

Children Missing from Education

All children are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude & special educational needs.

Local authorities must try to identify children who are missing education in their area.

A child or young person is considered to be missing from education if they are of compulsory school age and:

- Are not on a school roll
- Are not being suitably educated at home, privately or in alternative provision

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect.

Staff should be alert to safeguarding concerns such as sexual, criminal or other exploitation, travelling to conflict zones, Female Genital Mutilation and forced marriage, in order to help prevent the risks of pupils going missing.

Some circumstances can leave children and young people at more risk of not receiving education, including those who are:

- At risk of abuse or neglect
- In Gypsy, Roma, Traveller or Armed Forces families
- Involved in the youth justice system
- Living in a refuge or fleeing domestic abuse
- Part of a homeless family
- Young runaways or missing children
- Asylum seekers, refugees, or new migrant families
- Teenage mothers
- Excluded from or not attending school

Ofsted recommends that all schools should:

- Keep travellers on roll at their 'base school'
- Follow agreed procedures for exclusions
- Maintain communication with the Local Authority about absence, exclusion & taking pupils off role
- Have safeguarding policies & processes that give due weight to children and young people missing from education and their potential vulnerability
- **NOT** advise pupils to stay home without an official exclusion as it is unlawful & places the pupil at risk

All schools must inform the local authority immediately if they intend to remove a pupil from the admission register if they have:

- Been registered at another school
- Been subject to a school attendance order that has been changed/revoked
- Been taken out of school for home education
- Moved too far away to travel to school
- Had more than 20 days unauthorised absence/not returned following agreed leave of absence, and neither the school, nor the Local Authority can locate them
- Health problems that prevent their attendance before ceasing to be of compulsory school age or they have died
- Had a custodial sentence of over 4 months
- Been permanently excluded

Schools must inform the local authority of:

- Any pupil who fails to attend school regularly
- Has been absent without permission for 10 schools days or more

Where a college provides education for a child of compulsory school age, the college shall inform the local authority:

- About their attendance and absence
- If they are removed from roll

Children Missing from Education Team

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- Identify, monitor & locate all school-aged children & young people not on a school roll
- Work with all agencies to ensure that those pupils missing from education are promptly re-engaged with educational provision
- Implement procedures to locate pupils who leave the city with an unknown destination

Or complete and return the relevant CME forms which can be found in Schoolpoint365.

Further information:

[Children Missing from Education, DfE 2016](#)