



Derby City Council

Working Together to improve school attendance



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Overview

- On 6 May 2022, the Department for Education released new non-statutory guidance - “**Working together to improve school attendance**” to help schools, trusts, governing bodies, and local authorities maintain high levels of school attendance and improve consistency of support.
- To do this, the guidance focusses on managing attendance by:
 - **Preventing** patterns of absence from developing by promoting good attendance
 - **Intervening early** by using data to spot patterns of absence before they become persistent and working with families to remove the barriers to attendance
 - **Targeting support for persistent and severe absentees** with all local partners
- Following public consultation, and subject to Parliament, the Secretary of State had committed to this guidance becoming statutory when parliamentary time allows



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What does the new guidance cover?

The guidance is split in 8 main sections:

- 1.The importance of school attendance
- 2.Expectations of schools
- 3.Expectations of academy trust boards and governing bodies of maintained schools**
- 4.Expectations of local authorities**
- 5.Persistent and severe absence
- 6.Attendance legal intervention
- 7.Contents of the admissions register ('the schools roll')
- 8.Contents of the attendance register



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Academy trustees and governing bodies are expected to:

- Regularly review attendance data and help school leaders focus support on the pupils who need it
- Take an active role in attendance improvement, support their school(s) to prioritise attendance, and work together with leaders to set whole school cultures
- Ensure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties
- Ensure school staff receive training on attendance



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What does this mean for Early Help and Social Care teams (Children's Services)?

- School Attendance highlighted within all areas of Children's Services work
- Virtual Head link for oversight of the school attendance of CIN/CP/LAC
- The embedding of TAF, CIN and CP plans needing to be more robust with greater detail
 - > Child's current attendance figure
 - > Reference to persistent absence (below 90%) and severe absence (below 50%)
 - > Reference part-time provision and review period if applicable
- Agenda item within TAF, CIN and CP meetings



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What does this mean for local authorities?

Local authorities are expected to:

- Have a strategic approach to improving attendance for the whole area and make it a key focus of all frontline council services
- This should include an understanding of which people and teams are responsible for each element of attendance delivery and how teams and professionals will work together
- Links and information to be shared for Children Missing Education (CME), Without a School Place (WASP) and all Derby City school links



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Attendance Support Team

- Education Welfare Service (EWS) within Early Help teams
- Previous model – Sold Services and LA maintained
- New guidance – need to cover over 100 schools in the city, including independents
- TSM (Targeting Support Meetings) model and Sold Service element
- Statutory work to continue - CME/Without a School Place/Legal intervention



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Thank you

Any questions?