



Children Absent from Education Policy

This policy applies to the whole school including the EYFS

Introduction

The welfare of all children at St Piran's is our paramount responsibility. A child absent from education, particularly on repeat occasions, is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect, including sexual exploitation and so called 'honour based' violence. Every adult who works at the school has been trained to appreciate that he or she has a key responsibility for helping to keep all of the children safe at all times. This includes the importance of effective information sharing to ensure our children are safe and receiving suitable education. Where staff have concerns that a child is absent from education, this policy should be followed.

Every member of our staff who works with children has read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education. Our staffing ratios are generous and are deliberately designed to ensure that every child is supervised appropriately when in our care.

The School will keep on file two emergency contact numbers for every child and will contact the local authority when a child leaves or fails to join school without appropriate notification.

This policy has regard to the Independent School Regulatory Requirements (paragraph 15), Early Years Statutory Framework (paragraph 3.73) and Department for Education guidance Children Missing Education (August 2024).

Action to be followed by staff if a child fails to attend first day of school

All new pupils are placed on the School's admission register at the beginning of the first day on which the School has agreed that the pupil will attend the School. If a child fails to attend on the agreed date, staff must inform the Headmaster or Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay. The Headmaster or Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider notifying the local authority at the earliest opportunity.

Where there are changes affecting the child (including a change of address or school), these will be reflected in the admission register. This will assist the School and external agencies when making enquiries to locate any absent children.

DUTY TO REPORT

The school monitors attendance closely and will take action to address poor or irregular attendance.

The School will inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more without permission.

Where a pupil has been continuously absent without authorisation for a period of not less than 20 school days (and there are no reasonable grounds to believe the pupil is unwell or unable to attend because of any unavoidable cause), and the school and local authority have failed, following reasonable enquiry, to ascertain where the pupil is, the school may delete the pupil's name from the admission register. The school will inform the local authority of such deletion no later than the time at which the pupil's name is deleted from the register.

The School also recognises its wider reporting duties following deletions from the admission register, in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, to help identify children who are absent from education and/or otherwise at risk of harm.

Reviewed By:	Headmaster
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