

## **BOY WHO HAS (OR SEEMS TO HAVE) GONE MISSING POLICY**

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the policies listed below:

- The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- The Attendance Policy
- The Pupil Supervision Policy

**For a day boy who is absent from School at the morning registration session, the School Reception should contact the parents in the first instance to establish the whereabouts of the boy. For unexplained absences at the afternoon registration session, the Housemaster will make contact with the parents.**

**Any unauthorised absence from a lesson must be reported to the Housemaster as soon as possible.**

For a boy actually to “go missing” is a very rare occurrence indeed and in these situations the Housemaster's first responsibility to the parents is to safeguard and promote the welfare of their sons. This is, therefore, a critical issue. Housemasters must consider the options and it is a matter of judgement when these are exercised. The most worrying time is late evening or if the boy has disappeared overnight and is not in breakfast. Given the rarity of such an event and the potential for significant harm to occur to a student who has gone missing it is expected that a Housemaster will deal with any uncharacteristic or unexplained absence as a priority, likely involving discussion with Headmaster or Second Master or Deputy Head Pastoral.

**Step One:** Informal checks and contact:

- The mobile numbers of the boys are held on the School database which all staff have access to via Firefly. In the first instance, the Housemaster should attempt to contact the missing boy on his mobile ‘phone. Boys may not have informed the School of a change to their mobile number. In this case their friends will probably have the most up to date number.
- Other boys may know where a boy is and his friends should be asked. The degree of concern will vary a little with the age of the boy and the time elapsed from when he was last seen. Housemasters must not simply accept the explanation of a boy’s friends, but must follow these up to confirm his whereabouts.
- The House should be checked, including the House sign out sheets.
- Consider whether the boy may be on a School fixture or trip, at the gym or a drama rehearsal etc.

**Step Two:** When the Housemaster, after all informal checks, believes that a boy has gone missing, the following must happen immediately:

- The Deputy Head Pastoral, Second Master and the Headmaster must be informed.
- The boy's parents must be notified and to check that the boy is not at home
- In conjunction with the Second Master/Headmaster and the boy’s parents, the boy should be listed as a 'missing person' with the police who will advise the School on any subsequent actions.

It is important that at each stage the staff involved record the actions and decisions taken, so that a formal written record of the episode is kept.