

# WORLINGHAM PRE-SCHOOL

## Missing Child Policy

### **Statement of Intent**

Our setting has the highest regard for the safety of the children in our care.

### **Aim**

Staff will always be extremely aware of the potential for children to go missing during sessions and will follow all relevant procedures to ensure the risks are minimised.

This policy is underpinned by:

Childcare Act (CA) 2006

Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR)

Practice Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage

Health & Safety guidelines [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

### **Methods**

Even when all precautions are properly observed, emergencies can still arise. Therefore members of staff will undertake periodic head counts, especially when going inside after outdoor play. The last adult to come in is to examine all areas to make sure no children are hiding. If, for any reason, a member of staff cannot account for a child's whereabouts during a session, the following procedure will be activated;

1. The member of staff in question will inform both the manager and the rest of the staff team that the child is missing and a thorough search of the entire premises and outdoor area will commence. The staff team will be careful not to create an atmosphere of panic and to ensure that the other children remain safe and adequately supervised.
2. The manager will call the register to ensure that all other children are present.
3. If it is definitely apparent that the child has left the group the child's parent /carer will be called immediately and warned that their child may be attempting to get home.
4. While waiting for the parent/carers to arrive, the police will be contacted and searches for the child will continue. During this period, other members of staff will maintain as normal a routine as is possible for the rest of the children at the pre-school. Staff will ensure, at all times, that staffing ratios are adhered to at all times.
5. The manager will be responsible for meeting the police and the missing child's parent/carers. The manager will co-ordinate any actions instructed by the police, and do all they can to comfort and reassure the parents/carers.
6. Once the incident is resolved, the manager and the staff team will review relevant policies and procedures and implement any necessary changes.

7. All incidents of children going missing from the setting will be recorded in the Incident Record folder and in cases where either the police or social services have been informed, Ofsted will also be informed, as soon as is practical.

This policy was adopted by	Worlingham Pre-School	<i>(name of provider)</i>
On	7 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	November 2021/January 2022	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider	<hr/>	
Name of signatory	<hr/>	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	<hr/>	