

Lost Child Policy

At Wood St Nursery we are committed to promoting children's safety and welfare. In the very unlikely event of a child going missing from the nursery, we have the following procedure, which will be implemented immediately:

Procedure followed if a child goes missing from nursery

- The nursery manager will be informed immediately and all staff present will be informed. Some staff will be deployed to start an immediate thorough search of the nursery, followed by a search of the surrounding area, whilst ensuring that some staff remain with the other children so they remain supervised, calm and supported throughout
- The manager will call the police as soon as they believe the child is missing and follow police guidance
- The manager will call the parents of the missing child as soon as they believe the child is missing
- A second search of the area will be carried out
- During this period, available staff will be continually searching for the missing child, whilst other staff maintain as near to normal routine as possible for the rest of the children in the nursery
- The manager will meet the police and parents
- The manager will then await instructions from the police
- In the very unlikely event that the child is not found the nursery will follow the local authority and police procedure

Procedure followed if a child is lost on an outing

At Wood St Nursery we are committed to promoting children's safety and welfare. This includes where children are on outings and visits. To ensure children's safety on outings we, have a higher staff to child ratio, only take children who are well settled at the nursery, and carry out regular head counts of children throughout any outing or visit. In the unlikely event of a child going missing whilst on an outing we have the following procedure which we implement immediately:

- Staff will always have a mobile phone and be able to contact the nursery
- All staff on outings will be aware of the procedure when a child goes missing and supply information to support the search, e.g. a recent photograph and a detailed description of clothing
- The organiser will be informed immediately and all staff present will be informed.
- Some staff will be deployed to start an immediate thorough search of the area.
- If appropriate, on-site security will also be informed and a description given
- The designated person in charge will do a sweep of the area and then contact the police (a sweep should take between 2 and 5 minutes depending on the environment)
- The designated person in charge will then inform the nursery who will contact the child's parents giving details of what has happened.
- During this period, staff will be continually searching for the missing child, whilst other staff maintain the safety and welfare of the remaining children
- It will be the designated person in charge's responsibility to ensure that there are adequate staff to care for the children and get them back safely, a member of staff to meet the police and someone to continue the search (this may mean contacting relief staff)

Following all cases of a lost child

- Incidents must be recorded in writing as soon as practicably possible including the outcome, who was lost, time identified, notification to police and findings
- In the unlikely event that the child is not found, the nursery will follow the local authority and police procedure
- Ofsted must be contacted and informed of any incidents
- With incidents of this nature parents, carers, children and staff may require support and reassurance following the traumatic experience. Management will provide this or seek further support where necessary
- In any cases with media attention staff will not speak to any media representatives
- Post-incident risk assessments will be conducted following any incident of this nature to enable the chance of this reoccurring being reduced.

