

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



1



A child between the ages of 5 and 16 is considered to be **missing education** if:

1. **they are not on the roll of a school** and who are not receiving a suitable education otherwise than being at school eg at home or in alternative provision
2. or they are on a school roll but have **not attended for a period of 20 consecutive school days** (recorded as unauthorised absence) and the whereabouts of the family is unknown.

2

The most common causes of a child going missing from education are:

- failure to start at school or education provision
- inappropriate removal from a school roll, or 'off-rolling'
- parent/carer withdrawal from the school roll with no named destination
- failure to find educational provision when moving to a new address either within Northumberland or on arrival from outside of Northumberland
- a child is removed from a school roll and not registered as "home educated".

3	In Northumberland all schools must notify the local authority – via the Education Welfare team - if a pupil is to be deleted from or added to the admission register.
4	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.
5	The local authority has a duty to identify and engage with pupils who are not receiving their entitlement to full time education. Full time education is defined as 25 hours per week for 39 weeks per year. These children are referred to as missing out on education .
6	Children and young people who <i>miss out</i> may have medical needs or social and behavioural difficulties. Meeting these needs appropriately might mean having a temporary part time timetable or intervention in alternative provision or the PRU. Such interventions should be targeted, time-limited and subject to regular review.
7	Schools should monitor attendance at any alternative arrangement that is in place for specific pupils and visit the pupils regularly.
8	Children who are not receiving full time education, for whatever reason, are at risk of exploitation. Northumberland’s Education Welfare team co-ordinates the NSCB’s procedure for safeguarding children who are missing from or missing out on full time education.
9	The procedure requires schools and education settings to submit a monthly return to the Education Welfare team, and is outlined in the Children Missing Education guidance.
10	Schools should consider initiating an Early Help Assessment for pupils who are at risk of missing out on full time education or report all concerns to Children’s Services by calling OneCall 01670 536400 . If a child is in immediate danger please call the police on 999.
	<p>The named person in Northumberland to contact about children missing or missing out on education is</p> <p>DAWN WESTERBY, Lead Education Welfare Officer</p>
	<p>01670 623027</p> <p>Dawn.Westerby@northumberland.gov.uk</p>