

Swinemoor Primary School

Policy on Absconders

Swinemoor Primary school recognises the physical danger and emotional distress that can result from children attempting to leave school premises. The aim of this policy is to reduce this level of distress and to ensure the health, safety and well-being of both the child in question and the staff who may be directly involved in the supervision of the child in question.

Staff Response

Staff's response to such situations should reflect the particular circumstances being faced and in particular the age, maturity level and behavioural history of the child.

Whenever possible, every effort should be made to counsel children who are showing signs of wanting to leave the school premises and to persuade them otherwise.

Staff should always call for support from other members of staff when faced with such situations and the head, deputy/assistant headteacher and school business manager should be immediately informed of any child who leaves the school premises.

If absolutely necessary, physical intervention may be used if the child is in serious danger of causing injury to either themselves or others. However, this must only be used in conjunction with the schools' policy on physical intervention and restraint.

If a younger child manages to leave the school premises then one or more members of staff should attempt to follow the child and if not too distressed, attempt to restrain and return the child to school.

However, if the child is particularly distressed or is a child who could outrun a member of staff, then the child should be followed and observed from a distance to the limit of campus. This is to prevent the child becoming so distressed that they are at increased risk of harm by running in front of the traffic.

Notifying Parents

If it becomes apparent that the situation is not going to be quickly or easily resolved or where a child has a history of such action, then parents should be informed at the earliest possible opportunity. Extra care and sensitivity must be taken however in not promoting any unnecessary panic or distress amongst the parents.

Notifying the Police

If it becomes apparent that the child left the school site then the head, deputy/assistant headteacher or school business manager will make the decision to contact the police. Depending on the involvement of these staff members, the responsibility for making this telephone call may be delegated to another member of staff.

Parents of children who are particularly susceptible to such actions must be informed of this policy.

September 2023