

Children Missing from Pre School Policy

Who is a Missing Child?

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) defines a missing person as 'Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and where circumstances are out of character or the context suggests the person may be the subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or others. In addition an 'absent' person is a person not at a place where they are expected or required to be. (ACPO 2013)

A child missing from education refers to all children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll nor being educated otherwise (e.g. privately or in alternative provision) and who have been out of any education provision for a substantial period of time (usually agreed as 4 weeks or more) DFE Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, November 2013.

All children born in the UK are registered with agencies, (the General Registry Office, the Department of Work and Pensions [Child Benefit] and the NHS) and are therefore 'known' but, for one reason or another some do not access pre-school services. Some reasons are listed below;

- Families may be aware of the services available but choose not to engage with some or all of them.
- Families with children who start to engage with services but then cease to continue to engage.
- Transient families who move between different authorities and also within the city.
- Those families who move between providers causing temporary anxiety for professionals.
- Children whose families deliberately avoid services and who are known to be at risk

Children born outside the UK may live in families who are not aware of services available to them in this country. For some of them e.g. students, their stay is often temporary and they may choose not to engage with some services during this time.

Those groups of vulnerable children more likely than others not to engage with pre-school services are:

- Children living in women's refuges
- Children of homeless families, perhaps living in temporary accommodation
- Looked After children
- Children with a gypsy/traveller background
- Children in families with a transient lifestyle
- Migrant children, whether in families seeking asylum or economic migrants
- Trafficked children and families

Children missing from pre-school can be at greater risk of:

Signed
Date

on behalf of Springfields Pre-school

Appendix 3

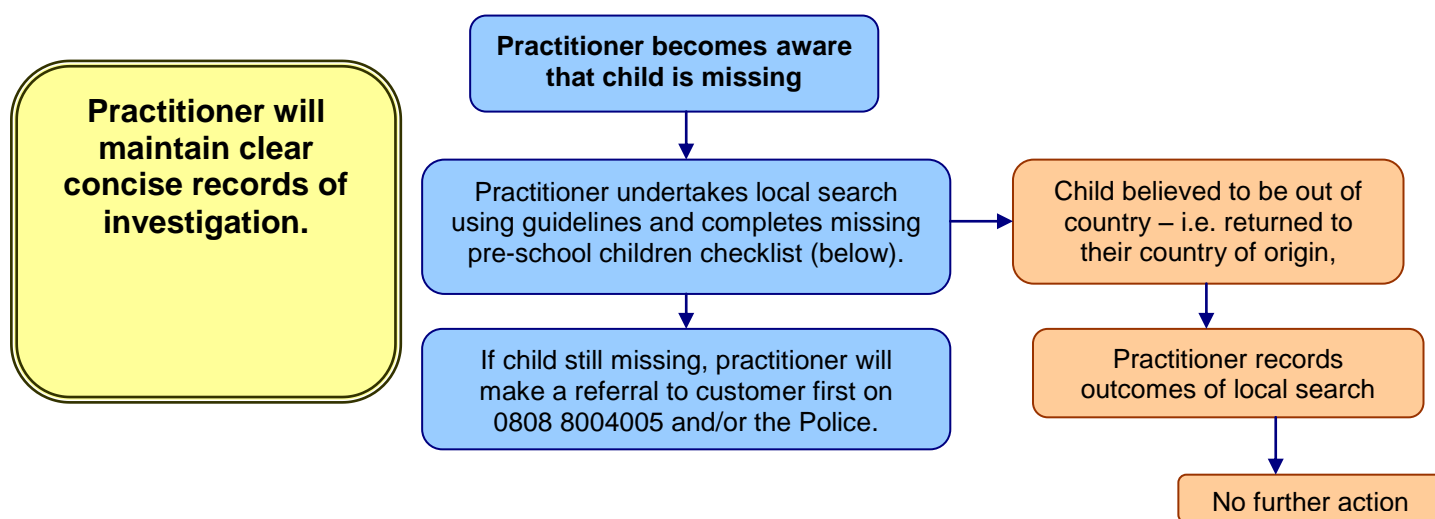
- physical harm
not reaching their potential; emotionally, socially, educationally or physically.

If a child suddenly stops attending our setting we will be alert to this and attempt to contact parents in the first instance. We will remain vigilant asking ourselves the following questions

- Have there been suspicions in the past concerning this child and family members, which together with any sudden disappearance from service provision is worrying?
- Was there a significant incident prior to the child's unexplained absence from services?
- Is there a history of mobility without full explanations as to why?
- Are there issues raised by the child or by their family's immigration or asylum status?
- Has there been school or local authority intervention in relation to older siblings' attendance?

If no contact is made with parents or any of the above questions give cause for concern we will follow out the procedure below

Flowchart for Missing Pre-School Children



This policy does not replace our safeguarding children policy. If the missing child is at risk of, or thought to be at risk of, significant harm we will follow the procedure set out in our safeguarding children policy.

Signed
Date

on behalf of Springfields Pre-school

Appendix 3

Date form started:

Practitioner details	
Name	
Role	
Agency	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

Child's details	
Family name	
First name	
DOB	
Address	
Postcode	
Gender	
Ethnicity	
Language	
Immigration status	
Nursery/School	
Health Visiting Team	
GP	
NHS no	
Other	

Other child(ren)'s details (Include school age siblings' details)		
Family name		
First name		
DOB		
Address		
Postcode		
Gender		
Ethnicity		
Language		
Immigration status		
School/Nursery		
GP		
NHS no		

Mother / father / carers' details		
Name		
D.O.B		

Signed
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Appendix 3

Address		
Postcode		
Relationship to child		
Tel no.		
Parental responsibility?		
Other		

Agency checks	Date	Outcome
Asylum Team 273 6612		
Child Health database		
Children's Centre		
Early Years/Childcare Setting		
Family GP		
Health Visiting Team		
Hospital liaison services (SCH NGH, Jessop Wing)		
MAST team		
Midwife		
Nursery		
Other early years provision (e.g. childminder, after school club)		
Schools		
School Nurse		
Services for older/younger siblings		
Services for mothers and fathers / carers e.g. education courses		
Other		

Non Professional Sources	Date	Outcome
Extended family		
Family's social contacts		
Neighbours		
Other service users		
Other		

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Date

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Please add any other relevant information e.g. other family/carer/significant adult details, including previous/alternative addresses. **Please state when the child(ren) were last seen by own or other agencies.**

Date form sent to Safeguarding Service	
Sent by:	

Signed
Date

on behalf of Springfields Pre-school