

Ashdon Primary School

Children not collected at the end of the school day/activity

Date: July 2015

Review Date: July 2019

Safeguarding Statement

Ashdon Primary school takes seriously the responsibility to protect the welfare of the children in its care, believing that "The welfare of the child is paramount" Children Act 1989.

This policy plays an integral part in this aim to safeguard our children and ensure their wellbeing in order to promote their optimum development.

Introduction

Ashdon School recognises that it has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, and that this duty extends to having arrangements in place for dealing with children who are not collected at the end of a school day, or at the end of an authorised activity. The protocol will be brought to the attention of parents, in writing, when their child starts school.

On admission of their child to the school, parents should supply:

- names and full addresses of parents/carers (and confirmation of parental responsibility)
- home and work telephone numbers
- mobile phone numbers where appropriate
- two emergency contacts who may be called in the event of the parents/carers being unobtainable or in the case of an emergency.

This information should be updated annually or whenever circumstances change. As children progress through the school, parents may wish them to walk home alone. This request must be put in writing to the school.

If a parent has arranged for someone different to collect their child they must inform the school office and confirm who will be collecting the child that day.

It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that the pupil is collected by a responsible person. The school must be notified immediately it becomes apparent that the person collecting the child may be late.

Ashdon School agrees to care for a pupil who has not been collected from school, until such a time as he/she has been collected by a parent/carer, or until appropriate, alternative care arrangements have been made with Social Care, and/or the Police, in order to maintain the child's safety.

The School's Designated Person for Child Protection will keep a record of incidents where parents/carers do not collect a child from school or are late for no explained or good reason, or where there are repeated incidents. If any concerns about the child's safety and welfare result, these will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Child Protection Policy and on, see Appendix B.

- Social Care will give advice and make appropriate checks. However school will continue to be responsible for trying to contact the parent/carer/emergency contact and to keep Social Care updated about the situation.
- If there are any concerns about the welfare of the parent/carer, Social Care may ask the local Police to visit the home address; please note that the Police cannot themselves provide a place of safety for a child(ren).
- If attempts to contact a parent/carer are still unsuccessful, school and Social Care will jointly take responsibility for arranging for children to be transported to the Social Care team, (or other appropriate venue) who will arrange a place of safety. This is considered to be a last resort and parent/carers should do their best to ensure that this is not necessary. Social Care will notify the school of the child's placement and provide contact details as appropriate. It will be the intention to return the child to the parents/carers at the earliest opportunity.
- If the Social Care office is closed schools should contact the Emergency Duty Team.
- Plans for transporting a child will comply with local arrangements concerning, safeguarding, insurance, staff availability out of hours and any relevant information from the school relating to the child's special needs or behavioural difficulties. All occasions when a child or young person requires transport in an emergency situation must be recorded and reported to a senior manager and the parents.
- During office hours, the relevant Social Care Team will be alerted. This will be the Social Care Team whose area covers the child's home address.

- Any call which results in action being taken by Social Care/Police should be followed up in writing within 48 hours, using the Single Agency Referral Form.

Major Incidents

If an incident occurs which results in a large number of children not being collected, Social Care will be contacted at the earliest opportunity, because it may be necessary to accommodate the children at a single location until appropriate arrangements can be made. If the nature of the incident is serious, it may be that the arrangements will form part of the Authority's emergency plan.

Agreed by Governing Body July 2015 and will be reviewed in July 2020.

Appendix A

Dear _____ [Parent/Carer's name]

_____ [Child's name] was not collected from school on _____ day / date and we were unable to contact you or the emergency contact(s).

As a result, in order to safeguard the welfare of your child/ren, the school was obliged to implement the procedure for dealing with children not collected at the end of the school day or school activity.

This procedure, which has been agreed by Social Care, Education Transport and the Police, involved us contacting Social Care in order that arrangements could be made for your child to be taken to a safe place. I am sure that you will appreciate the importance of providing for your child in these circumstances.

I hope that the reasons for your child not being collected are not serious, but would ask you to contact the school as soon as possible to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely

Head Teacher

Appendix B

List of information which may be required by Contact Centre/Social Care in the event of a child being referred as not having been collected:

*** Child's details:**

Name/date of birth/address/gender/ethnicity/religion/first language or communication needs/SEN or behavioural needs/medical needs/ dietary requirements

*** Brief outline of incident**

*** Name, role and contact details of referrer**

*** Parent/carer/emergency contact details:**

name/address(es)/contact telephone numbers

*** Any current/previous child protection concerns**

*** Any previous incidents of child not being collected**

This policy was approved by the governing body in April 2010 and will be reviewed in Autumn 2015.

Signed.....

Date