely on the school premises during school hours unless they have the headteacher's permission to leave.
3. To ensure that children who leave school during the school day only do so with the headteacher's permission and that they are accompanied by an authorised adult.
4. To ensure that the building, grounds and play areas are safe and secure during school hours.
5. To ensure that teachers and staff keep children under proper supervision at all times.
6. To ensure that if a child 'goes missing' during the school day, he/she is located quickly and returned safely to the school.

## **STRATEGIES**

1. If a child cannot be found by their teacher/member of pastoral team or support staff member, the headteacher or member of senior leadership team must be notified **immediately and told when and where the child was last seen**. Time is of the essence and prompt actions must be taken by all.
2. The remaining children will be left safe in the care of a suitable staff. All other available staff will conduct a thorough search of the child's classroom, play areas, storage areas, toilets, the school building and the school grounds.
3. If the child is not found within a short period of time, the police must be called by the headteacher, member of SLT or staff member.
4. Members of staff, who are not supervising children, will be sent to search the area in the immediate vicinity of the school.
5. If a child goes missing during an outing or school visit, the teacher in charge must ensure that the remaining children are safely cared for by the other staff and adults. An urgent but thorough search should be made of the immediate vicinity and if the child is not found quickly the police must be called and the headteacher notified. If in an enclosed space the appropriate staff in that environment can be initially informed before calling the police, for instance to give a message over the tannoy.

6. As soon as possible, the school's SLT, parents and Social Worker (where appropriate) will be notified that the child is missing.
7. The LA will be notified by the headteacher that a child is missing.
8. If a member of staff finds the child the headteacher must be told at once. Parents, police and other authorities will be notified.
9. The headteacher will investigate how the incident occurred and will take appropriate action to ensure that similar events do not happen again.

## **OUTCOMES**

The safety of all children will be given our highest priority. A missing child should be an extremely rare happening. This policy is designed to put into place swift and effective actions to locate any missing child and to notify and involve parents/carers and the authorities at every appropriate point.