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|  | Luxulyan School |
| | Strangers on the school site Policy |
| Safeguarding Policy No: 37 | Issue date: Summer 2012 |

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body _____

Date _____

Review Summer 2016

Luxulyan School Strangers on the School Site Policy

All staff need to be aware of the possible danger that a stranger on the site could cause to both children and adults. Staff have to be especially vigilant at breaktime and at lunchtime.

Children should not be allowed to talk to strangers until the identity of the person has been established. The staff on duty should politely, but firmly, challenge the person, explaining that we must ensure the safety of the children.

Sometimes parents, grandparents or friends talk perfectly innocently to the children from the footpaths, or on the playground. If both staff and the child clearly know the adult, this does not create a problem.

However, where the staff on duty do not know the identity of the person, a challenge should be made. There are some basic rules which all staff should follow:-

- Politely, but firmly, ask the stranger who he/she is.
- Always keep calm and authoritative.
- If you feel there is any threat to the children, gather the children together and take them inside as quickly as possible, alerting other members of staff.
- Do not release a child to the stranger, even when the identity has been established, but take, or send them to the classteacher, office or Headteacher.

There are two types of 'stranger' of whom we should be aware-

- Total strangers
- Parents who do not have access to their children

Total Strangers

If the person will not do as you direct them, the first priority is to ensure the safety of the children. Tell the person that he/she must either come to the office, or leave the site. If this is refused, explain that the police will be called. At this point, other staff should be alerted, possibly by sending older children to the office.

If the children are outside, take them inside, trying to avoid further confrontation. Once inside, do your best to ensure the office is aware of the situation, perhaps by using the internal telephone.

Parents Who Do Not Have Access To Their Children

Essentially the system is the same. The added complication is that staff may know the person and not be aware of the problem. There is a simple rule that we all follow-

- If a parent/grandparent etc. comes to collect a child during the school day, direct the person to the office/Headteacher or to the classteacher. Do not release the child on your own authority without approval.

In addition, there is a system for alerting staff to situations where one parent may wish to ensure that a former partner does not take the child, even though he/she is the parent. Where there is a court order, there is less of a problem. Very often, however, this is not the case.

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If the Headteacher is alerted to a problem, he will tell the classteacher and an internal memo will tell other staff. As an example, this will read:-

29 February 2012

Mrs. Blank has requested that we only release Tiphonie Noname to the following people:-

Mrs. Blank

Mr. or Mrs. Blank (grandparents)

She has specifically requested that we do not release her to Mr. Blank. This is /is not a court order. Mrs. Blank is concerned that he will try to take her.

If anyone tries to take Fred out of school, direct them to the Office.

At the end of school, until you are told differently, Fred will be collected from inside the building.

Once staff have read this memo, they should destroy it. One copy is kept in the Sanctions File in the Office.

As a teacher, there are situations where you may not be sure how to respond. For example, both parents may come in with the same request not to release the child to their former partner.

You may have to act 'in loco parentis' as you do have a duty of care. Therefore, the ultimate decision is to explain that we will not release the child until the facts are established. If this causes a problem, the police will be called in order for the situation to be resolved. Always seek help from other adults and steer the children away from danger.

Luxulyan Summer 2014