



# **Victoria Park**

## Primary Academy

**Late Collection Policy**

## **Aims**

- To minimise the possibility of late collection
- To establish clear procedures in the event that a pupil is not collected at the end of the school day. (It is essential that parents are asked to update or confirm emergency contact details half termly. Best practice suggests a minimum of 3 contact numbers where possible.)
- To follow up the non-collection to minimise the possibility of it happening again.

## **Suitable person / Identification of Individuals**

It is essential that parents nominate a responsible person to pick up their child if they are unable to do so themselves. It would not be deemed appropriate for another primary school aged child to have this responsibility and it would be a judgement call based on the age and maturity of any other young person under the age of 18 (i.e. when the person becomes an adult).

If staff feel that the person collecting a child may be under the influence of either alcohol or drugs and the safety and wellbeing of the child may be compromised, a member of the schools Senior Leadership Team must be contacted.

The member of the Senior Leadership Team will assess the situation and if they feel that the parent/carer appears unable to take responsibility for the child they will take appropriate action. This could include contacting another person named on the emergency contact list or suitable member of the family to collect the child. If another emergency contact or family member is not available then Children's Social Care or the Police may need to be contacted.

## **Procedure to be followed if a pupil is not collected**

If a pupil is not collected at the end of the school day or after attending after school clubs it is important to establish with the pupil what their understanding of the arrangement was and try to contact anyone on the child's emergency contact list if parents are unavailable.

**The teacher or appropriate member of staff to:**

1. Check the pupil's Home/School Link Book or Homework Diary (where applicable).
2. Check whether they are usually in an after school activity that night and have just forgotten to attend. (Where applicable).
3. Check with office staff to see whether a phone call or note has been received.
4. Check in the register for a note.
5. Continue calling the parent (or ask office staff to do so). Contact numbers are kept in the office. Please ensure that the office staff are aware that you are trying to contact a parent.
6. If an answer phone is used please leave a short message to say the day and time, that you are ringing, that you still have X with you and they must contact the school immediately to say when the pupil is to be collected.
7. If a parent has not made contact or arrived by 3.50.p.m. or 10 minutes after the end of an after school club a further phone call should be made and where available, a message left to inform the parents that a referral is being made to Children's Social Care ACCESS service if no call is received within 10 minutes.
8. If the child is not collected and no contact is made by 4.00 p.m. or 20 minutes after the end of an after school club, a referral to be made to the ACCESS service on 0845 351 0131.

**Follow-up**

If a pupil is picked up late please record this in the pupil record or other appropriate place, giving reasons for the late pick-up.

Once the situation has been resolved it is important to establish how and why the circumstance arose and to ascertain what the parent must do to avoid a recurrence of this situation.

It will also be necessary to review the procedures used to ensure that they worked smoothly and if necessary to amend for future incidents.

**Useful contact numbers**

ACCESS Service (children's social care) – 0845 351 0131

West Midlands Police Communications Centre – 0845 113 5000