



MISSING CHILD POLICY

for

THE COLOUR CORNER LTD

At The Colour Corner we are always alert to the possibility that children can go missing before, during or after sessions.

Definitions of missing:

Absent: a child not at a place where they are expected or required to be.

Missing: a child reported as missing to the police by their family or carers.

Missing from care: a looked after child who is not at their placement or the place they are expected to be (e.g. school) and their whereabouts is not known.

Away from placement without authorisation: A looked after child whose whereabouts is known but who is not at their placement or place they are expected to be and the carer has concerns or the incident has been notified to the local authority or the police.

A missing child incident would be prioritised as 'high risk' where:

- the risk posed is immediate and there are substantial grounds for believing that the child is in danger through their own vulnerability
- the child may have been the victim of a serious crime
- the risk posed is immediate and there are substantial grounds for believing that the public is in danger

The statutory guidance for children Missing from Placement can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-who-run-away-or-go-missing-from-home-or-care>



Steps are taken to reduce the risk of this including:

- Children being visible at all times to the adult in charge
- The studio door being locked during sessions and not opened until parents arrive after the session (Unless in case of emergency)

If a child cannot be located, the following steps will be taken:

- All staff will be informed that the child is missing.
- Staff will conduct a thorough search of the premises and surrounding area.
- After 5 minutes the police will be informed. The manager will then contact the child's parents or carers.
- Staff will continue to search for the child whilst waiting for the police and parents to arrive.
- We will maintain as normal a routine as possible for the rest of the children at the Club.
- The manager will liaise with the police and the child's parent or carer.

The incident will be recorded in the **Incident Log**. A review will be conducted regarding this and any other related incidents along with relevant policies and procedures. We will identify and implement any changes as necessary.

If the police or Social Care were involved in the incident, we will also inform Ofsted.

When a child is found

Safe and well checks are carried out by the police along with an independent return interview.

The interview and actions that follow from it should identify and deal with any harm the child has suffered – including harm that might not have already been disclosed as part of the 'safe and well check' – either before they ran away or whilst missing; understand and try to address the reasons why the child ran away;

Following an incident where a child goes missing from The Colour Corner an in depth review will be conducted to establish:

- How the child was able to go missing
- Failings made by the setting / Responsible Person
- Areas to improve
- Risk assessment of the specific child

The responsible person will also inform the local safeguarding team and Ofsted.

Useful numbers

Police: 0113 238 2017

Social Care: 0113 222 4403

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231



This policy was adopted by: The Colour Corner Ltd.	Date: 1/9/26
To be reviewed: 1/9/27	Signed: K. Blakey

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2023): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Health [3.45-3.47]*