

## 8 SAFEGUARDING POLICY

### 8.5 Missing child

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#### In the building

- As soon as it is noticed that a child is missing, the member of staff informs all staff on duty who initiate a search within the setting.
- If the child is found on-site, the senior staff member checks on the welfare of the child and investigates the circumstances of the incident.
- If the child is not found on site, one member of staff searches the immediate vicinity, if there is no sign of the child, the police are called immediately.
- The parents are then called and informed.
- The senior staff member contacts their designated person, to inform them of the situation and seek assistance.

#### Off-site (outing or walk)

- As soon as it is noticed that a child is missing, the senior staff present carries out a headcount.
- One member of staff searches the immediate vicinity.
- If the child is not found, the senior staff calls the police and then contacts the designated person.
- The designated person informs the parents.
- Members of staff return the children to the setting as soon as possible if it is safe to do so. According to the advice of the police, one senior member of staff should remain at the site where the child went missing and wait for the police to arrive.

#### Recording, reporting and investigating

- A record is made on CPOMs on the same day that the incident occurred.
- Ofsted are informed as soon as possible (and at least within 14 days).
- The designated person carries out a full investigation.
- The designated person speaks with the parents and explain the process of the investigation
- Each member of staff present during the incident writes a full report on CPOMs. Staff do not discuss any missing child incident with the press.