

Appendix B: Example Questions that may to Help to Establish if a Child is Missing

- Have they ever done this before?
- Can you think of any reason why the child has left or has not returned?
- Are you surprised that the child has done this?
- What is the state of mind of the child?

Establish whether the behaviour is out of character, or whether there is an obvious explanation for the child's absence. If the behaviour is out of character and there is no good explanation for the child being absent, follow the [West Yorkshire Joint Protocol for Children Missing from home or Care](#)

- Do you expect the child to return?
- When do you expect the child to return?
- Do you know where the child is likely to be?

Only report a child as missing if you do not know where they are likely to be, and / or if there is assessed risk of harm to the child or public. It is the responsibility of the carer to locate and return the child in the first instance.

- Do you have any immediate concerns that the child will suffer or cause harm whilst absent?
- What are those concerns?
- How likely do you think it is that the child will suffer or cause harm?
- How worried are you?

When a child is absent, there is always a certain level of concern. Consider how likely it is that the child will suffer or cause harm whilst they are absent. Consider whether a responsible adult should take responsibility for locating the child or whether there is a need to report the child as missing to the police.

- What have you already done to find the child?

Attend addresses and search places frequented to find the child. Contact friends and family, undertake social media searches, after which if there is a level of concern contact the police.