

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL
MISSING STUDENT POLICY

Aim

1. The aim of this policy is to state the procedures to be followed by staff in the event that a child is found to be, or is suspected to be, missing.

Introduction

2. Christ's Hospital occupies a large site and the school routines are very busy, with a wide range of activities taking place simultaneously. If a student is not where they are expected to be at a given time there could be a valid reason for this, so it is important not to panic.

Absence - morning or evening roll call, lunchtime registration, bedtime

3. If a student is absent from morning or evening roll call, or, where applicable, from lunchtime registration in Dining Hall, house staff must take steps to locate the student with assistance from the matron on duty.
4. If a student is absent at bedtime, the tutor on duty must immediately contact the houseparent or assistant houseparent to assist in searching the boarding house, alerting the duty SLT member to the situation.

Absence - lessons

- If a student is absent from a lesson, staff must mark them as absent in the online register.
- If the missing student is on the Acute Concern List, alert the School Office immediately by telephone or, if this is not practicable, by email, sent to attendance@christs-hospital.org.uk marked 'high importance'.
- The Attendance Administrator in the School Office monitors lesson registrations and the Attendance email account, and follows up individual absences as necessary.
- In addition, where reasonably practicable, staff should alert the School Office to other specific absences that are of concern, for example if they have reason to suspect that a student may be truanting, by emailing Attendance and copying in the student's matron.

Absence – actives

- If a student is absent from an activity, staff must mark them as absent in the register on SOCS.
- If the missing student is on the Acute Concern List, alert the School Office immediately by telephone or, if this is not reasonably practicable, by email, sent to attendance@christs-hospital.org.uk marked 'high importance'.
- In addition, where reasonably practicable, staff should alert the School Office to specific absences that are of concern, for example if they have reason to suspect that a student may be truanting, by emailing Attendance and copying in the student's matron.
- For further information on following up on students missing from actives, see Appendix A: Procedure for students missing from broader curricular activities.

Procedures when a student is missing

5. In the event of a student going missing, the procedure below should be initiated.
- Arrange for the boarding house to be checked to ensure the student is not in any rooms, with the matron, in the toilet or bathroom etc.
 - Check the immediate area around the house and check with the Medical Centre in case the student has gone there.
 - Contact the houseparent if not already informed. The houseparent should attempt to contact the student by mobile phone and Teams and talk to the student's peers who may be able to contact the student via social media.
 - If all of the above fails to locate the student within one hour then contact the duty SLT member who will take control of the investigation. All information should be passed to and co-ordinated by the SLT duty member.
 - Contact the security team, who will check CCTV footage at exit points and assist in a site-wide search supported by the duty SLT and other staff as required, including other boarding houses, which should be alerted to the absence. Between the hours of 7am and 7pm, security staff, depending on staffing levels, may not be available to assist with the search, but will contact managers from support staff teams for assistance. Between 7pm and 7am, security staff are able to leave Reception to help with the search.
 - If the student cannot be located on site within two hours, the Head Teacher, parents and the police should be informed (in that order) of the student's unauthorised absence by the duty member of the SLT to initiate a broader search and to register the student as missing. A record of the search procedures that have been conducted so far and a description of the student should be given to the police including timings of the last verified sighting.
 - Liaise with the police as required.
 - When a situation has been resolved following police involvement, a written record should be made within 24 hours and copied to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Head Teacher and the Deputy Heads for filing.

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Date of last review: April 2024

Date of next review: April 2025

Appendix A – Procedure for students missing from broader curricular activities

Appendix A

PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS MISSING FROM BROADER CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It is acknowledged that students may be missing from a scheduled activity for a variety of reasons (some of which may be legitimate) and that such absences are more frequent and harder to analyse than a formal case of absence from an academic lesson. Practical considerations due to the nature of many outdoor activities and reduced access to IT systems are also factors.

1. Students on the **Acute Concern List (ACL)** **must** be reported as soon as their absence has been established. *NB this must not be delayed until the activity has finished.* Alert the School Office immediately by telephone or, if this is not reasonably practicable, by email, sent to attendance@christs-hospital.org.uk marked 'high importance'. The ACL is distributed to all staff and regularly updated; a hard copy is posted on the Common Room notice board.
2. In all cases, wherever possible, staff should alert matrons quickly that a student from their house is missing.
3. Students (except as specified in point 1) established as definitely missing should be marked as "unauthorised absent" (rather than late).
4. The School Office and/or the Broader Curriculum Administrator will initially determine if the absence is legitimate (i.e. check the system for clashes: trips, dental appointments etc.) and alert the house staff for further investigation if necessary. In all cases the houseparent will be informed and, should there be no valid reason for the absence, the student will be entered on the BCDT system.
5. Fixtures: staff accompanying fixtures away from home must email a **final** list of those students who have gone off-site to security and the School Office. Alternatively, a hard copy of the final list of those students who have gone off-site can be left with security upon departure. This information will be held at security and will also be available from the School Office.
6. Injured or sick students: those sustaining a minor injury during an activity or who are unfit to continue should be sent back to house if unable to stay with the activity and matron alerted. More serious cases should be dealt with via the usual channels (see also Injured Student Policy).