

Managing Children Unaccompanied (under the age of 8 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 8 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 where membership forms can be downloaded and handed into the playground staff. It is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure that children are appropriately accompanied if they are under the age of 8 years.

The WAP designated Safeguarding Leads will keep records of incidents where a child under the age of 8 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 8 years is unaccompanied or inappropriately unaccompanied the Lead Playworker and /or designated Person will be notified, and we will request that the child leaves the playground if they are not with or cannot bring a parent/carer over the age of 18 years to accompany them. Every effort will be made to contact the parent/carer, or failing that, the emergency contact.

- All staff will use their discretion when approaching a child under the age of 8 years and if there are any safeguarding concerns, all staff will comply with the setting's logging and recording concerns
- In the case of a safeguarding matter, please refer to our Safeguarding policy and procedure (p.62)

Reviewed: 04/07/24	Violet Loveridge	Lead Playworker
Next Review: 04/07/26		