



Thomas's
LONDON DAY SCHOOLS

LOST CHILD POLICY

Aim:

We aim at all times to keep children safe and secure whether on school premises or in our charge off site. We take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of the children.

In the event that a child goes missing from school or when on a school outing, we shall follow the procedures outlined below.

- Outings are recorded in an outings record file stating:
 - the date and time of outing
 - the venue and mode of transport
 - names of staff assigned to named children
 - time of return
- Staff take a list of children's contact details with parent/carer details, numbers and emergency numbers, a mobile phone as well as a mini first aid pack, a snack and water. The amount of equipment will vary and be consistent with the venue and the number of children as well as the length of time they will be out.
- Records are kept of the vehicles used to transport children, with named drivers and appropriate insurance cover.

Missing child:

If a child goes missing from the school

- The person in charge will carry out a thorough search of the building and grounds.
- The register is checked to make sure no other child has also gone astray.
- Doors and gates are checked to see if there has been a breach of security whereby a child could wander out.
- Person in charge talks to staff to establish what happened
- If the child is not found the parent is contacted and the missing child is reported to the police.

If a child goes missing from an outing where parents are not in attendance and responsible for their own child, this procedure is followed:

- As soon as it is noticed that a child is missing, staff on the outing ask children to stand with their designated person and carry out a headcount to ensure that no other child has gone astray. One staff searches the immediate vicinity but does not search beyond that.

- The person in charge is informed, if s/he is not on the outing and makes his/her way to the venue to aid the search and be the point of contact for the police as well as support staff.
- Staff take the remaining children back to school.
- The Head contacts the child's parent who makes his/her way to the school or outing venue as agreed with the Head.
- The staff contact the police using the mobile phone and report the child as missing.
- In an indoor venue, the staff contact the venue's security who will handle the search and contact the police if the child is not found.

The investigation

- The Vice Principal carries out a full investigation taking written statements from all staff present at the time, or who were on an outing.
- The key person/ staff member writes an incident report detailing:
 - the date and time of the report;
 - what staff/ children were in the group or outing;
 - when the child was last seen in the group/ outing;
 - what has taken place in the group/outing since then; and
 - the time it is estimated that the child went missing.
- A conclusion is drawn as to how the breach of security happened.
- If the incident warrants a police investigation all staff co-operate fully. In this case, the police will handle all aspects of the investigation, including interviewing staff. Social Services may be involved if it seems likely that there is a child protection issue to address.
- The incident is reported under RIDDOR agreements and is recorded in the incident book; the local authority health and safety officer may want to investigate and will decide if there is a case for prosecution.

This policy will be reviewed annually.				
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