

Absconding Policy
January 2026



1. Due to the nature of young people who attend Red Everywhere, it may sometimes arise that a student will leave the premises without permission. Before this occurring every effort will always be made to de-escalate and deter a young person from leaving site. However, this may not always be possible and therefore the following protocol needs to be taken should a young person leave site:

1.1 If a staff member is present:

- Staff member present follows the young person at a distance to encourage to return to site.
- Staff member should have a mobile phone on their person and keep the senior member of provision on site informed while following the young person.
- The senior member of school staff will give verbal advice throughout. Extra staff may be deployed if available to help encourage young person from site.
- Should the young person be refusing to return for over one hour the parent/carer or social worker will be informed of their refusal to engage within education and steps will be followed around this
- Incident forms will be completed following absconding and refusal of education

2. If no staff members are present to follow, or should a staff member discover that a young person is not on site as expected, or if they are following and lose sight of them are they are to:

- Inform senior member of staff on site immediately
- Complete a grounds search taking no more than ten minutes
- Senior staff member and any other available staff are to search the local area on foot or by car to try and gain sight of young person for no more than ten minutes
- Should the young person not be sighted, the police number 101 must be called and the incident reported. Complete an incident report including the police incident number within the contents.

- Parents must be called to inform them that their child has absconded and then the police will be called.
- The referring school should also be called and updated.
- Staff available will continue to search periodically in the local area on foot or by car to try and locate the young person, keeping the senior staff informed at all times.
- A return debrief must be held with the young person to explore reasons for leaving site, support that can be put in place to reduce risk and any concerns they had while off site.
- Parent, carers and social workers will be informed when a young person is returned to site. The police will also be informed should they not be aware.
- The young person's risk assessment may require updating

Senior staff members will regularly look for information around missing incidents for young people and any concerns will be escalated to ensure support is put in place for the young person.

3. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

3.1 Red Everywhere will review this policy at least every year and whenever there is a change in legislation or guidance. We will assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout Red Everywhere. **Next Review Date: 1st January 2027.**

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