

Viking Academy Trust



Child Missing from Education Policy

The VIKING ACADEMY TRUST 'Child Missing from Education' Policy has been written following DfE and KCC Admissions guidance.

Approved by the Trust: Term 4 2017

Reviewed annually: Term 1

Last review: Term 1 2023

Signed: Mr N Roby



Chair of Trust

Child Missing from Education Policy

The Viking Academy Trust

Schools in the Viking Academy Trust (VAT)

There are three schools in the Viking Academy Trust.

These are:

Chilton Primary School
Ramsgate Arts Primary School
Upton Junior School

This 'Child Missing from Education Policy' is for the aforementioned schools.

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Statement of intent

All children are entitled to a full-time education, regardless of their circumstances.

The Local Authority (LA) has a legal duty to identify when there are Children Missing from Education (CME) and help them back into education. This policy highlights what we will do to help the LA with its duty.

This policy complies with the following legislation and statutory guidance:

DfE 'Working together to safeguard children' 2015

DfE 'Keeping children safe in education' 2016

DfE 'Children missing education' 2016

The Education Act 1996

The Education Act 2002

The Education and Inspections Act 2006

The Children Act 1989

The Children Act 2004

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended in 2016)

The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 (as amended in 2016)

The Academy Information (England) Regulations 2008 (as amended in 2012)

The Education (Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils) (England) Regulations 2014

Definition

A CME is defined as a child or young person of compulsory age who is not attending school, not placed in alternative provision by an LA, and who is not receiving a suitable education elsewhere. This definition also includes children who are receiving an education, but one that is not suitable; this could include children who are not receiving full-time education suitable to their needs, e.g. age, ability, aptitude, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Why do children become missing in education?

The most common reasons for a child to be missing from education are:

- Failing to be registered at a school when they turn 5 years old
- Failing to make a successful transition after infant or junior school
- Exclusion
- Mid-year transfer of educational provision
- Families moving to new areas

Children who are at a particular risk of missing education

As there could be many reasons for a child to be missing from education, the LA will make a judgement on a case-by-case basis. The following list indicates pupils who are most at risk of missing education:

Pupils at risk of harm or neglect — when this is suspected, local child protection procedures will be followed; however, if a child is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, a referral will be made immediately to children's social care (and the police if appropriate) as per Upton Junior School's safeguarding policy. The LA officers responsible for CME will check that a referral has been made, and will contact children's social care if this is not the case. Should there be a reason to suspect a crime has been committed or the child's safety is at risk, the LA will contact the police.

Children of gypsy, Roma and traveller (GRT) families — when a GRT pupil leaves the school without naming their next destination school, we will contact the LA.

Children of service personnel — We will contact the Ministry of Defence Children's Education Advisory Service for advice to ensure continuity of education for these children.

Missing children/runaways — If we suspect a child has gone missing/run away, an appropriate staff member will consult the DfE for advice on missing children.

Children who cease to attend school— where the reason for a child who has stopped attending the school is not known, the LA will investigate the situation.

Children of migrant families — there is an increased risk of a child missing education if they are part of a new migrant family who may not yet have settled into a fixed address, or may have arrived into an LA area without the authority becoming aware.

Roles and Responsibilities

School

We will enter pupils on the admissions register at the beginning of the first day on which it has been agreed by the school, or the day that the school has been notified, that the pupil will attend.

In the event that a pupil fails to attend the school on the agreed or notified date, we will undertake reasonable enquiries to establish the reason for this absence and will consider notifying the KCC Admissions at the earliest opportunity.

We will keep an accurate and up-to-date admissions register by encouraging parents/carers to inform them of any changes.

We will monitor pupils' attendance through our daily register.

We will agree with KCC Admissions what intervals are best to inform them of pupils who are regularly absent from school, or who have missed 10 days or more without permission.

Where a pupil has not returned to school for 10 days after an authorised absence, or is absent from the school without authorisation for twenty consecutive days, the academy will remove the pupil from the admission register if the academy and the LA have failed to establish the whereabouts of the child after making reasonable enquiries.

We will notify the LA if any pupil is to be deleted from the admission register in the circumstance outlined in Regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended in 2016).

Pupils who remain on our roll are not necessarily missing education, but will be monitored and attendance will be addressed when it is poor.

We will arrange full-time education for excluded pupils from the sixth day of a fixed period exclusion.

We will provide information to the LA regarding standard transitions, if requested to do so by the LA.

The Local Authority (LA)

Under the Education Act 1996, the LA has a duty to establish the identities of children in the area who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving education provision otherwise.

The LA will provide full-time education for permanently excluded pupils from the sixth day of a fixed period exclusion.

When it is brought to the LA's attention that a child may not be receiving a suitable education, the LA will serve notices on parents/carers to assure the LA that their child is receiving such an education.

