

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy

Policy Document



CHILDREN MISSING FROM EDUCATION POLICY 2018 - 2019

Approval

Approved by	Approval Date	Review Date
Head Teacher	September 2018	September 2019

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy

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Head Teacher: Mrs J Smedley

Children Missing from Education Policy 2018-2019

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

"Belonging, Sharing, Caring, safe in the arms of God's love."

The whole school community aims to:

1. Following Christ's example at all times and grow in love, awe and wonder of Him.
2. Make everyone aware that through Christ we take our own place in society acknowledging that our actions affect the lives of others.
3. Give everyone the opportunity to develop their full potential within an atmosphere of mutual respect.
4. Ensure that within a balanced and broadly based curriculum everyone will be given the opportunity:
 - To develop enquiring minds, with the ability to question, argue and think rationally and independently.
 - Use number and language effectively.
 - Develop physical abilities and aesthetic appreciation.
 - Acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life, society and employment in a fast changing world.
5. Enrich the spiritual life of the individual through a varied and meaningful liturgy.

"This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, that you act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)

Children Missing from Education

The government recently consulted on plans to amend regulations from September 2016, to improve information sharing between schools and LAs to help identify children missing education and help protect children from potential harm. At the time of writing these changes are not known but it does give a steer in terms of the direction of travel and therefore may wish to be noted as good practice. We will update this document once this information is known.

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. We are aware that local authorities have a duty to establish, as far as it is possible to do so, the identity of children of compulsory school age who are missing education in their area.

We recognise that a child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect.

When a child is absent from school without authority we will follow our procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future.

We have an admission register and an attendance register which supports the academy in safeguarding children who may be at risk of missing education.

We will discuss and agree actions with regards to individual cases with the relevant colleagues in safeguarding/education within Nottinghamshire County Council for pupils who are to be removed from the admission register where the pupil:

- has been taken out of school by their parents and the school has received written notification from the parent they are being educated outside the school system e.g. home education – this will be communicated with the home elective team
- does not arrive at the school as part of an admission process and we are not aware of their whereabouts
- has ceased to attend school and no longer lives within reasonable distance of the school at which they are registered and has been discussed with the children missing officer (CMO) as they have not been registered at a new school
- has been certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and neither he/she nor his/her parent has indicated the intention to continue to attend the school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age;

- are in custody for a period of more than four months due to a final court order and the proprietor does not reasonably believe they will be returning to the school at the end of that period; or,
- have been permanently excluded

The actions that will be taken by the academy are in the [Guidance For Head Teachers and Business Managers where Children are at Risk of Missing Education](#)

The above flow chart summarises that every child should be accounted for, their whereabouts should be known or we will make a referral to the relevant service. We will not remove a child from our role unless we can evidence an agreement with the local authority to do so.

Where a pupil who fails to attend our academy regularly, or has been absent without the school's permission for a **continuous** period of 10 school days or more we will follow Nottinghamshire County Council's [Guidance for Head Teachers and Business Managers where Children are at Risk of Missing Education](#)

Absence

Children can register in the morning and then go missing throughout the day without a satisfactory explanation. If a child is 'missing', their whereabouts cannot be established within the school. Schools will need to identify whether the child is at significant risk.

Children are more vulnerable who:

- are on a plan (child protection plan, child in need plan, looked after child, early help)
- have specialist educational needs and or a disability
- are using substances
- have an education health care plan
- there are indications that the child is at risk of CSE, grooming, radicalisation etc

There may be other contributing factors that should be taken into consideration when determining if the child is at significant risk such as the child's emotional health, known issues at home etc.

School staff will always try to locate the child and attempt to establish the whereabouts of the child. Once a child has been identified as missing and cannot be located within school, the designated safeguarding lead will be informed.

Staff will use their professional judgement and risk assess the urgency of the situation to help inform the timeframe required in establishing the child's whereabouts before notifying the police. Parents/carers will always be informed before contact with the police is made, unless a child is at immediate risk of harm and a police response is needed. This will be judged on a case by case basis.

When a decision has been made to contact the police, the police will require information from the school to assist in locating the child and returning them to a safe environment.

If a child has a social worker or case manager (eg. early help) then they should also be informed.

Where a child is known to regularly go missing from school, a risk assessment for the child will be undertaken.

For further guidance please see the missing protocol or speak to Nottinghamshire County Council's Glen Scruby, Children's Missing Officer.

Missing.CME@nottsc.ccsx.gov.uk / 0115 8041045