

## Missing Child Policy and Procedure

At Stride 360, we recognise the serious nature of a missing student incident and are committed to taking immediate and appropriate action to ensure the safety and well-being of all young people in our care. This policy applies to all Alternative Provision (AP) and mentoring sessions, both on-site and off-site.

### Preventative Measures

To minimise the risk of a student going missing, staff will:

- Conduct risk assessments for each session, considering individual needs and past behaviour.
- Ensure clear supervision, maintaining a visual of the student at all times, especially when transitioning between locations.
- Establish and communicate clear boundaries and expectations to students.
- Have emergency contact details accessible at all times.
- Ensure mentors and staff are trained in de-escalation techniques to manage flight risks.
- Use designated meeting points and buddy systems when appropriate.

### Response to a Missing Student

If a student cannot be located, the following steps will be taken:

1. **Immediate Search**
  - Staff will conduct a rapid search of the premises and surrounding areas.
  - The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be contacted immediately.
2. **Escalation** (If the student is not found within 10 minutes):
  - The police will be informed without delay.
  - The DSL will notify the student's parents or carers.
  - Staff will continue searching the area while awaiting further instructions.
  - If in a school setting, the school's DSL or senior leadership team will be informed.
3. **Specific Procedure for Mentoring Sessions**
  - If a student runs away from a mentor during an off-site session:
    - The mentor will NOT chase the student but will attempt to maintain a visual from a safe distance.
    - The DSL will be informed immediately.
    - If safe to do so, the mentor will attempt to re-engage the student using de-escalation strategies.
    - If the student is lost from sight, they will be treated as missing, and the standard response protocol will be followed.
4. **After the Incident**
  - The incident will be recorded in the Incident Log.
  - A review will take place to assess contributing factors and whether any changes to policies or procedures are necessary.

- Parents, carers, and relevant authorities (local safeguarding board) will be informed as required.

### **Communication and Record-Keeping**

- All missing child incidents must be logged, including timeframes, actions taken, and outcomes.
- Follow-up discussions will be held with the student to understand the reasons behind the incident and to prevent reoccurrence.
- If a pattern of absconding emerges, additional safeguarding measures will be considered.

### **Emergency Contacts**

- **Police:** 0845 458 6374
- **Stride 360 DSL:** 0789 161 6421

This procedure was adopted by Stride 360	Date: 30/10/24
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Updated on: 26/03/25	Update made by: Simone Lyons