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Dear parents and carers,

Child staying over and in your care - Who knows where they are?

Children are among the most vulnerable members of society and this is intensified when they are unaccounted for and potentially missing. As adults, we have a moral and legal obligation to safeguard them. The Metropolitan police are therefore seeking your assistance to enable the whereabouts of children to be known to those responsible for their care, especially when sleeping away from their usual home address.

Where a child seeks permission to stay at your address for any prolonged period and in all cases overnight, you should make every effort to clarify this is agreed with their parent or carer by making contact yourself.

Where a child is subsequently found to be staying without your agreement, you should make every effort to clarify whether their parent or carer knows of their whereabouts or alert them to the child's current whereabouts.

Where agreement is not forthcoming, you should not allow the child to stay at your address against the wishes of those with parental responsibility and agree the safest time and method to return home.

Your commitment and cooperation in these matters will greatly assist the continued safeguarding and care of children and minimise the involvement of the police in searching for those who may be reported as missing whilst staying with friends without the permission of those responsible for their care.

Yours faithfully,