

Safeguarding 7 minute briefing: Children Missing from Education (CME)

What to do?

Speak to your DSL/DDSL if you have concerns. Your DSL/DDSL will follow the Cornwall Council protocol which can be found on their Services for Schools page. Relevant information regarding Children Missing Education can be found here, including a referral form.

Our school buys in to the Cornwall Council Education Welfare Service and they can support the school in this process.

Background

All children are entitled to an efficient, full time education, suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. CME are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise. Effective information sharing between parents, schools and local authorities is critical to ensuring that all children of compulsory school age are safe and receiving suitable education.

Key guidance

- The updated (September 2016) Department for Education (DfE) guidance for Children Missing Education
- Cornwall Council's guidance and referral form should be used if you know a Child Missing Education in Cornwall.

Why it matters?

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

Risk indicators

- Travelling families known to services and CME historically.
- Transient families/those from families studying in the UK.
- Transient families who don't return from travelling abroad
- Children discussing moves with friends/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.



Information: The Law

Schools must make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child jointly with the local authority, before deleting the pupil's name from the register. All schools (including academies and independent schools) must notify their local authority when they are about to remove a pupil's name from the school admission register under any of the fifteen grounds listed in the CME regulations.

Information: The Law cont.....

This duty does not apply when a pupil's name is removed from the admission register at standard transition points – when the pupil has completed the final year of education normally provided by that school – unless the local authority requests that such returns are to be made. A pupil's name can ONLY be removed from the admission register if the school and the local authority have failed to establish the pupil's whereabouts after jointly making reasonable enquiries.

[Click link for quiz](#)

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