

## 14b Missing Pupils Policy and Procedures

*A copy of this policy is published in the following area:  
The school's website*

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Reviewed by: Deputy Head (Pastoral)

### **A. Related Truro School Policies**

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This Missing Pupils Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy;
- School Rules and Behaviour Policies
- Pupil Attendance Policy

### **B. Aims**

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The procedures to be followed if a pupil is missing are designed to:

- protect the health and safety of all boarding and day pupils at the school;
- ensure that all school staff know how to respond if a pupil goes missing.

**NB.** *It is important to distinguish between a pupil's absence from school for an unknown reason and a pupil's disappearance from a lesson or activity after arrival at school.*

*If a pupil is absent from school without any note of explanation, Office Staff will follow this up by contacting parents to establish the reasons.*

### **C. Responsibility**

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Truro School has a duty to supervise pupils to the standard of a prudent or careful parent. All members of staff contribute to the safety of pupils at the School by providing appropriate supervision under the guidance of the Head and Senior Leadership Team (SSLT).

To establish whether a pupil is missing it is a requirement to monitor the whereabouts of pupils. This includes the following procedures:

- during the School day, teachers must register pupils at morning and afternoon statutory registration along with all their timetabled lessons (see appendix for further details);
- for activities on Wednesday afternoons, staff in charge must register pupils in Sims;
- for boarders, house duty staff must ensure that Orah locations are used correctly by pupils in boarding houses.

- for boarders, house duty staff must employ sufficient roll calls in the boarding house at designated times;
- for boarders, house duty staff must be aware of arrival times back at the house after a journey from friends or parents/guardians;
- on school trips, the staff in charge should ensure that scheduled meeting times and locations are specified and adhered to by pupils.

It is the duty of staff in charge of any pupil supervision to check why a pupil is absent, although during the School day this may be delegated if that member of staff is busy.

### **Summary of missing pupil procedures for school**

- I. Establish that a pupil is suspected missing. Staff immediately inform the main office by telephone or via email [absence@truroschoo.com](mailto:absence@truroschoo.com)
- II. If a pupil is suspected missing, **a search must be initiated**. This will include contacting the main office who will alert a member of SSLT, questioning pupils and staff to determine pupil whereabouts. If the pupil is exempt from Yondr, attempts to call them on their mobile phone should be made
- III. If **after one hour of searching** a pupil cannot be found, the Head, Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Housemaster/mistress will inform the parents. The School will then work with the family to try to locate the pupil.
- IV. If **after two hours of searching\*** the pupil has still not been found, the Head or Deputy Head (Pastoral) will inform the police and their missing person procedures will be followed. Parents/guardians and Housemaster/mistress will also be notified.

\*For any school trip, the police will need to be informed after just one hour. This will be conducted by the Group Leader and SSLT will be kept informed.

## **D. Procedures for staff checking missing pupils during the day**

Staff taking registers in class and for Wednesday activities must mark any missing pupil absent (unless indicated otherwise on SIMS).

Staff must not rely on the information of other pupils.

It is the teacher's duty to check why a pupil is absent from their class, although this may be delegated to office staff if the teacher is busy.

Once it has been established the student is missing staff should immediately inform the main office via phone or email, [absence@truroschoo.com](mailto:absence@truroschoo.com)

The office staff will notify a member of the SSLT who will take responsibility for enacting the search for the missing pupil. When available this will be the DSL.

The student will be searched for and the checks will include:

- the Medical Centre;
- Learning Support staff;
- visits/trips lists;
- the Music School;
- the Library;
- the relevant tutor;
- the relevant Head of Year;
- the SBA Sports Centre

### **D.1 Unexplained absence from statutory registration**

If a **boarding pupil** is missing from morning registration up to morning break, the office staff will contact the Housemaster/mistress and a search of the House will be initiated. The Medical Centre will also be checked. If the pupil is not located, a whole School search is initiated.

If a **day pupil** is absent without explanation at morning registration, School Office staff will check if they appear late to registration during period one. They will also check for traffic problems or train delays which may help to explain the absence.

