

Angling Trust Missing Child Guidance

A young person going missing can be extremely traumatic, both for adults and children. If everyone is aware of some simple pre-defined guidelines, then panic levels can be minimised and critically the missing person can hopefully be found, in an organised and efficient way. It is very unlikely that a child will go missing from your event. If they do remember that most are found within a few minutes of their disappearance.

Angling Trust Missing Child Guidance

If a child goes missing, the following guidance have been designed to clarify the actions to take:

1. Ensure other children in your care are looked after appropriately while you organise a search for the child concerned
2. Inform the child's parents if they are present at the event, or nominate an appropriate person to telephone them and advise of the concern. Reassure them you are doing all you can to locate their child. Remember the child may contact the parents directly so this action is very important.
3. Organise all available responsible adults to search appropriate areas. It is best to take a short time to organise the search properly so that all places are searched thoroughly.
4. Prioritise exits and potential danger spots at event location.
5. Check toilets, cafes and any public or private areas
6. Request all searchers to report back to a nominated adult at a specific point
7. The nominated person should stay at the specific point and co-ordinate events, this includes detailed description of child including approx. height, build, hair and eye colour, as well as clothing worn when last seen. The police will require this information if the search proves unsuccessful
8. The police should be contacted **no later than 20 minutes** after the child's disappearance is noted, even if the search is not completed
9. If the police recommend further action before they get involved, follow their guidance
10. If the police act upon the concern, always be guided by them in any further actions that may need to be taken
11. At any stage that the child is located, ensure you inform all the adults involved. This includes parents, searchers and police if they are by then involved
12. All missing child incidents must be reported to Club Welfare or event officer immediately or as soon as is practicable, who in turn will notify Angling Trust safeguarding team.