

## **Absconding Policy**

If a student is missing at Storyy Group (not seen by any staff or coaches) then all staff must be notified immediately. An extensive search of all buildings and site grounds should be made by the session team.

If they remain unaccounted for, the protocol below will be followed:

1. Time and place of the last sighting of the student to be established.
2. Parents/guardians are informed by DSL or Provision Managers. If YP is secondary aged student and are of an age and independence where they can manage themselves out in the community a discussion between parent/guardian will determine next steps.
3. If the student returns, parents/guardian and police (if contacted) will be notified.
4. If the student doesn't return to site within a set period of time the student will be reported to the police as a missing person. The decision as to whether this will be via 999 or 101 depends on the students individual circumstances and risk assessment. This conversation to the police must be recorded on CPOMS and, if appropriate, shared with other agencies.
5. After the incident a debrief will take place at the earliest opportunity with student, their family and staff.
6. The child's individual risk assessment will be reviewed to highlight the risk of absconding.

If a student is on a Storyy Group site and threatening to abscond, then the following process will be followed:

- Staff should follow them to as far as feasible, encouraging them to return to the provision or giving them enough space to regulate.
- If the students goes off the site into community space staff one member of staff should follow at a safe distance and use any known information to on spot risk assess the situation based on their needs. If they become out of sight revert to the protocol above.

The two options for if restraint is needed is to be decided by the working staff:

1. Staff should not attempt to restrain students attempting to leave the site if these students are of an age and independence where they can manage themselves out in the community and a restraint is likely to cause an escalated risk to themselves or staff.
2. For all other students, staff may need to carry out a restraint to prevent absconding due to the risk they pose to themselves if they were to leave site. If, however the student does manage to get off site, staff should revert to the above.

Reviewed by Natalie Lee - 05/09/2023

Next review – 05/09/2024