

Supervision of Children and Young People

Prevention is the most important aspect of supervision of children and young people. From the moment the child arrives at the event, staff and volunteers are acting in loco parentis and have a duty of care towards them.

Appropriate supervision ratios and systems for monitoring the whereabouts of children are essential. It must be clear at all times who within any group is responsible for supervision. This is particularly important where events are held on large sites and/or at residential venues.

For events involving children under the age of 8, the supervision ratios are set out in **Out of School Care** (available to download on www.ofsted.gov.uk). For children over the age of 8, experience has shown that a ratio of one adult to 10 participants is the minimum required. For young people 12+ the ratio should be 1 adult to every 15 – 20.

The supervisor must ensure that there is clear guidance on reporting missing participants. As a general rule where a child is reported missing there should be a maximum of 20 minutes before the police are called. This may need to be reduced where a young child is involved.

For residential events, it is recommended that the event coordinator has access of photos of children/young people (attached to their consent form) in the event of then having to report a participant missing to the police.