

Children Missing in Education



Every Moment Matters

Seven Minute Safeguarding

WB 10th January 2022

What does 'missing in 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).

Why does this matter?

Children missing education 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.

What are our responsibilities as a school?

The previously linked DfE document outlines the key responsibilities for schools in sections 16 - 26. These include:

- Schools must enter pupils on the admission register at the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed, or been notified, that the pupil will attend the school.
- Schools must monitor pupils' attendance through their daily register
- Schools must investigate any unexplained absences
- Schools should encourage parents to notify the school of any changes to address or contact details
- Schools should monitor and address poor or irregular attendance

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

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