

HATTON BOXING & EDUCATION PROVISION



ABSENCE OF A STUDENT WITHOUT AUTHORITY POLICY

Name of Provider: Hatton Boxing & Education Provision

Date of policy: September 2025

Review Date: (Annually) September 2026

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Introduction

Due to the complex issues that our students present with, each young person has an individual risk assessment which will include how to respond if a child is absent without authority. This will be provided by the referring partner.

The student's emotional, behaviour and learning needs and the perceived risks to themselves and others will define the way in which each young person will be supported if they decide to abscond from Hatton Boxing & Education without permission.

Ashlea House School has a culture of openness and honesty, and it is hoped that students would feel confident enough to talk to staff if they are feeling frustrated, upset, sad etc so that issues can be resolved before they escalate.

Procedures

If a young person does leave the building or the group whilst out in the community without permission staff must inform their parent/carer and school immediately the following action must be taken:

- The safety of the other students is paramount, staff must ensure that adequate supervision is in place (hence the search/ procedures below will be undertaken by the parents / carers)
- Enquires made with the other students on the provision.
- Inform parents/carers, social worker, (EDT) during weekends and the out of hours, the local police via the 101 online reporting system.
- When parents/carers are contacted, it should be made clear that they have a responsibility for their child and should ensure appropriate action is taken to safeguard their child. Follow up any leads identified in the Young Persons Plan
- Details of the incident recorded by Hatton Boxing & Education Provision.
- A debrief once the student returns.

If the student leaves site a Senior member of staff will then consult the individual risk assessment which details risk management and where they are in their programme of intervention. This will determine the response. In making this decision they must take into account:

- Previous history of the young person
- Health
- Likelihood of self harm
- Weather conditions or other environmental factors i.e. location
- Issues with drugs and or alcohol

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- Known vulnerability of the missing person, raising concern that they may have been coerced into leaving the home, concerns re sexual exploitation.
- Known associates of the young person that heightens concerns over their safety
- Length of time they have been missing
- Degree of risk to the public
- Recent significant events, contributory factors and the young person's frame of mind at the time
- Possessions/money or lack of

On return from the unauthorised absence the following procedure will take place:

- On notification from the police or other, collection will be arranged as soon as possible.
- Parents, social workers will be informed of the young person's return and if applicable a strategy meeting may be convened by social care and/or the police
- A check of the young person's wellbeing will be undertaken and if required a professional health check will be sought

After the young person has had time to settle, a discussion will be held between the young person, parent/ carer and the Head of Education. Hatton Boxing & Education will undertake a return to Hatton Boxing & Education meeting to risk assess, determine additional support for young person and carers and explore ways of reducing any incident(s) in the future. The following points for discussion are as follows:

- The young person will be asked why they left and what had led them to do this. Behaviour management plans/ other procedures may be revised in light of such discussions.

For staff information:

Definitions of the terms 'Unauthorised Absence, Absconded and Missing' are as follows:

Missing

A young person will be deemed as missing if their location is unknown or their absence is a cause for concern because of their vulnerability or potential danger to the public. Every 'missing' episode should, therefore, attract proper attention from the professionals involved. The police are frequent partners in supporting education and care staff to manage 'missing' episodes and it is therefore important that both agencies work together. Partnership work is essential in relation to managing the

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young people we educate, to ensure the safety of the young people and the community as a whole.

Unauthorised Absence

Some young people absent themselves for a short period of time and then return, often their whereabouts are known, do not pose a risk and are usually testing boundaries. Young people may not return to the building for longer than agreed either unwittingly, or on purpose. This type of boundary testing is well within the range of normal teenage behaviour and would not come within the above definition of 'Missing' as stated above.

Absconded

A young person has chosen to evade supervision of staff with no consideration for their own safety or that of the general public. Staff will report all young people, who are considered to have absconded the service, to the police in line with their care plan and risk assessments in place.

Children In Care

Full Care Order

This is when a young person has been placed into local authority care by a youth court. The local authority therefore has parental responsibility of the young person.

Accommodated Section 20

This is where the parents of the young person have voluntarily agreed with the local authority for their child to be placed in care. The parents still have parental responsibility of their child. As the young person has been placed voluntarily, the parents can and have rights to remove their child from the service at any point. Should this happen, staff have a responsibility to inform the local authority immediately.

Residency Order

This is where the courts have told the local authority where the young person is to be placed. The courts have the responsibility of the young person.