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Policy on Children Missing Education at Willow Park School

Introduction:

Willow Park School is committed to ensuring that every child has access to high-quality education that supports their academic and personal development. We also recognize our legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. As part of this commitment, we have developed this policy to ensure that children who are missing education are identified, and appropriate actions are taken in compliance with the relevant UK legislation.

Definition:

For the purposes of this policy, a child missing education refers to any child who is of compulsory school age (5-16 years) and is not registered at a school or receiving a suitable education elsewhere, as required by law.

Identification of Children Missing Education:

Willow Park School will identify children missing education by carrying out regular checks of its admissions register, attendance records, and by actively seeking information from other relevant agencies, such as local authorities, the police, and other schools.

Notification of Children Missing Education:

Where a child is identified as missing education, the school will notify the local authority in compliance with Section 436A of the Education Act 1996. The school will also share relevant information with other agencies, as appropriate, to ensure that the child is located and provided with suitable education.

Actions to be taken:

If a child is found to be missing education, Willow Park School will take appropriate steps to ensure that the child is located and provided with a suitable education. These steps may include:

Contacting the child's parents/carers to establish the reason for the child's absence from education and to encourage them to register the child at a suitable school.

Contacting the local authority to seek their support in locating the child and providing suitable education.

Contacting other relevant agencies, such as the police or social services, where there are concerns about the child's welfare or safety.

Keeping accurate records of all actions taken to locate the child and provide suitable education.

Safeguarding:

Willow Park School recognizes that children who are missing education may be at increased risk of harm and abuse. As such, we will ensure that appropriate safeguarding measures are in place to protect children from harm. This may include working closely with other agencies, such as social services and the police, to ensure that any safeguarding concerns are promptly identified and addressed.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed regularly by the school's leadership team to ensure that it remains up to date and compliant with UK legislation.

Conclusion:

At Willow Park School, we are committed to ensuring that every child receives a suitable education and is safeguarded from harm. We take our legal responsibilities seriously and will take appropriate action to identify and provide suitable education to any child who is missing education.