

Goodrich CE Primary School

Missing Child Policy

Date approved: October 2025

Reviewed: July 2026

Review by: July 2027

Children's safety is our highest priority, both on and off the premises. Every attempt is made, through the implementation of our EVC procedure and our Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures, which ensures the security of children is maintained at all times. In the unlikely event of a child going missing, our missing child procedure is followed.

Procedures

Child going missing on the premises

- As soon as it is noticed that a child is missing, the child's key person/the relevant member of staff alerts the Nursery Supervisor / Teacher
- The register is checked to make sure no other child is missing
- The Nursery Supervisor/Teacher will carry out a thorough search of the building and outside areas.
- Doors and gates are checked to see if there has been a breach of security whereby a child could wander out.
- Senior leadership team, school staff and office staff are informed.
- If the child is not found, a member of staff calls the police immediately and reports the child as missing. If it is suspected that the child may have been abducted, the police are informed of this.
- The parent(s)/carer are then contacted and informed.
- A recent photo and a note of what the child is wearing is given to the police.
- The Nursery Supervisor/Teacher talks to staff to find out when and where the child was last seen and records this.
- The head teacher contacts DHMAT and reports the incident.
- DHMAT officer comes to the provision as soon as possible to carry out an investigation with the Senior Leadership Team where appropriate.

Child going missing off site

- As soon as it is noticed that a child is missing, the staff members on the outing ask children to stand with their designated adult and carry out a headcount to ensure that no other child is missing.
- One staff member searches the immediate vicinity but does not search beyond that.
- Site / centre management at location are informed.
- The Nursery Supervisor/Teacher contacts the police and reports the child as missing
- SLT at Goodrich CE Primary School are contacted immediately and the incident is recorded.
- Parents/ carers are informed (if they are not present).
- Staff take the remaining children back to the setting as soon as possible.
- According to the advice of the police, a senior member of staff, should remain at the site where the child went missing and wait for the police to arrive.
- A recent photo and a description of what the child is wearing is given to the police.

- SLT contacts DHMAT and reports the incident.
- DHMAT comes to school as soon as possible to carry out an investigation.
- Staff keep calm and do not let the other children become anxious or worried.

The investigation

- Ofsted are informed as soon as possible and kept up to date with the investigation.
- DHMAT carries out a full investigation, taking written statements from all our staff and volunteers who were present.
- SLT, together with the Nursery Supervisor/Teacher speak with the parent(s) and explain the process of the investigation.
- The parent(s) may also raise a complaint with us or Ofsted.
- Each member of staff present writes an incident report detailing: -
 - The date and time of the incident
 - Where the child went missing from e.g. the setting or venue
 - Which staff/children were in the premises/on the trip and the name of the staff member who was designated as responsible for the missing child
 - When the child was last seen in the premises/or on the trip, including the time it is estimated that the child went missing
 - What has taken place in the premises or on the trip since the child went missing
- The report is counter-signed by the senior member of staff and the date and time added.
- A conclusion is drawn as to how the breach of security happened.
- If the incident warrants a police investigation, all our staff co-operate fully. In this case, the police will handle all aspects of the investigation, including interviewing staff and parents. Children's social care may be involved if it seems likely that there is a child protection issue to address
- In the event of disciplinary action needing to be taken, Ofsted are advised
- The insurance provider is informed.
- Review all relevant policies and procedures.