

# **Absence of a Child Without Authority Policy MISPER Policy**

1 June 2017 Version Number:1

Review Date: Summer Term 2020

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Northern  
House  
School



## **ABSENCE OF A CHILD**

## **WITHOUT AUTHORITY**

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## ABSENCE OF A CHILD WITHOUT AUTHORITY

**This document is compatible with the Local Runaway and Missing from Home and Care (RMFHC) protocols and procedures.**

### [Thames Valley Local Runaway and Missing from Home and Care](#)

- Children and young people and their carers are informed about key risks to their safety and how to deal with them
- Children and young people are provided with a safe environment
- The incidence of child abuse and neglect is minimised
- Agencies collaborate to safeguard children according to the requirements of the current government guidance
- Services are effective in establishing the identity and whereabouts of all children and young people aged 0–18
- Looked after children live in safe environments and are protected from abuse and exploitation
- Children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities live in safe environments and are protected from abuse and exploitation.

Northern House School (Wokingham)'s Governors and Senior Leaders are clear that all staff have a responsibility to all the young people in our care to 'protect them from harm'.

It is therefore expected that all reasonable measures are taken to ensure that young people at Northern House School (Wokingham) remain within the safe environment created. However, young people will sometimes leave the school premises without permission or the knowledge of staff, or not return to school after periods at home therefore this policy aims to support staff in protecting young people who are absent without authority and respond positively to them on their return in accordance with Department of Education Standards.

Staff should refer to the Individual Risk Assessment & Positive Handling Plan for specific guidance and risk factors related to the young person concerned. This could be baseline behaviour for one young person but a crisis situation for another. This plan and assessment must be reviewed if a young person is absent without authority. Staff should also consider the following:

- The age and understanding of the child
- Is there a history of absconding? What are previous patterns?
- Are there any Safeguarding Concerns?
- Length of time at Northern House School (Wokingham), knowledge of locality?
- Was the child distressed?
- Previous patterns of going missing, but found in/around the grounds.
- When the pupil was last seen, how long have they been missing?
- Length of time before Outside Agencies informed

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When the young person returns to the school, the child should be seen wherever possible by a person charged with his/her pastoral care, to consider the reasons for the absence without authority. Where this does not happen it should be recorded and agreed with the placing authority (if any) or the child's parents, if appropriate. Any reasons given should be considered in relation to how the child is cared for and the school's care practice. Any report from a child that she/he went missing because of abuse will result in Safeguarding Procedures being followed with Designated CP Leads being informed immediately by staff.

An Incident should be generated completed on the Missing Persons database giving full information about this absence without authority. All action taken by staff, the circumstances of the child's return, any reasons given by the child for going missing, and any action taken in the light of those reasons, should also be added on the database. It is vital that any searches or investigative calls involving school staff, parents, family members and outside agencies such as CSC out of hours or the police are also recorded.

All staff should take their staff ID badge and mobile phone when going off-site for a MISPER event.

**See flow chart for procedure for managing absconding incident (attached)**

[Northern House School \(Wokingham\) Policies and Documents](#)

[Residential Special Schools - National Minimum Standards 15.6/15.7](#)

Approved by Governors:.....

Date:.....

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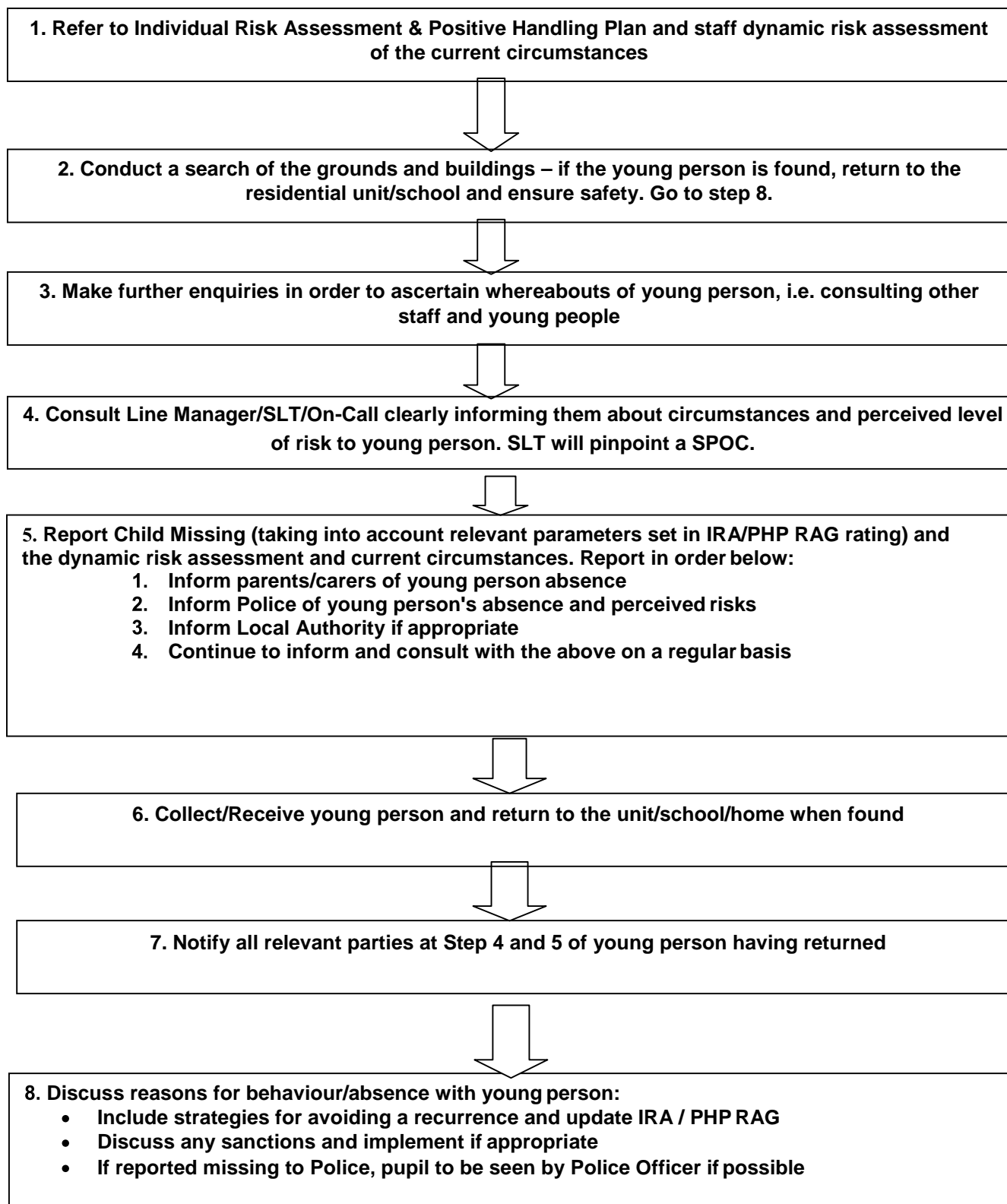
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## Procedure for managing incident of MISPER/absconding



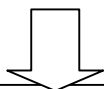
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**9. MISPER log completed giving full information about this absence without authority. This should be completed fully including contacts made and searches made.**