

Managing Children Unaccompanied (under the age of 6 Years)

Introduction

Under Section 175/157 of the Education Act 2002, Local Authorities, Maintained Schools, Independent Schools and Academies have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This policy outlines arrangements for the management of children who attend the playground unaccompanied under the age of 6 years or accompanied by a person (s) not known to be a family member.

Parents/carers will be made aware of this policy which will be posted on the WAP website and Facebook page.

WAP recognises its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and that this duty extends to having arrangements in place for dealing with children unaccompanied or inappropriately accompanied at the Playground.

The parents/carers of children attending the WAP should supply:

- Names and full addresses of parents/carers (and confirmation of parental responsibility)
- Contact telephone numbers
- Mobile phone numbers where appropriate
- Other emergency contacts as given by the parents/carers in the event of parents/carers being unobtainable or in the case of an emergency.

This information will be updated at regular intervals. Parents/carers will be asked to do this by the staff and through the WAP website and Facebook. It is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure that children are appropriately accompanied if they are under the age of 6 years.

The WAP designated Safeguarding Leads will keep records of incidents where a child under the age of 6 years has been unaccompanied at the Playground or inappropriately accompanied. If any concerns about the child's safety and welfare result, these will be dealt with in accordance with the WAP's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures.

In situations where the WAP Lead Playworker considers it appropriate, the parents/carers of the child/children will be contacted by telephone and / or by letter to explain the policy and to discuss any safeguarding concerns as appropriate.

Procedures

- If a child under 6 years is unaccompanied or inappropriately unaccompanied the Lead Playworker and /or designated Person will be notified. Every effort will be made to contact the parent/carer, or failing that, the emergency contact.

- In the case of not being able to contact the child’s parent/carer or the emergency contact then the WAP will contact the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Emergency Duty Team to discuss the concerns and ask advice.
- The MASH will be the first point of contact if there are safeguarding concerns. The Lead Play worker and or/ Designated Person (or other senior member of staff should these be unavailable), should ring 0345 045 1362 and request a discussion with the Duty Social Worker for Children’s Services.
- The advice will be adhered to. However the WAP will continue to be responsible for trying to contact the parent/carer/emergency contact and to keep Social Care updated about the situation.
- If there are any concerns about the welfare of the parent /carer, Social Care may ask the Police to visit the home address.
- If attempts to contact a parent/carer are still unsuccessful WAP will release the child into the care of the police.
- **Social Care offices close at 5.30 on Monday –Thursday, and at 4.30 pm on Friday. The WAP will contact the emergency Duty Team after these hours on 01733234724.**

<i>Reviewed 25-09-18</i>	<i>Violet Loveridge</i>	<i>Lead Playworker</i>
<i>Next Review 25-09-20</i>		