



CHILD MISSING FROM EDUCATION

Responsible member of SLT: **Scott Sanderson**

Review date: **November 2023**

Next review: **November 2024**

Child Missing From Education

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to an efficient, full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have.

Alton School recognises that children missing education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of abuse and harm, exploitation or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later in life.

A child missing or persistently absent from an education setting is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect. Staff should treat prolonged or repeated absence, or particular patterns of absence, with no satisfactory explanation, as a potential safeguarding issue and take action accordingly.

Where possible Alton School will hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil.

Registers and notification of pupils leaving and joining

Alton School maintains accurate admission and attendance registers

Alton School will ensure that there is a record of joiners and leavers as defined in The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) 2006.

When removing a child's name, the school will notify the Local Authority of:

- (a) the full name of the child,
- (b) the full name and address of any parent with whom the child normally resides,
- (c) at least one telephone number of the parent,
- (d) the child's future address and destination school, if applicable, and
- (e) the ground in regulation 8 under which the child's name is to be removed from the school register. The school will make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of a child jointly with the Local Authority, before deleting the child's name from the school register if the deletion is under regulation 8(1), sub-paragraphs (f) (iii) and (h) (iii) of The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) 2006.

The school will:

- Enter pupils on the admissions register on the first day on which the school has agreed, or has been notified, that the pupil will attend the school.
- Notify the Local Authority within five days of adding a child's name to the admission register. The notification must include all the details contained in the admission register for the new pupil.
- Monitor each child's attendance through their daily register and follow the school procedure in cases of unauthorised absence.
- Remove a child's name from the admissions register on the date that the child leaves the school.
- Alton School will notify the Local Authority when they are about to remove a child's name from the school register under any of the fifteen grounds listed in the regulations, no later than the date that the child's name is due to be removed.

- Alton School will confirm with the child's new school that they have joined the school and inform the Local Authority if they have not started as expected.
- Where parents notify the school, in writing, of their intention to electively home educate, the school will forward a copy of the letter to the Education Inclusion Team. Where parents orally indicate that they intend to withdraw their child to be home educated and no letter has been received, the school will not remove the child from roll and will notify the Education Inclusion Team at the earliest opportunity.

Children who are absent from education

The local safeguarding partners must be informed immediately if absence amounts to a safeguarding concern. The school must also inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 days or more.

School attendance rates are monitored and analysed across the school as a whole on a regular basis, following up on trends or patterns of concern.

Reduced or non-attendance at school may in some cases constitute emotionally-based school avoidance (EBSA). This is where absence is due to complex issues linked with mental health and wellbeing, such as anxiety, depression, low levels of self-confidence, separation anxiety or having a special educational need or disability. EBSA does not just refer to not attending school at all. Staff may also observe pupils not going to some lessons, not staying in class or avoiding some physical spaces or people.

Pupils Missing Out on Education

The vast majority of children engage positively with school and attend regularly. However, in order to flourish, some children require an alternative education offer or may require a modified timetable to support a return to full time education provision. It is recognised that children accessing alternative provision or a reduced or modified timetable may have additional vulnerabilities.

The school will gain consent, either written or verbal, from parents to put in place alternative provision and/or a reduced or modified timetable.

The school will ensure that parents (and the local authority where the pupil has an EHCP) are given clear information about alternative provision placements and reduced or modified timetables: why, when, where, and how they will be reviewed.

The school will keep the placement and timetable under review and involve parents in the review. Reviews will be frequent enough to provide assurance that the off-site education and/or modified timetable is achieving its objectives and that the pupil is benefitting from it.

The school will monitor and track children attending alternative provision to ensure that the provision meets the needs of the child.

The school will comply with regular data returns requested by the Local Authority, regarding all pupils, of statutory school age, attending alternative provision and/or on a reduced or modified timetable.

The school leadership will report to governors of any formal direction of a pupil to alternative provision to improve behaviour.

The school leadership will report to governors information regarding the use and effectiveness of the use of alternative provision and modified timetables.

Further information and support

Guidance on school attendance Working together to improve school attendance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance> including information on how schools should work with local authority children's services where school absence indicates safeguarding concerns.

Information regarding schools' duties regarding children missing education, including information schools must provide to the local authority when removing a child from the school roll at standard and non-standard transition points, can be found in the department's statutory guidance: Children Missing Education <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education> .

further information for colleges providing education for a child of compulsory school age can be found in: Full-time-Enrolment of 14 to 16 year olds in Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/full-time-enrolment-of-14-to-16-year-olds-in-further-education-and-sixth-form-colleges>

General information and advice for schools and colleges can be found in the Government's Missing Children and Adults Strategy. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/missing-children-and-adults-strategy>