By 10.00am office staff check SIMs lesson registrations for updates, check the Medical Centre and any other appropriate staff. Following this, where no explanation for pupil absence has been received, office staff ring parents at home or work regarding the “unexplained absence”. If a reason for absence is provided, SIMs is updated and the office staff will collate a paper absentee list, passing this on to the Deputy Head (Pastoral). If there is a suspicion that the pupil arrived at school and then went missing, a search would be initiated and then procedures followed as for any missing pupil (see section C).

If a pupil has been in School for the morning and fails to attend **statutory afternoon registration** the staff in charge of the pupil must inform the school office via email and follow the procedure as for any missing pupil (see section C)

### **D.2 Following up suspicion of a missing pupil**

If there is a suspicion that a pupil has been in school but subsequently gone missing after arrival, Office Staff will inform:

- the Head or Deputy Head (Pastoral);
- the Head of Year or tutor for day pupils;
- the Housemaster/mistress for boarders.

A whole School search will be initiated.

As part of the whole School search, the tutor, Head of Year, Housemaster/mistress or member of SLT leading the search should:

- question friends of the pupil;
- question friends and staff who have recently been in contact with the pupils about their emotional state;
- If the pupil is exempt from YONDR, try to contact the pupil using their mobile phone number.

### **D.3 Informing parents/guardians after one hour of searching for a missing pupil**

If **after one hour of searching** a day or boarding pupil cannot be found, the Head, Deputy Head (Pastoral), Member of SLT or Housemaster/mistress will inform the parents. The School will then work with the family to try to locate the pupil.

### **D.4 Informing the police after two hours of searching for a missing pupil**

If **after two hours of searching** the pupil has still not been found, the Head or Deputy Head (Pastoral)/ Member of SLT will inform the police and their missing person procedures will be followed. Parents/guardians and Housemaster/mistress will also be notified.

## **E. Pupils from Boarding Houses**

If a pupil is missing from the Boarding House outside School hours (8.45am – 3.50pm Monday to Friday), the member of staff on duty should follow the procedure as set out below, a copy of this procedure is displayed in the office of each boarding house.

## **Missing boarder procedure out of normal school hours.**

**A boarder is found only when seen or their whereabouts are confirmed by an adult responsible for them.**

- Note the time and boarder in the house OneNote diary.
- Check Orah, house OneNote diary, phone boarder's mobile.
- Search bedroom, check friend's bedroom's, bathrooms, common room, games room, computer room, kitchen, garden.
- Ask boarder's friends.
- Call other boarding houses and ask them to check their house.
- Ring medical centre, library, SBA, music schools.
- Contact HsM or Head of Boarding.
- Conduct a thorough search of every room in the house.
- Contact Head of Boarding, Deputy Head Pastoral or DDSL after 1 hour.
- Head of Boarding to contact Head or Deputy Head to obtain permission to contact parents. Parents to be contacted after 1 hour.
- Head or Deputy Head to inform Police after 2 hours.

### **E.1 Informing parents/guardians after one hour of searching**

If **after one hour of searching** a pupil cannot be found, inform the Housemaster/mistress and Head or Deputy Head (Pastoral). The Head, Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Housemaster/mistress will then inform the parents/guardians. The School will then work with the family to try to locate the pupil.

### **E.2 Informing the police after two hours of searching**

If **after two hours of searching** the pupil has still not been found, the Head or Deputy Head (Pastoral) will inform the police and their missing person procedures will be followed. Parents/guardians and Housemaster/mistress will also be notified.

## **F. Pupils missing during a return journey to the boarding house**

For pupils returning to a boarding house after a holiday or a visit to parents/guardians or friends, the member of boarding staff on duty will

- attempt to contact the pupil by mobile phone;
- check with parents, guardians and friends regarding whereabouts or delays or changes to the journey;
- if **after one hour of searching** the pupils has not been found, inform the Housemaster/mistress and Head or Deputy Head (Pastoral); the Head, Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Housemaster/mistress will then inform the parents/guardians; The School will then work with the family to try to locate the pupil;
- if **after two hours of searching** the pupil has still not been found, the Head or Deputy Head (Pastoral) will inform the police and their missing person procedures will be followed. Parents/guardians and Housemaster/mistress will also be notified.

