

## EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE UNCOLLECTED CHILD POLICY

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### **This Policy forms part of our Whole School Safeguarding Policy**

#### **Policy statement**

In the event that a child is not collected by an authorised adult at the end of a session/day, we put into practice agreed procedures. These ensure the child is cared for safely by an experienced and qualified practitioner who is known to the child. We will ensure that the child receives a high standard of care in order to cause as little distress as possible.

We inform parents/carers of our procedures so that, if they are unavoidably delayed, they will be reassured that their children will be properly cared for.

#### **Procedures**

- Parents of children starting in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) are asked to provide the following specific information which is recorded on our Registration Form:
  - Home address and telephone number
  - Place of work, address and telephone number
  - Mobile telephone number
  - Who has parental responsibility for the child
  - Information about any person who is not permitted legal access
- On occasions when parents are aware that they will not be at home or in their usual place of work, they inform us of how they can be contacted.
- For occasions when parents or the persons normally authorised to collect the child are not able to collect the child, they provide us with names, addresses and telephone numbers of adults who are authorised by the parents to collect their child, with an agreed password.
- Parents are informed that if they are not able to collect the child as planned, they must inform us as soon as possible so that we can put necessary measures in place. We provide parents with our contact telephone number.
- We inform parents that we apply our child protection procedures as set out in our Safeguarding Policy in the event that their children are not collected from our setting by an authorised adult within one hour after we have closed, and the staff can no longer supervise the child on our premises.

If a child is not collected at the end of the session/day, we follow the following procedures:

- The child's file is checked for any information about changes to the normal collection routines.
- If no information is available, parents/carers are contacted at home or at work.
- If this is unsuccessful, the adults who are authorised by the parents to collect their child from the setting, and whose telephone numbers are recorded, are contacted.
- All reasonable attempts are made to contact the parents or nominated carers.
- The child does not leave the premises with anyone other than those named on the Registration Form or in their file.
- If no-one collects the child after one hour and there is no-one who can be contacted to collect the child, we apply the procedures for uncollected children:
- We contact the Children's Single Point of Access (C-SPA) on 0300 4709100 or 01483 517898 if after 17.00.
- The child stays at the Hazelwood Nursery and Early Years (HNEY) site in the care of two fully vetted workers until the child is safely collected either by the parents or by a Social Care Worker.
- Social Care will aim to find the parent or relative, if they are unable to do so, the child will be looked after by the Local Authority.
- Under no circumstances do staff go to look for the parents, nor do they take the child home with them.
- A full written report of the incident is recorded in the child's file.
- Depending on circumstances, we reserve the right to charge parents for the additional hours worked by our staff.
- Ofsted may be informed.

**This Policy was ratified by the Compliance Committee: 24 November 2023**