



Creating opportunities, Inspiring change

Absconsion Policy

At the Compass we work collaboratively with children, their families and other agencies to provide a safe and creative therapeutic educational environment.

We believe that every child has the right to love, care and a stimulating educational experience. Our fully integrated approach allows children to learn, develop resilience and feel important.

With the Compass approach families, staff and all those working with us also develop. Relationships are at the heart of everything we do; it is this which allows us all to learn and grow our personal, social, moral and spiritual compass.

We aim to:

Enable all pupils to feel safe, contained and able to learn.

Promote 100% attendance and punctuality.

Discourage unjustified absence.

Introduction

Due to the vulnerable nature of our pupils, they, at times, have great difficulty in recognising the dangers associated with the wider world. As an organisation we regularly review our practise and safe guarding procedures to ensure pupil safety. As such any pupil whom chooses to leave our facilities during the school day will be supported by the procedures outlined in this policy.

Person with Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all members of staff to report a pupil absent from their care.

In order to ensure no time is lost in initiating the procedures, the absconsion should be reported to the class teacher and the Assistant Compass Lead immediately.

Procedure for Absconsion from school premises

1. A search of the immediate area or places the pupil is likely to have hidden should start immediately and a note should be made of the exact time the pupil was reported missing.
2. If a pupil is seen leaving site, they should where at all possible be followed and observed, supported in returning to site. Where it is stated within a pupils Risk Reduction Plan that this is not appropriate, i.e. will result in further escalation or increased risk, the Assistant Compass Lead will be informed via school mobile phone.
3. If a pupil cannot be seen or goes out of sight for more than 10 minutes: Assistant Compass Lead will be informed and parents/ carers contacted.
4. If after 20 minutes the pupil is not found, the absconsion is officially reported to the police on **999** who will take responsibility for co-ordinating further action.
5. Parents/ carers will be informed of developments and of the police involvement.
6. A note of where the pupil was last seen, what they were wearing, specific medical needs and care arrangements will be provided to the police.

Procedure for Absconion while on an educational visit

1. A search of the immediate area or places the pupil is likely to have hidden will start immediately and a note will be made of the time the pupil was reported missing.
2. Compass School will be contacted and Assistant Compass Lead, Compass Lead, EVC Co-ordinator and Head teacher informed.
3. Parents/ carers will be informed.
4. If after 20 minutes an individual is not found, the absconion is officially reported to the police on **999** who will take responsibility for co-ordinating further action.
5. Parents/ carers will be informed of developments and of the police involvement.
6. A note of where the pupil was last seen, what they were wearing, specific medical needs and care arrangements will be given to the police.

General guidelines

Where a pupil is intending to leave site and there is an evidenced risk of harm or foreseeable event to cause harm a pupil will be restrained.

Where a pupil is escalated and intending to leave site in obvious signs of crisis, e.g. angry, distressed, a pupil will be restrained

Where a pupil does not fit the above categories e.g. I am bored and I am going to the park. They will not be restrained and a plan to support on site engagement will be produced by class teacher and ACL.

Additionally, these guidelines will help in making decisions about who and when to call for additional help. A number of factors may lead staff to feel that the search needs to proceed more quickly and the police/ management team need to be involved more urgently:

- Location of absconion
- A history of absconion
- Specific medical needs
- Vulnerability of pupils

Following any absconion, a full report and updated care and risk assessment plan must be forwarded to the Compass Lead and Head teacher by the Assistant Compass Lead.