

Safeguarding Newsletter

16th September 2019

Children Missing Education

"A compulsory school-age child who is not on the roll of a school, not placed in alternative provision by a local authority, and who is not receiving a suitable education at home"

(DFE Revised Statutory Guidance for local authorities in England to identify children not receiving a suitable education, November 2013)



This definition includes children:

- Who are not on a school roll or being educated otherwise (e.g. privately or in alternative provision)
- Who have been out of any educational provision for a substantial period of time (less than 96% attendance or twenty consecutive school days without provision of reasonable explanation)
- Children who do not apply at the point of transfer

Schools have a safeguarding duty in respect of their pupils and as part of this should investigate any unexplained absences. The statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 provides further guidance for schools and colleges on their safeguarding responsibilities.

A major change from 1 September 2016 to the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006 makes it a requirement that all schools (including academies and independent schools) must now notify the local authority whenever a pupil is added to their roll or removed at a non-standard transition point. This followed concerns by Ofsted that during a number of targeted inspections they had found a significant number of children had left schools without a known destination or without authorities being informed.

Schools are required to enter pupils on the admissions register on the first day on which the school has agreed, or been notified, that the pupil will attend the school. Schools must then monitor pupils' attendance through their daily register and address poor or irregular attendance. A school must not remove a child's name from the register where the start date has been agreed but have failed to attend as school attendance procedures must be followed.

Daily calls to the parents of children not attending without a reason are an important tool in addressing longer term disengagement. Schools should endeavour to deal with the issue of a child missing from education in three ways:

- by preventing poor school attendance and truancy;
- by acting once absence has occurred to establish children's safety and try to get them back to school; and
- by taking action to trace children whose whereabouts are not known.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education>

County Lines - Police Mapping Data (BBC)

The BBC reports that police data shows drug crimes in England and Wales have fallen by more than 50,000 in the past five years. However, the national averages hide a major shift in where drug crimes are being committed.

In London, 30 out of 36 areas saw either a decrease or no significant change in recorded drug crime over the past five years. Moving outside of the capital, in the South East and East of England, there were 74 small towns and villages that bucked the trend and saw increases in drug crime.

Read the article, review the data and see the interactive maps show where the changes have taken place. Is your area included?

Read more here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48343369>