## **G. Pupils missing on a school trip**

On school trips, ensure that scheduled meeting times and locations are specified and adhered

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to by pupils. If a pupil is suspected as being missing, the member of staff in charge will:

- contact the Group Leader
- attempt to contact the pupil by mobile phone;
- interview friends about their possible whereabouts and conduct a search if possible;
- when it is clear the pupil is missing, inform the SSLT contact person and Housemaster/mistress (if they are a boarder) and their parents will be informed;
- if **after one hour of searching** the pupil has not been found, inform the SSLT contact, Housemaster/mistress (if they are a boarder) and parents; the Group Leader will inform the police and their missing person procedures will be followed; Parents/guardians, Housemaster/mistress and SSLT contact will be kept informed.

## **H. Procedures once a pupil has been found**

- If the reason for absence is not deliberate intended, but due to some form of distress, consequences may not apply.
- When the pupil has been located, the pupil must see the Head, Deputy Head (Pastoral) or HOY as soon as possible.
- The member of SSLT leading the search should notify the parents as soon as possible that their child has been located
- The relevant Head of Year, tutor (and boarding Housemaster/mistress) must be kept informed.
- Each case will be discussed on its merits, but should the absence be deliberate and without good reason there will be a Saturday morning detention with Head or Deputy Head (Pastoral).
- In any instance of a missing pupil, where deliberate or not, the pupil will be offered pastoral support
- In the case of a longer term deliberate and unauthorised absence, the pupil could be suspended, at the discretion of the Head.

## **I. Appendix**

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### **I.1 Information to be provided to the police**

When the School contacts the police during the day or night, the following information should be provided:

1. the pupil's name;
2. the pupil's age/date of birth;
3. pupil ethnicity (if known)an up to date photograph if possible;
4. the pupil's height and any other physical description that is not shown by the photograph;
5. a description of the clothing the pupil is thought to be wearing;
6. any physical disability, learning difficulty or special educational needs that the pupil may have;
7. the pupil's home address and telephone number and details of his/her parents/guardians;
8. any relevant comments made by the pupil.

### **I.2. Questions that could be asked when interviewing during a missing pupil investigation**

1. When was the pupil last seen?
2. Who was the pupil with?
3. What emotional state did the pupil appear to be in?
4. Has anything upset the pupil recently?
5. Did the pupil speak to anyone about leaving?
6. Who are the pupil's main friends at School?
7. Does the pupil have a mobile phone and what is the number?
8. Is there any reason to believe the pupil might have been abducted (eg family custody dispute)?

### **I.3 Record keeping**

The School will keep a full written record of any incident of a missing pupil if the pupil is not found after one hour and the parent's do not know the pupil's location. This written record will be kept on file. The written record will include:

1. the pupil's name;
2. relevant dates and times (e.g. when it was first noticed that the pupil was missing)
3. the action taken to find the pupil;
4. whether the Police or Social Services were involved;
5. outcome or resolution of the incident;
6. any reasons given by the pupil for being missing;
7. any concerns or complaints about the handling of the incident;
8. a record of the staff involved.

### **I.4 Registration during the normal school day 8.45am – 3.50pm**

SIMS is used to register pupils for lessons. It is our aim to register all pupils at every lesson for which they are timetabled.

Compulsory statutory registration takes place:

- in the morning at registration;
- period 1 (to allow registration for any pupils that may be late);
- and in the afternoon at 2.05pm, just before period 5.

All 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Year pupils that are given permission to leave school must still sign out at the School Reception before leaving the premises. Pupils can only leave if permission has been received either in person, by telephone or email from the parent/guardian of the child

From 12.30pm to 2.00pm, Sixth Form pupils may depart the School premises with staff approval or for medical appointments or confirmed driving tests, but they must sign out with the Sixth Form Administrator. Upper Sixth pupils may also leave School for the day from 12.30pm, providing they have no more commitments and have signed out.