Ready2Comply
TOOLKITS FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

DIRECT WORK RESOURCE · KEEPING SAFE

Home Safe

Going missing, staying out and staying safe

A warm, ready-to-use direct work pack to help young people understand why people go missing, the real risks of staying out, and how to stay safe and get home – and to help you gauge, record and plan around missing episodes.

- Ages 11–17
- 1:1 or small groups
- 3–4 sessions
- Editable Word

SAMPLE

Worker's guide

Session plans, the law and guidance for staff, SEND and trauma-informed tips, disclosures, escalation and recording

Activity sheets

Missing: what really happens, safe or risky?, 12 scenario cards, going-out checklist, safety plan, who to tell

Risk measure

Young person's quiz with scoring key, worker observation checklist, record sheet – plus a certificate

For children's homes, supported accommodation and schools · British English · Version 1.0 · November 2026

Guidance in this pack was checked against DfE statutory guidance, College of Policing, Missing People, Childline and legislation.gov.uk sources in November 2026 (see Sources, page 21). Always follow your home's missing policy and the local joint protocol.

Ready2Comply is not affiliated with Missing People, SafeCall, Childline, any police force or any organisation named in this pack. This pack supports, and does not replace, your home's missing from care policy and the local joint missing protocol.

Missing: what really happens

Why people leave, what can go wrong – and how to get home safe

Feeling like leaving

Arguments, worries, missing family, or just wanting to be out.

⚠️ Talk first – there may be another way.

Out late

Friends, parties, losing track of time.

⚠️ Late nights are when most harm happens.

Phone off

Dead battery, no credit, or turned off on purpose.

⚠️ Nobody can help if they can't reach you.

Gifts and lifts

Free food, vapes, rides or a place to stay.

⚠️ Nothing is free – it can turn into owing.

Other towns

Someone pays for a ticket or drives you somewhere.

⚠️ A sign of exploitation.

Being reported

If staff can't find you and are worried, they ring the police.

⚠️ It's to keep you safe – you're not in trouble.

Coming back

Staff will be glad you're home, check you're OK and get you food.

⚠️ You'll be welcomed, not punished.

Return interview

Someone independent will offer to talk to you.

⚠️ Your chance to say what's going on.

Safe places

Home, staff, a shop, a police station, A&E.

⚠️ Know where you'd go if you were stuck.

Did you know?

If you're stuck, scared or can't get home, you can **ring the home any time** – staff would much rather come and get you than have you stay out. You can also call or text **116 000** (SafeCall) for free, even with no credit.

SAMPLE

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Real-life situations

Cut out the cards or pick one. What's going on? What would you do?

1 Five more minutes

You're having a laugh at the park and lose track of time. It's an hour past when you should be back. You're scared you'll get told off, so you think about not going back at all.

🚩 Red flags? 🤔 What would you do? 🗣️ Who could you tell?

2 The party

Someone you met today invites you to a house party. There'll be older people there and they won't say the address – they'll "pick you up from the shop".

🚩 Red flags? 🤔 What would you do? 🗣️ Who could you tell?

3 Phone on 2%

You're across town. Your phone is about to die, you've got no money and the last bus has gone. It's getting dark.

🚩 Red flags? 🤔 What would you do? 🗣️ Who could you tell?

4 Free lift

An older lad you've seen around offers to drive you home and buy you food on the way. "You're safe with me."

🚩 Red flags? 🤔 What would you do? 🗣️ Who could you tell?

5 Missing mum

Your mum messages saying she misses you and you should come and see her tonight. Contact has been stopped by your social worker.

🚩 Red flags? 🤔 What would you do? 🗣️ Who could you tell?

6 Storming out

You've had a massive row with staff. You grab your coat and walk out. You just want to get away.

🚩 Red flags? 🤔 What would you do? 🗣️ Who could you tell?

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