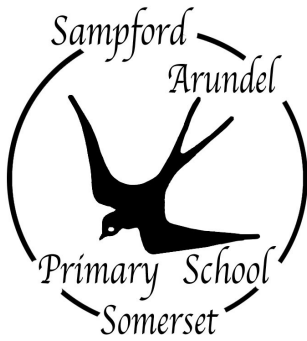


Wellington Area Rural Federation



Stawley Primary School

ABSCONDING POLICY

Status:	STATUTORY
Responsible person:	HEADTEACHER
Responsible Governor :	CHAIR OF GOVERNORS
Ratified by the Head Teacher:	October 2022
Date first approved by the Governing Body:	October 2019
Review Period:	Triennially
Review Date:	October 2025

Absconding Policy

A Rationale

The purpose of this non-statutory document is to set out to all stakeholders the procedures should a child leave the premises without permission and supervision. This policy closely supports the aims of the Safeguarding Policy.

B Aims

We work to provide a secure, safe environment for the pupils of Sampford Arundel and Stawley Primary Schools. We want pupils to enjoy coming to school and to enjoy being part of our school community.

C Definition

To abscond is to leave the premises without consent or permission. This could mean that a child leaves the building but remains within the grounds.

D School Grounds

The school grounds is demarcated by a fences and gates. Regular checks are made of the fencing by the Headteacher and Senior Teacher to ensure that they are kept in good order. Where there are holes or gaps these will be repaired at the first possible opportunity – in the case of hedgerows this may take time to fill in but the fence behind it will remain in good order.

E Pupils Who Abscond But Remain On the Premises

In these circumstances the pupil will not be pursued by staff – as this can lead to them placing themselves in danger – but a staff member will keep the child under surveillance at a distance to ensure their safety. Intervention should only take place if a child is in immediate danger.

The adult who has the strongest relationship with the child should make themselves visible to the child – after a cooling off period – to see if the child makes indications about being ready to talk. If the child approaches or indicates a willingness to talk they should be given the time they need.

Staff will consider a child's age and vulnerability before approaching them.

F Pupils Who Abscond From the School Grounds

Where a pupil leaves the school premises without permission the following procedures should be followed:

1. **Active pursuit of the child should not be considered** – This may make the pupil panic and put themselves at further risk of harm or injury. Staff will instead try to follow, keeping the child in sight at a safe distance. Any staff who leave the grounds should take a mobile phone

- with them and not put themselves or the child in danger at any point.
2. Teacher to inform the Headteacher or Office **straightaway**.
 3. Consider if there is a member of staff with a good connection with the pupil, who can offer support to the pupil.
 4. Office to contact the parents of the child and then the Police. Every effort should be made to contact the parents first – utilising the key numbers in each child's personal information. Each attempt at contact should be recorded and the Police should then be informed.
 5. Once the child has been found the staff member must use their professional judgement to decide whether it is best to approach the child or keep them in sight.
 6. A written report should be logged with the Headteacher.
 7. The Headteacher or Senior Teacher on sight will brief the parents and police as necessary.
 8. Upon the child's return to school, and when the child is calm enough to do so, there will be a meeting with the Headteacher or Senior Teacher so that the reasons for absconding can be understood. A support plan for the Individual Pupil may need to be considered alongside the sanctions appropriate for the individual pupil's needs.
 9. If the pupil returns to school of their own volition parents and police will be informed immediately.

Parents will always be informed if a pupil absconds from the premises.

All incidents will be recorded and aligned with the Safeguarding Policy