



Seven Minute Safeguarding Missing Education

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Please speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead: **Hannah Pallôt** or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: **Matt Collinge** or **Sam Shainberg** immediately with any concerns.
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What does 'missing education' mean?

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to full time education which is suitable to their age, ability and any special educational needs they may have. Children missing education are children of compulsory school age (For England this is the term in which they turn 5, although the vast majority of children start school the September after they have turned 4) who are not registered pupils at a school or are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school (i.e. being registered as being home schooled).

For further information about Children Missing Education, the Local Government Association produced a report looking closely at this issue. [It can be found here.](#)

Why does this matter?

Missing Education children are at significant risk of being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation, not achieving their full potential and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later in life. These 'missing' children can be amongst the most vulnerable in our communities. It is essential that all services work together to identify and re-engage these children and families back into appropriate education provision as quickly as possible.

It is essential that registers are completed at the right time, both am and pm, to enable the office to identify pupils who have unexplained absences.

What are the main risk indicators?

- Travelling families known to services historically.
- Transient families, or those children from families who are studying in the UK.
- Transient families who do not return from travelling abroad
- Children discussing moves with friends and teachers at school
- Children at risk of exclusion.
- Parents at the stage of prosecution for poor attendance.
- Bullying issues within schools.
- Children who are missing or are at risk of becoming missing from home

What are our responsibilities as a school?

The previously linked DfE document outlines the key responsibilities for schools along with other services and parents.

The responsibilities for schools include:

- maintain accurate admission registers and take a proactive approach to monitoring pupils' attendance in line with chapter 2 of Working together to improve school attendance
- do their own initial proactive work to locate a child at risk of becoming a CME, before working jointly with their local authority to conduct further reasonable enquiries to identify their whereabouts – schools should also continue to play their role in conducting joint reasonable enquiries even after they have submitted a CME referral to the local authority (refer to making reasonable enquiries)
- work collaboratively with their local authority to return CME in their local area into education – this might also involve working with a child's home local authority, if different
- offer appropriate support to successfully integrate children into their school, including having efficient decision-making processes for admissions in place to prevent delays
- carefully follow guidance on removing or adding pupils' names from or to the admission register, which in some specific cases will involve joint actions to be undertaken between the school and local authority before this decision can be made