



Westmorland and Furness
Safeguarding Children
Partnership



Support and Protect Against Child Exploitation

Do You Know Where Your Child Is?

Step 1: Try to find them

- If you don't know where your child is, take immediate steps to check their whereabouts.
- Try calling and messaging them.
- Check social media or other apps they use to communicate.
- Contact friends, family members and anyone they may be with.
- Check places they regularly visit.
- Search your home, garden and surrounding area.
- Check any location-sharing apps, trackers or devices available to you.
- Send a message explaining that you are worried and asking them to make contact.

Trust your instincts. If something doesn't feel right, don't ignore those concerns.

Step 2: Report them missing

If you still don't know where your child is, report them missing. **Call 101**

You do not need to wait 24 hours before reporting a child missing. **Call 999 immediately if you believe your child is at imminent risk of harm.**

When you contact police, they may ask:

- What your child was wearing when last seen.
- Where they were last seen.
- Who they may be with.
- Places they may have gone.
- Information about their phone, social media or location.
- Any concerns you have about their safety or wellbeing.

The more information you can provide, the more it may assist enquiries.

Step 3: What happens next?

Police will work with you to try and locate your child safely.

They may:

- Carry out enquiries to identify where your child may be.
- Visit your home to gather information and look for clues about where they may have gone.
- Contact people who may have seen or spoken to them.
- Keep in contact with you while enquiries are ongoing.
- If your child returns home before they are located by police, it is important to let police know as soon as possible.

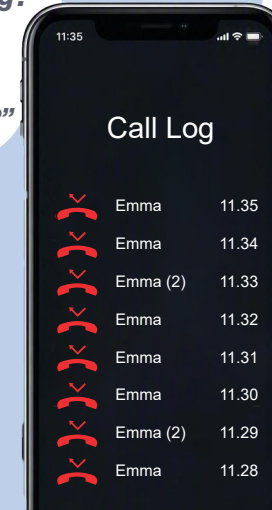
When your child returns

A young person who has been missing will be offered a **Return Home Interview**. This is an opportunity for them to speak with someone about:

- Why they went missing.
- What happened while they were away.
- Any worries they may have.
- Any support they might need.

The purpose is to help understand what happened, identify any risks and help prevent future missing episodes.

"They said they were staying at a friend's..."
"Why aren't they answering?"
"Are they where they said they'd be?"
"Has anyone seen them?"



"Their location has stopped sharing."
"I've called and messaged."
"Maybe they're okay..."
"Something doesn't feel right."