



YOUTH ORGANISATION SINCE 2015

Absconding Policy

Reviewed: 2026

Absconding Policy

This document outlines the absconding policy for Aspire in Arts, aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of all students while maintaining a structured approach to managing instances of absconding. The policy provides clear guidelines for staff, students, and parents/carers regarding the procedures to follow when a student leaves the premises without permission. It emphasises the importance of communication, risk assessment, and intervention strategies to minimise risks associated with absconding behaviour.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure the safety of students who may abscond from Aspire in Arts.
- Provide staff with clear procedures to follow in the event of a student absconding.
- Promote a supportive environment that addresses the underlying issues contributing to absconding behaviour.
- Foster collaboration between staff, students, and parents/carers to prevent absconding incidents.

Definition of Absconding

Absconding is defined as a student leaving the premises of Aspire in Arts, permission or prior notification. This behaviour may pose risks to the student's safety and well-being, as well as to the safety of others, which results in it being treated as a safeguarding incident.

Procedures for Managing Absconding Incidents

1. Immediate Response:

- Staff should remain calm and assess the situation quickly.
- The DSL should be informed immediately to initiate the response protocol.
- Staff should attempt to locate the student on-site and assess any potential risks.

2. Communication:

- Notify the student's parents/carers as soon as possible, providing them with relevant information about the situation.
- Maintain communication with the referring school and local authorities if the student is not located within a reasonable timeframe.

3. Risk Assessment:

- o Conduct a risk assessment to evaluate the potential dangers associated with the student's absconding.
- o Consider factors such as the student's age, mental health, and any previous incidents of absconding.

4. **Documentation:**

- o Document the incident thoroughly, including the time of absconding, actions taken, and any communications made.
- o Review the documentation to identify patterns or triggers that may inform future interventions.
- o Ensure a safeguarding report is made and shared with the relevant DSLs from the referring school and local authority.

5. **Post-Incident Support:**

- o Upon the student's return, provide a safe and supportive environment for them to discuss their experience.
- o Engage in a debriefing session to understand the reasons behind the absconding and to develop strategies to prevent future occurrences.
- o Involve parents/carers in the discussion to ensure a collaborative approach to support the student.

Prevention Strategies

To reduce the likelihood of absconding incidents, the following strategies should be implemented:

- **Building Relationships:** Foster positive relationships between staff and students to create a supportive environment.
- **Individualised Support:** Provide tailored support plans that address the specific needs and challenges faced by each student.
- **Engagement Activities:** Offer engaging and relevant activities that keep students motivated and invested in their education.
- **Regular Check-Ins:** Conduct regular check-ins with students to monitor their well-being and address any concerns they may have.

Conclusion

The absconding policy for Aspire in Arts, is designed to prioritise the safety and well-being of students while providing staff with clear guidelines for managing absconding incidents. By fostering a supportive environment and implementing preventive strategies, we can work together to minimise the risks associated with absconding behaviour and promote positive outcomes for all students.

