1.5 Missing child

Policy statement

Children's safety is our highest priority, both on and off the premises. Every attempt is made, through carrying out the outings procedure and the exit/entrance procedure, to ensure the security of children is maintained at all times.

Procedures

In the building Upwood Small to Tall

- As soon as it is noticed that a child is missing, the member of staff informs the designated safeguarding lead who initiates a search within the setting.
- If the child is found on-site, the designated safeguarding lead checks on the welfare of the child and investigates the circumstances of the incident.
- If the child is not found on site, one member of staff searches the immediate vicinity, if there is no sign of the child, the police are called immediately. The parents/carers are then called and informed.
- The designated safeguarding lead contacts their designated officer/line manager.

Off-site Upwood Small to Tall (outing or walk)

- As soon as it is noticed that a child is missing, the senior staff present carries out a headcount.
- One member of staff searches the immediate vicinity.
- If the child is not found, the senior staff calls the police and then contacts the designated safeguarding lead, (if not already on the outing).
- The designated safeguarding lead informs the parents/carers.
- Members of staff return the children to the setting as soon as possible if it is safe to do so. According to the advice of the police, one senior member of staff should remain at the site where the child went missing and wait for the police to arrive.
- The designated safeguarding lead contacts the designated officer/line manager.

Recording and reporting

A record is made on a welfare logging form. The designated safeguarding lead completes and circulates a safeguarding incident report on the same day that the incident occurred.

The investigation

- Ofsted are informed as soon as possible (and at least within 14 days).
- The designated officer/line manager carries out a full investigation.
- The designated safeguarding lead and the designated officer/line manager speak with the parents/carers together and explain the process of the investigation.

- Staff present during the incident write a full report using an incident reporting form. The reporting form (if used) is filed in the child's file.
- Staff do not discuss any missing child incident with the press.
- Further information should only be shared by the manager or with the managers permission.