



Children Missing Education Procedures (CME)
From Dorset Local Authority

The Government has placed a duty on Local Authorities to make arrangements to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of children in their area who are of compulsory school age and not receiving a suitable education. In relation to children, by suitable we mean efficient full time education suitable for her/his age, ability, aptitude and any special education needs the child may have. The duty does not apply in relation to children who are registered at school who are not attending regularly.

These children are referred to as Children Missing Education. Children are identified as missing from education when they are of compulsory school age and are:

- Not on a school roll
- Not being educated other than at school
- Identified as having been out of any educational provision for a substantial period of time

Children go missing from education for a number of reasons including:

- They do not start school at the appropriate time and so they do not enter the education system
- They are removed from school by their parents
- They fail to find a suitable school place after moving to a new area
- The family move home regularly
- Family breakdown
- Children who do not make the transition between key stages, e.g. Nursery to Primary, Primary to Secondary

Children and young people in the following groups are more likely to be missing from education:

- Young people who have previously committed offences
- Children living in women's refuges
- Children of homeless families perhaps in temporary accommodation or housing
- Young people who run away from home
- Children with long-term medical and emotional needs
- Unaccompanied asylum seekers and refugees and child who are from asylum seekers/refugees families
- Children of immigrant families not yet established in the UK
- Looked after children
- Children with Gypsy/Traveller background
- Young carers
- Children from transient families
- Teenage mothers
- Excluded pupils

Children missing from education are at a much greater risk of:

- Physical harm
- Becoming involved in crime
- Demonstrating anti-social behaviour
- Abusing drugs and alcohol
- Sexual exploitation
- Being illegally employed
- Forced marriages



St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School



An effective partnership between schools and a Local Authority is essential if we are to minimise the risk to children, maximising engagement and desired outcomes for learning and to protect professionals working to support children. It is vital that the Local Authority and partner agencies also work closely together to help safeguard children.

In the first instance the school should make every effort to ascertain the whereabouts of the pupil, this might include telephoning home, contacting the GP, friends, other relatives that are known. It is imperative that guidelines are followed in relation to 'children missing education', particularly as some of our most vulnerable families who frequently change addresses are likely to get lost in the system if the appropriate action isn't taken by our schools.

If you have reason to believe that a child has transferred to another school please make every effort to contact that school to ascertain whether or not your information is true or false. If any members of the school staff have any reason to believe that there may be any child protection issues involved then they should contact their local office straight away and if necessary notify the police.

After 4 weeks, should the school and the Local Authority be unable to locate where the child has moved to, the school should be advised by the Local Authority to remove the child's name from it's roll. It is imperative that no children are removed from the school roll unless authorised to do so by the Local Authority.