The LA will issue Academy Attendance Orders to parents/carers who fail to assure the LA that their child is receiving a suitable education, and the LA believes that the child should attend school.

The LA will prosecute or fine parents/carers of registered children who fail to ensure their child attends school regularly.

The LA will ensure that children identified as not receiving suitable education are returned to full-time education.

The LA will ensure that we demonstrate prompt action and effective early intervention procedures to ensure children are safe and receiving suitable education.

The LA will apply to court for an Education Supervision Order for a CME.

The LA will ensure that children who return to full-time education are appropriately supported, taking into account the reasons why they missed education in the first place.

Pupils with special educational needs statements, or EHC plans, are able to be home educated. If the statement/EHC plan sets out the provision that the pupil should receive at home, or names a school where the provision will be received, but the parent/carer chooses to home educate the child, the LA will arrange the provision and ensure that it is suitable to the child's special educational needs. The LA will review this annually.

The LA is responsible for liaising and sharing information with other agencies to support children who miss education.

The LA is responsible for referring to the LA children's social care where there is concern for a child's welfare, as well as the police if there is reason to suspect a crime has been committed.

Parents/carers

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their children, who are of compulsory school age, are receiving suitable full-time education.

Parents/carers are responsible for notifying the school in writing where they will be home-schooling their child, in order for the child to be removed from the admissions register.

Parents/carers will notify the school regarding any absences or changes to the pupil's education arrangements.

Working with others

Families moving from one LA to another can sometimes lead to a child being lost in the system and consequently missing education. When a child moves, LAs will work with other LAs, regionally or nationally, to ensure this does not happen.

The LA will raise awareness of its procedures with local schools, partners and agencies working with children and families.

The Viking Academy Trust uses a secure internet system, (S2S), to allow the academy to transfer pupil information when a child moves education setting.

Safeguarding

For the purpose of this policy, "reasonable enquiries" are defined as limited, investigative powers that we may action to determine a child's whereabouts and whether they may be in danger.

In line with the Children Act 2004, we will follow appropriate procedures when carrying out reasonable enquiries, such as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) / Attendance Officer conducting discussions with neighbours, relatives or landlords, to determine whether a child may be at risk of harm.

The DSL will record that they have completed these procedures and, if necessary, make a referral to the children's social care or police.

Where the whereabouts and safety of a child is unknown, we may carry out the following actions:

- Make contact with the parent/carer, relatives and neighbours using known contact details
- Check local databases
- Follow local information sharing arrangements, and making enquiries via other local databases and agencies where possible
- Check with UK Visas and Immigration and/or the Border Force
- Check with agencies known to be involved with the family
- Check with the LA and school from which the pupil moved originally
- Check with the LA where the pupil lives, if this is different to where our school is located
- Check with the Ministry of Defence Children's Education Advisory Service in the case of children of Service Personnel
- Conduct home visits via an appropriate team, following local guidance concerning risk assessments, and making enquiries with neighbours or relatives, if appropriate

NB. This list is not exhaustive — the school and LA will use their judgement towards what reasonable enquiries are appropriate, once all the facts of the case have been taken into account.

Admissions register

We will ensure that the admissions register is kept up-to-date at all times, and will encourage parents/carers to notify the school of any changes as they occur.

Pupils will be recorded on the admissions register at the beginning of the first day on which it has been agreed by the school, or the day that the school has been notified, as the date that the pupil will attend the school.

Once a pupil has been recorded on the admissions register, we will notify the LA within five days, and will supply the LA with all of the details contained on the admissions register for the new pupil.

Where a parent/carer notifies us that a pupil will live at another address, we will record the following information on the admissions register:

- The full name of the parent/carer with whom the pupil will live
- The new address
- The date from when it is expected the pupil will live at this address

Where a parent/carer notifies us that the pupil is registered at another school, or will be attending a different school in future, we will record the following information on the admissions register:

- The name of the new school
- The date when the pupil first attended, or is due to attend, that school

Parents/carers are able to elect to educate their children at home, and will subsequently withdraw them from school. If a parent/carer notifies us of this, then the pupil will be deleted from our admission register and the LA will be informed.

Removing a pupil from the admissions register

We will inform the LA of any pupil who will be deleted from the admission register where they:

Have been taken out of school by their parents/carers and are being educated outside the academy system, e.g. home-schooled

Have ceased to attend school

Have been certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and neither he/she nor his/her parent/carer has indicated the intention to continue to attend the school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.

Have been permanently excluded.

Have been registered at another school where it is not indicated this should be the case.

Are registered at more than one school, but have failed to attend the academy and the proprietor of any other schools concerned have consented to the deletion.

Have been granted authorised leave but have failed to attend school within 10 days after the period of authorised absence ended.

The LA and academy are unable to determine the pupil's whereabouts after making joint reasonable enquiries.

Have been continuously absent from school for a period of not less than 20 days.