

10 things you should know about Children missing education (CME)



Northumberland Education Welfare Service is part of the Virtual School in the Education & Skills Service.

1

Education Welfare work to ensure that the local authority's statutory duties and responsibilities for safeguarding children in relation to school attendance, elective home education, children missing education, child employment and performance licensing are carried out to the highest possible standard.

2

Section 436A of the Education Act 1996 (added by section 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) requires all local authorities to make arrangements to enable them to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of children residing in their area who are not receiving a suitable education.

3

A child or young person who is deemed missing education is of compulsory school age - between the ages of five and sixteen - is not on a school roll nor registered at any formally approved education activity and has been out of any education provision for a substantial period of time, usually 20 school days.

4

Approved education activity includes provisions such as a maintained school or independent (private) school, city academy, alternative curriculum provision, pupil referral unit and elective home education and registered with the local authority.

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Children can go missing either when they fail to register with a school, or when they fall out of the education system and there is no process in place to identify them and ensure they re-engage with appropriate provision.

6

There are a number of recognised points where children or young people can go missing from education. These include; failure to start appropriate provision; inappropriate removal from roll; Parent/Carer withdrawal from the school roll with no named destination; failure to find educational provision when moving to a new address within Northumberland or on arrival in Northumberland from another authority; Child removed and not registered as “home educated”.

7

As from 1st September 2016 all schools must notify the LA if a pupil is to be deleted from or added to the admission register. In Northumberland this information is collected through SIMS and guidance can be found on the SIMS Support site.

8

Northumberland County Council is committed to ensuring children and young people can return to a suitable form of education as quickly as possible. It is imperative that all professionals who have contact with young people work together to identify these children. We also rely on members of the public alerting us to children who may be missing from education.

9

By having clear guidance, policies and procedures in place across Northumberland all professionals and the public will be in a position to ensure support for vulnerable children within our community.

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We are always happy to discuss any queries you may have.
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