



# The Federation of The Downs & Northbourne Church of England Primary Schools

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## *Absconding Children*

### **School Mission Statement Federation of The Downs and Northbourne CEP Schools**

Our mission is to create a school in which every member feels valued, irrespective of their race, gender or disability and where the development of the whole child is paramount.

We expect high standards from all, and try to provide the maximum opportunities for every member to fulfil their individual potential. Our Christian ethos encompasses tolerance and cultural diversity which will enable us to embrace the challenges of our world.

We strive to make our learning and working environment a safe, but vibrant and stimulating place from which children can begin their journey of lifelong learning.

Our values underpin our entire school curriculum.

<b>Last Review Date:</b>	<b>Next Review Date:</b>			
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## **POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILDREN WHO ABSCOND DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

**As a Church of England School this policy is read within the context of the Christian values and teachings of our school.**

Within any school community, there is always the possibility that a child may become emotionally distressed and try to leave the school grounds. We, therefore, take as many precautions as possible to avoid this occurrence.

Strategies include:

- ❑ Ensuring pedestrian gates are closed during school hours.
- ❑ Ensuring a reasonable ratio of staff to children is maintained at all times.
- ❑ By discussion with all children strategies to avoid confrontational behaviour in the playground. This can be undertaken through assembly themes, P.S.H.E. lessons and on a 1-1 basis.
- ❑ Children who we know have a history of absconding will be given individual strategies, of which their parents will be informed.
- ❑ If a child does leave the site the following action will be taken:-
  - The child will be called back.
  - If very young we will try to catch up to the child to bring back onto site (note our Positive Handling Policy)
  - Telephone parents immediately, if no response immediately telephone the Police.
  - Try to locate child if in near vicinity to school.
  - If child is remaining near the site encourage them to return to it. If they are unwilling to do so, return to school and report back to Headteacher/Senior Management Team as necessary.

When the child has been found, it is necessary to discuss the cause of the outburst with the child and parents. Further action to be taken will depend on the nature of this discussion.

Reviewed  
April 2012