



AZBUKA Russian-English Bilingual school

Lost or Missing Child Policy

All the Azbuka Russian-English Bilingual school policies should be read in conjunction with the Equality Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Head Teacher
Approved by: Governors of AZBUKA Foundation
Approved: September 2023
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: July 2024

Introduction

This policy has been written and should be read in conjunction with the school health and safety policy. It is also linked to the security policy

Purpose and aims

The **purpose** of this policy statement is to give all staff a clear understanding of how to respond and who to inform should they discover a child is missing.

The **aims** of this policy are to:

- Provide a clear procedure which is understood and effectively implemented by staff;
- Enable the missing child to be located as quickly as possible and given the appropriate level of safety and security commensurate with the pupil's age and emotional/behaviour maturity.

Staff need to be mindful that a child can go missing **at any time of the day**.

Occasions when a child may go missing:

- From an indoor lesson for example when a child is allowed to leave the classroom to go to the toilet
- From an outdoor lesson for example during PE lessons
- Travelling around the school for example assemblies or playtime.
- On a school trip
- Other times such as at the start or end of the school day

Our **Educational Visits Policy** outlines the risk assessments that are made as part of taking our children off-site. We also ensure all children wear high visibility vests on outings. We also have on-site checks on a daily basis to ensure the safety of our children for example taking the registers in the morning and afternoon.

However, in the unlikely event that a child should go missing the following procedures will apply.

This applies to all situations where:

- a. Having arrived at the School, a child goes missing.
- b. A child goes missing whilst on a trip organised by the School.
 - The most senior member of staff to co-ordinate this procedure, either directly, or by phone if the children are on a trip.
 - If the incident happens whilst on a trip, the trip leader will inform the Head Teacher, or the most senior member of the school should the Headteacher be off site.

What to do next

- Gather all children on the trip/at the school into one place and check the register against the children you have.
- Identify which child/children are missing and inform the most senior member of staff at the School.
- Check all exterior doors are secure if in the School.
- If on a trip, check the immediate area.
- At least one member of staff to stay with the children in each classroom while another is dispatched to search all areas the child may have gone.
- If out on a trip, keep the appropriate ratio with the children and dispatch any others to search vicinity.
- Police will be contacted immediately or within 2 minutes of searching the area
- Staff will continue to search and regroup to re-assess after 10 minutes.
- Staff dispatched to search must remain in contact with the room base or the trip leader.
- If on a trip, most adults and all children return to the School after the ten minute search. However, two members of staff should await the arrival of the police to the location of the incident. You may need to ask a member of staff from the School to join you to help to get the children home.
- Senior member of staff meanwhile to gather the relevant information on the child, D.O.B, where last seen and a basic description.

The most senior person in the School will:

1. Inform Police on 999 and hand over all relevant details of the child/children.
2. Call the parents to inform them and let them know what is being done.
3. Social Services (where necessary)
4. Chair of Governors

After the event, the team will reflect on the incident and the procedure to see if anything can be learned from the process and if any measures can be taken to improve. Risk assessment will be reviewed and updated.