

Appendix A: Examples of Different Types of Absence and Missing Occurrences

Please note that these examples are included as a guide only. Every case will be different and should be assessed based on the individual child's circumstances.

<p>Away from placement without authorisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 14 year looked after child fails to return to the children's home where they live. The young person informs staff at the children's home that they are staying their mother. This is a known pattern of behaviour and the young person generally returns unharmed after a day or two. • A 12 year who has not returned home to their foster placement on time, but has phoned their carers and said that they are with a group of children in a local park.
<p>No apparent risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 17 year old who, following an argument with their parents, has left home angry but said that they will be back eventually. • A 14 year old is 45 minutes late home from school, but is known to stop off at a friend's house on their way home, despite being asked not to do so by their carer.
<p>Low Risk Missing child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 15 year old who has failed to return home. The parents believe they are staying at a friend's (who they know from school and who is of a similar age) house overnight. The parents are in contact with their child via social media, but the young person refuses to say where their friend lives. The parents do not think their child is at risk of harm. • A 16 year old child looked after is believed to be with their family. The family are not co-operating and refuse to say where the young person is. There is not an assessed risk of significant harm
<p>Medium Risk Missing child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An 11 year old who regularly goes missing, is believed to be at the home of a friend of a similar age who they know from school, but their parents do not know the friend or where they live, and they are unable to make contact with their child. • A 12 year old looked after child has not returned to their foster placement after school. This is out of character
<p>High Risk Missing child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A young person aged 17, who is missing after leaving a suicide note, in which they indicated they had taken an overdose. • A 10 year old child who has been missing overnight