



## **1.4 UNCOLLECTED CHILDREN**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

In the event that a child is not collected by an authorised adult at the end of a session/day, we put into practice agreed procedures. These ensure the child is cared for safely by an experienced and qualified practitioner who is known to the child. The child will receive a high standard of care in order to cause as little distress as possible.

We inform parents/carers of our procedures so that, if they are unavoidably delayed, they will be reassured that their children will be properly cared for. It is important that these procedures are followed, even though some staff and parents may have a long standing acquaintance.

An adult is taken to be a person aged 18 or over.

### **PROCEDURES**

- Parents of children starting at the setting are asked to provide the following specific information, which is recorded on our Registration Form:
  - Home address and telephone number - if the parents do not have a telephone, an alternative number must be given, such as a neighbour or close relative.
  - Place of work, address and telephone number (if applicable).
  - Mobile telephone number (if applicable).
  - Names, addresses, telephone numbers and signatures of adults who are authorised by the parents to collect their child from the setting, for example a childminder or grandparent. The adults must be 18 years or older, even if they are a sibling of the child attending the nursery.
  - Who has parental responsibility for the child.
  - Information about any person who does not have legal access to the child.
  - On occasions when parents are aware that they will not be at home or in their usual place of work, they will inform us in writing of how they can be contacted.

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- Any concerns or knowledge they have regarding their child in relation to Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.
- On occasions when parents, or the persons normally authorised to collect the child, are not able to, parents provide us with written details of the name, address and telephone number of the adult who will be collecting their child. We agree with parents how to verify the identity of the person who is to collect their child. This adult must be 18 years or older, even if they are a sibling of the child.
- Parents are informed that if they are not able to collect the child as planned, they must inform us so that we can begin to take back-up measures. We provide parents with our contact telephone number.
- We inform parents that we apply our child protection procedures in the event that their children are not collected by an authorised adult within one hour after the setting has closed and the staff can no longer supervise the child on our premises.
- If a child is not collected at the end of the session/day, we follow the procedures below:
  - The child's file is checked for any information about changes to the normal collection routines.
  - If no information is available, parents/carers are contacted at home or at work.
  - If this is unsuccessful, the adults who are authorised by the parents to collect their child from the setting - and whose telephone numbers are recorded on the Registration Form - are contacted.
  - All reasonable attempts are made to contact the parents or nominated carers.
  - The child does not leave the premises with anyone other than those named on the Registration Form or in their file.
  - If no-one collects the child for **an hour** after the setting has closed and there is no-one who can be contacted to collect the child, we apply the procedures for uncollected children.
  - We contact our local authority children's social care team: **Referral and Assessment Team**  
**0118 908 8002 or Emergency Duty Team - out of hours telephone 01344 351 999**

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- The child stays at the setting in the care of two members of staff until the child is safely collected either by the parents or by a social care worker.
- Social care will aim to find the parent or relative. If they are unable to do so, the child will become looked after by the local authority.
- Under no circumstances will staff go to look for the parent, nor do they take the child home with them. A full written report of the incident is recorded in the child's file.
- Depending on circumstances, we reserve the right to charge parents for the additional hours worked by our staff.
- Ofsted may be informed on **0300 123 1231**

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<b>This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Meadow Nursery School Parents' Association Committee</b>	
<b>Held on</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014
<b>Policy reviewed</b>	September 2025
<b>Date to be reviewed</b>	September 2027
<b>Signed by Chair</b>	
<b>Name</b>	Samantha Foster-Kennedy
<b>Signed by Nursery Manager</b>	
<b>Name</b>	Debbie Hill

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