

Safe Hands Out of School Club

Arrivals, Departures and Attendance

Safe Hands recognises the importance of having robust systems in place to ensure the safe arrival and departure of the children in our care.

The manager will ensure that an accurate record is kept of all children in the Club, and that any arrivals or departures are recorded accurately on the register. The register is kept in an accessible location on the premises at all times. In addition, we conduct regular headcounts during the session.

In the event that a child does not attend a Safe Hands session staff will check on the welfare of the child. Staff will contact the school or parents/carers to check where the child should be. If we are unable to contact you, we will contact the emergency contacts detailed on the registration form.

If we are still unable to contact anyone, we will implement our safeguarding procedures. These may include sending a member of staff to the registered address for the child, contacting the local police and ask them to undertake a welfare check at the registered address and contacting children's services to report our concerns.

We will regularly monitor children's attendance patterns and trends. Where we have repeated absences without notification, staff will use their professional judgement when deciding if their absence should be considered as prolonged. Consideration must be given to the child's vulnerability, parent's and/or carer's vulnerability and their home life. If we have concerns we will make a referral to local children's social care and may also ask the police to undertake a welfare check.

Safe Hands makes clear to all staff, parents and partner organisations our expectations for reporting child absences and the actions we will take if a child is absent without notification or for a prolonged period of time.

We expect parents/carers to contact us promptly and let us know if the child is not attending. A reason for the child absence will be requested.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with our **Safeguarding policy**.

Early Risers drop offs

Children remain the responsibility of their parents/carers until they have entered the setting.

Escorting children to the Club

- The Club and school have a clear agreement concerning the transfer of responsibility for children's safety. The children remain the responsibility of the school until they have arrived and are registered at Safe Hands.
- We have risk assessed the route used by the children to the Club and review it regularly.
- Children attending from St Edwards's will be escorted to our site at St Cuthbert's by appropriately trained staff.
 - If a child presents at the collection point but is not booked into the session, staff must not accept the child under any circumstances. The child will be immediately returned to school staff, and the responsibility for the child remains with the school until confirmed

parental instruction is received. Safe Hands staff are not permitted to remove a child from St Edward's school premises unless the child is on the register or explicit confirmation has been received from the parent/carer

- If a child is booked into the Club but is not at the collection point, we will check whether the child was present at school that day or if they were collected by an expected person. If the whereabouts of the child is not known, staff will immediately inform the designated contact at the school and ask the school to implement its **Missing Child** policy.

Arrivals

Our staff will greet each child warmly on their arrival at the Club and will record the child's attendance in the daily register, including the time of arrival. In the event of a system failure the register will be recorded on paper and transferred onto our iPal system as soon as reasonably possible.

Departures

- Staff will ensure that they sign children out before they leave, including the time of collection. In the event of a system failure this is recorded on paper and transferred onto our iPal system as soon as reasonably possible.
- Children are collected by an adult who has been authorised to do so on their registration form. Parents also choose a collection password that can be passed on to trusted adults that they wish to collect.
- In exceptional circumstances, if the parent requires another person who is not listed on the registration form to collect their child, the child's parents or carers must inform the Club in advance and provide a description of the person or provide that person with their collection password from their ipal account. If the manager has any concerns regarding the person collecting he/she will contact the main parent or carer for confirmation.
- The parent or carer must notify the Club if they will be late collecting their child. If the Club is not informed, the **Uncollected Children** policy will be followed.
- Children over the age of eight will only be allowed to leave the Club alone at the end of the session if the Club has discussed this with the child's parents and has received their written consent.
- Children below the age of eight will not be allowed to leave the Club unaccompanied.

Absences

- If a child is going to be absent from a session, parents must notify the Club in advance.
- If a child is absent without explanation, staff will contact the parents or carers and the school to check where the child should be. If staff still have concerns about the child's whereabouts after attempts to contact the parents and the school the manager will contact the police.
- The Club will try to discover the causes of prolonged and unexplained absences. Regular absences could indicate that a child or their family might need additional support.

This policy was adopted by: Safe Hands	Date: 6.8.25 Updated 17.11.25
To be reviewed: Annually	Signed: C. Alberts

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2025)*:
Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Child Absences [3.11 - 3.12], Organising premises for confidentiality and safeguarding [3.72] Information and Record Keeping [3.77],