

## **St Thomas' Church of England Junior and Infant School**

### **Children Missing From Education Policy**

#### **A journey in faith, arriving with hope.**

##### **St. Thomas' School vision:**

**To ensure the children are highly valued by all members of the school community.**

St. Thomas' creates a culture of high aspirations by making the school the heart of the community. We aim to develop a culture of curiosity and creativity by unleashing our children's God-given potential to make a difference in our locality and beyond.

Our parents, staff and governors see and understand the individual talents of each pupil and the opportunities provided. We openly celebrate and reward children's successes and achievements.

**To inspire all children through a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum enabling every child to succeed.**

We create an ethos where everyone is an explorer and an active participant. Children are challenged and encouraged to thrive in all areas. Our aim is to nurture talent and ensure children are equipped to live life in all its fullness.

Children experience a wide range of high quality lessons and enrichment activities daily. We recognise that children are naturally curious; therefore, child-led learning is developed through their questions.

**To nurture children's wellbeing to ensure healthy mind, body and spirit.**

At St. Thomas' values are at the heart of all we do. We provide a safe, supportive environment which empowers children to grow and develop their self-worth, self-esteem and self-respect. Our unique learners are resilient and are willing to take big risks to make big leaps.

Values are actively promoted, modelled, and celebrated by all. Our inspiring curriculum and pastoral care teaches children the importance of healthy lifestyles: physically, mentally and spiritually.

## **CHILDREN MISSING FROM EDUCATION POLICY**

### **Overview**

This policy has been written to ensure that any pupil missing from school due to repeated or unexplained absence, or by leaving the school unexpectedly, or who leaves school without clear indications of where they will be continuing their education, is quickly accounted for. Where a child is unaccountably missing the policy will ensure that that appropriate action is taken to locate the pupil and that prompt action is taken to notify the relevant authorities.

### **Objectives**

1. To ensure that any pupil missing from school due to repeated or unexplained absence, or by leaving the school unexpectedly, or who leave school without clear indications of where they will be continuing their education, is quickly identified by the staff and drawn to the attention of the headteacher.
2. To ensure that prompt action is taken in the first instance to locate them pupil missing from education.
3. To ensure that immediate action is taken to speedily put into place appropriate procedures which follow LA policy and DfE guidance, and to notify the LA and appropriate authorities of the missing pupil.

### **Strategies**

1. Any concerns will immediately be raised with the headteacher who will take decisive action to initiate the LA and procedures for pupils missing from education and the school's policies for keeping children safe.

2. The school will carry out daily registration and absences will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Attendance Policy.
3. Staff must be alert where there is a repeated pattern of absence or the reason for absence is unclear or unexplained and must promptly draw their concerns to the attention of the headteacher.
4. Where a member of staff has concerns about the nature of a pupil's absence the school will promptly carry out its own initial checks in line with its attendance policy and its policies for keeping children safe.
5. The school will notify the local authority within five days of adding a pupil's name to the admission register at a non-standard transition point.
6. If a pupil leaves the school, the school will make contact with the receiving school to ensure the child is registered at the school and has started to attend.
7. If a pupil leaves this school without clear indication of a receiving school, the school will contact the LA to advise them of the situation and to start their tracking procedures
8. The school will notify the local authority when it is about to remove a pupil's name from the school admission register under any of the fifteen grounds listed in the regulations. Unless the pupil has completed the final year of education normally provided by the school – unless the local authority requests that such returns are to be made.
9. The school will make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child jointly with the local authority, before deleting the pupil's name from the register, if the deletion is for one of the following reasons:
  - i. A pupil has been granted leave of absence exceeding ten school days for the purpose of a holiday in accordance with regulation and has failed to attend schools within the ten school days immediately following the expiry period for the leave (and this is not for reasons of sickness or unavoidable absence).
  - ii. The pupil has been continuously absent from the school for a period of not less than twenty school days and the absence has not been authorised at any point during that time and is not due to sickness or unavoidable absence.
10. In case of serious concern the headteacher will contact the LA, in line with the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, for further advice.

### **Outcomes**

This policy will ensure that all children are kept safe and that no child will go missing from education. This policy should be read alongside the school's Attendance Policy and in particular with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy of which it is an integral part. The policy has regard to the DfE guidance: Children Missing From Education: Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for Schools and Colleges, Sept 2016 and the LSCB's guidance: Keeping records of Child Protection and Welfare Concerns.

To be reviewed January 2020