

10 things you should know about children missing full time education







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The role of the Education Welfare team is to ensure that the local authority fulfils all statutory duties and responsibilities to a high standard for safeguarding children in relation to school attendance, elective home education, children missing education, child employment and performance licensing.

2

The Local Authority has a duty to identify and track those pupils *at risk* of missing education (or children missing full time education). The Ofsted framework for the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services makes clear the requirement for schools and settings to cooperate with Local Authority procedures for safeguarding pupils who are not receiving full time education.

3	Children who are considered to be missing full time education are those who do not attend full-time education at school or otherwise (alternative provision). Full-time education is defined as 25 hours per week for 39 weeks per year.
4	Children and young people who miss out may have medical needs, which might relate to their physical or mental health, and access EOTAS (Education other than at School) provision.
5	Children and young people with particular social and behavioural difficulties may require personal learning plans. These plans may involve these children and young people not attending their usual school full-time. It is illegal for schools to discriminate against children because they have special educational needs
6	There is no obligation for young mothers of compulsory school age to attend education provision during an 18-week maternity leave period.
7	Schools have a safeguarding and welfare responsibility for all pupils on their roll and those educated off site. Alternative provision should not be treated as a long term solution. Any part or full time placement with an alternative provider should be targeted, time-limited and subject to regular review.
8	Schools should monitor attendance at any alternative arrangement that is in place for specific pupils and should notify the local authority of all pupils accessing part-time or alternative timetables. Northumberland local authority requests a monthly return to identify these pupils, the reasons for this arrangement and the length of time it is expected to continue.
9	Our procedures in Northumberland ensure that we can track children and young people who may be missing full time education. It is an arrangement with the local safeguarding children's board and schools and education settings are required to co-operate with the process.
10	Ensure where there is not already one in place, schools should consider initiating an Early Help Assessment for pupils who are at risk of missing out on full time education.
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