

What happens next?

- You will receive a phone call from your local safeguarding team at Walsall Council. All children that go missing are reported to social care and a social worker will then contact you to discuss any concerns you have and offer you any help you feel you may need with your child.
- A worker from Street Teams will contact you to arrange a return interview for your child. This is done through an informal discussion with your child and will happen at home or school or any other location you are happy with.
- Your child is usually spoken to alone and the worker will spend time with your child exploring/ looking at why they went missing, if they were with anyone and if they were safe.
- By talking things through calmly and gently with your child hopefully they will understand the dangers of going missing and change their behaviour because of this.
- This worker can also liaise/work with social care and other organisations to request any further support you feel you may need.
- The worker carrying out the return interview are independent of social care and the Police but have to write and share a report on what they have discussed with your child. The Government says this report needs to happen and is part of the national missing children protocol in the country.
- If your child continues to go missing frequently a meeting may be called about this with social care, Police, and Street Teams to look at what we need to do to keep your child safe.

Useful Numbers

MASH—Social Care: 01922 658170

Police: 101 or 999

Street Teams: 01922 621208

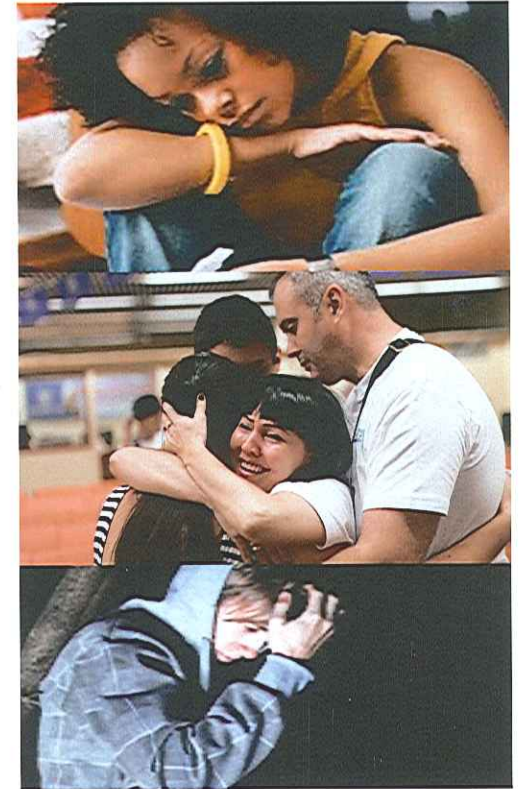
Missing People 24 hour confidential helpline: 116 000

**CSE & Missing Co-ordinator:
07793189448**

Street Teams
Bradford Street Centre
51 Bradford Street
Walsall
WS1 3QD
www.street-teams.org
enquiries@street-teams.org
Registered Charity No: 1075862



What to do if your child goes missing



Walsall Council



Practical advice for parents and carers

If your child goes missing, before calling the Police:

- Check their bedroom and any rooms in the house that they could be in.
- Check your garden, garage, driveway and other outside areas.
- Make sure they are missing and are not hiding or joking about.
- Call and text their mobile if they have one. Also send them messages on their social media such as What's app, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat etc.
- Call their friends, school, your neighbours and family to check if your child is with them.

If you cannot locate your child doing any of the above – you must report them missing.

If you get in contact with your child but still do not know their whereabouts and think they may not be safe – still report them missing.

What to do:

Call 999 or 101.

You do not need to wait 24 hours to report your child missing

The Police will ask you a number of questions, such as:

- When and where was your child last seen and by whom?
- If they were last seen by someone else they will ask when did you see your child last? Where were they?
- What were they doing when you last saw them?
- Is this out of character?
- What are your main worries and concerns for your child?
- Do they have any medication that they need immediately?

It is also worth thinking about other information to pass onto the Police such as:

- What they were wearing when they went missing
- If they have taken any mobile phones, cash, cards, keys etc with them
- Have they taken any clothes or other belongings
- Look on their online accounts/computer to see if there is any information to say they had planned to go missing
- Have a recent photograph ready for Police.
- Leave their room as you found it once you've finished searching for any information
- Record names of anyone you have contacted to try to find your child.
- Try to find out if any of your child's friends are missing.

- When you have answered the questions the Police ask, you will be given a crime number – make a note of this. The Police will ask the same questions each time your child go missing, this is protocol.

When an officer comes to visit you, take their details: badge number, name and telephone number. Ask them who you can contact regarding the investigation.

When your child returns home:

- Contact the Police if your child has returned home of their own accord. If you are worried they have been harmed, when calling Police tell them your concerns and follow any instructions they give you.
- Even though you may be angry show your child you are happy to have them home. They will be nervous about coming home.
- Let them settle in. This may be by eating a meal or sleeping.
- Talk with your child when they are ready.
- Get medical attention if you feel it is needed.
- If you are concerned that something may have happened to your child whilst missing in respect of sexual exploitation, ask the Police for guidance around letting your child shower and bagging clothing for evidence.
- Accept all support offered to you.