



MODBURY SPECIAL SCHOOL ABSCONDING POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to set out clearly for all individuals concerned, the process that will take place should a child abscond from school.

To abscond is to 'leave without permission'.

Aim of Policy:

Modbury Special School strives to provide a secure and safe environment where students will want to come and enjoy learning with others. It is always our expectation that students will choose to comply with policies and procedures whilst on school premises or under the direct supervision of staff whilst on educational visits.

This Policy is written to ensure that if a student chooses to abscond then we are ready to deal with that eventuality.

If Staff or members of our school community have observed a student from our school unaccompanied outside of our school grounds, within school hours:

- Immediately contact the school office
- In this situation either a teacher or an SSO2, with a mobile phone, (used at school only in emergency situations) will follow the child with a calm outlook and will consider: Is the child walking or running away? Does the child appear calm or distressed? Does the child have road safety skills or a history of running from school or home?
- As soon as the delegated person is able they should use their mobile phone to contact the school office to give details of where the child is located and any other useful information to help return them safely to school
- The delegated person to shadow the child within a distance to safely observe them, approach the child if safe to do so, if possible calmly encourage the child to return to school
- In the case of a student going missing, an all-out call for all available staff will be issued to help search the school and local environs to locate the missing student. If the student is located the staff member should contact the front office so other staff can be notified.
- After a maximum of 15 minutes of a child absconding the office is responsible to notify police and the child's family/carers
- Habitual absconders require a specific Risk Assessment to be completed which should include the use of physical restraint e.g. hand holding if required to guide the student back safely

Preventative Measures

- All staff to be aware of potential absconders. Risk assessment must be completed for high risk students
- Staff monitor school boundaries while on duty
- Use PBIS language with the students "I stay with the group" "I stay in the yard at play times"
- Ensure restraint measures required are listed in the Positive Behaviour Plan which are signed by parents e.g. hand holding if required
- Alternate programs onsite are to be put in place for habitual absconders for CAPS or excursions, teacher to organise for the student to be in another class with safety plans shared as appropriate