



Children Missing from Education

Definition of Children Missing Education

For the purpose of the Statutory Guidance on Children Missing Education (2015), children missing education are defined as those who are not on a school roll or receiving suitable education otherwise than at school. Those who are regularly absent or have missed 10 school days or more without permission may be at risk of becoming 'children missing education'.

Our School Procedure

Every morning Sarah Wickes checks the schools answer machine for any absentees

The registers are then inputted and checked

Any child registered a 'N' on the register will receive a telephone call from Sarah, if no one is available to speak to a message will be left asking the parent/carer to contact the school

The child's vulnerability is taken into consideration and any concerns will be discussed with the DSL

In the following circumstances a referral to Social Care and/or Police will always be made promptly:

- **The child may be the victim of a crime;**
- **The child is subject of a Child Protection plan;**
- **The child is subject of s47 enquiries;**
- **The child is looked after;**
- **There is a known person posing a risk to children in the household or in contact with the household;**
- **There is a history of the family moving frequently;**
- **There are serious issues of attendance.**

The answer to the following questions can also assist a judgement as to whether or not inform Social Care and the Police:

- **In which age range is the child?**
- **Is this very sudden and unexpected behaviour?**

- Have there been any past concerns about the child associating with significantly older young people or adults?
- Was there any significant incident prior to the child's unexplained absence?
- Has the child been a victim of bullying?
- Are there health reasons to believe that the child is at risk? e.g.
- Does the child need essential medication or health care?
- Was the child noted to be depressed prior to the child's unexplained absence?
- Are there religious or cultural reasons to believe that the child is at risk? e.g.
- Rites of passage or forced marriage planned for the child?
- Has the child got a disability and/or special educational needs?
- Have there been past concerns about this child and family which together with the sudden disappearance are worrying? e.g.
- Is there any known history of drug or alcohol dependency within the family?
- Is there any known history of domestic violence? Is there concern about the parent/carer's ability to protect the child from harm?

The length of time that a child remains out of school could, of itself, be an alerting factor of risk of harm to the child.

If the situation is not resolved within 3 days the EWO will be contacted, then referrals should be made to the police and social care, as appropriate over the next two weeks

Regular meetings take place every half term between Colin Franklyn, Adam (EWO) & Sarah Wickes to discuss children's attendance records.

Children missing from school for more than four weeks

A child may not be removed from the school roll before the end of four weeks.

Guidance provided by Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board October 2015 Statutory Guidance on Children Missing from Education (2015)