

Uncollected Child Policy

Safeguarding Children



PARKWAY PRE-SCHOOL

Aims

We ask that parents collect their children on time and avoid late pick-ups – we understand the occasional delay.

If 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 experienced and qualified practitioners who are known to the child. The child will receive a high standard of care 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.

To accomplish this, we will:

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 - mobile telephone number (if applicable).
- if the parents do not have a telephone, an alternative number must be given, perhaps a neighbour or close relative.
- Contact and place of work, address and 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.
- Who has parental responsibility for the child.
- Information about any person who does not have legal access to the child.

On occasions when parents, or the persons normally authorised to collect the child, are not able to collect the child, they provide us with the details of the person collecting the child, (written where possible), at the door when dropping off the child OR in advance.

Parents are informed that if they cannot 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 if 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:

- Check 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 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: 0300 123 4043
- The child stays at the setting in the care of a practitioner, 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: 0300 123 4666 or via website portal

Review September 2027