

Late Collection Policy

Policy written April 2017 – Review date April 2019

1 Statement

- 1.1 Bradford Christian school is committed to safeguarding pupils, young people and vulnerable adults and expects its volunteers and visitors to share that commitment.
- 1.2 We inform parents/carers of our procedures so that if they are unavoidably delayed they will be aware of the procedures being followed. In the event that a child is not collected by an authorised adult, we will put into practice the agreed procedures.
- 1.3 In the event that a child is not collected or delayed, they will be reassured in order to cause as little distress as possible.

2 Methods

- 2.1 Parents of children starting in the school are asked to provide specific information which is kept in our data file in the office including:
 - Home address and telephone number of parents/ carers
 - Place of work, and telephone number of parents/ carers
 - Mobile telephone number of parents/ carers
 - Names and telephone numbers of adults who are authorised by the parents/carers to collect their child from the school i.e. childminder, relative, neighbour
 - Information about any person who has been denied legal access to the child
 - Information about who has primary responsibility for the child If there are any changes to any of the above we ask that the school office is notified immediately.
- 2.2 When there is a change to the end of the day arrangements we ask that parents inform either the school office or the class teacher.
- 2.3 We inform parents that if children are not collected at the end of the day we follow the following procedures:
 - In the event that the parent/carer is running late or has made alternative collection with a friend/relative they should ring the school to advise us of those changes so that both the teacher and child are aware.
 - If it appears that there have been no alternative arrangements made for the collection of a child by the parent/carer, the school staff should take the following steps:
 - Messages are checked to see if there are any changes to the end of day arrangements
 - Parents/ carers are contacted at home or work
 - If this is unsuccessful other authorised adults are contacted
 - In the meantime, the child will wait near the office under adult supervision

3 Charges for late / non-collection of children Under Section 457 of the Education Act 1996 and relevant Regulations

- 3.1 The school governing body has the power to impose a charge on parents or carers who fail to collect their child from school within a reasonable time after the close of the school day or after school activity.

- 3.2 The governing body accepts that it is the responsibility of the school to ensure parents and carers are notified of the timing of the school day or after school activity and also when those times are varied for a specific event or date.
- 3.3 The governing body has decided that, except in emergency situations, where children are not collected from the school within fifteen minutes after the school day or after school activity ending, then a charge will be made to the child's parent or carer.
- 3.4 The school accepts that a variety of emergency situations can arise due to unforeseen circumstances and will ensure that the charge is not imposed on the parent where there is a genuine unforeseen emergency. Notification must be given to the school as soon as the situation arises or when collecting the child.

4 The Charging Arrangements

- 4.1 On the second late collection within a term, without reasonable explanation, the parent/carer will be sent a letter reminding them to collect their child from school at 3.10pm from Primary or 3.20 from Secondary.
- 4.2 If the child is collected late a third time, a letter requesting payment will be issued. It will explain the following:
- The purpose of the charge imposed is to meet the additional costs in salary and resources that the school incurs from the late collection.
 - In cases where a child is not collected within fifteen minutes of the end of the school day or after school activity a charge of £5.00 will be made to the parent/carer for up to 30 minutes after non-collection.
 - After 30 minutes of non-collection there will be a £10.00 charge thereafter for each thirty-minute period that the child is not collected.
 - The parent will be issued with an invoice and expected to pay within the date set on the invoice.
 - Failure to pay will lead to further action being taken.
 - If the child has not been collected after one hour (4.20pm) and no contact has been made or arrangements agreed we will follow the procedures below for uncollected children.

5 Procedures for Non-Collected Children Late Collected Children

- 5.1 All late collected children will be recorded in the "late book" which will be kept in the school office.
- 5.2 Parents should be aware that this information may be passed on to the school's educational welfare officer (EWO) for further investigation.
- 5.3 Where a child has 3 recorded late collections in one half term a letter will be sent home to the parents. (see APPENDIX 1)
- 5.4 Where there is no improvement in late collection a second letter will be sent and a referral made to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL will keep a record of incidents where parents/carers do not collect a child from school or are late for no explained or good reason, or where there are repeated incidents. If any concerns about the child's safety and welfare result, these will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
- 5.5 Under no circumstances are the staff to look for the parent, nor do they take the child home with them.
- 5.6 If there has been no contact made after one hour, or no staff are available on the premises, the police will be telephoned and given the child's details i.e. name, DOB, address, names of parents/carer's and any other contact details.
- 5.7 Children's Social Care may also be informed

- 5.8 If the police cannot locate an appropriate adult to come for the child, they will notify children's social care via the emergency duty team, who will arrange for the child to be cared for, (possibly with foster carers). The police may decide to take the police protection order (PPO) as part of this process.
- 5.9 If there are two or more such episodes within a six-week period, staff will make a referral to Children's Social Care.
- 5.10 A full report of each incident will be written and placed in the child's school file.



Bradford Christian School

Livingstone Road

Bradford

BD2 1BT

19 May 2017

Dear Parent / Carer of

I am writing to you regarding the number of times your child has been collected late from school this half term. Your child has been collected late on ____ or more occasions this half term. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure children are collected on time. Being collected late is very distressing for the child concerned.

If your child continues to be left uncollected after the end of the school day, the governing body has agreed that charges will be incurred.

In cases where a child is not collected within fifteen minutes of the end of the school day or after school activity, A charge of £5.00 will be made to the parent/carer for up to 30 minutes of non-collection and then £10.00 thereafter for each thirty-minute period that the child is not collected. The parent will be issued with an invoice and expected to pay within the date set on the invoice. Failure to pay will lead to further action being taken.

If all reasonable attempts have been made to make contact with parents, carers or any other nominated person, and these have failed then the school will be obliged to contact the police and / or the Children's Social Care Team.

The School's Designated Safeguarding Lead will keep a record of all incidents where parents/carers do not collect a child from school or are late for no explained or good reason, or where there are repeated incidents.

If any concerns about the child's safety and welfare result, these will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

This letter is intended only to make you aware of the problem so you can begin to address it.

I look forward to an improvement in the situation.

Yours Sincerely

Zeilah Chadwick

Designated Safeguarding Lead