

- **Positive Reinforcement:** Celebrate good attendance through incentives, recognition, and positive reinforcement. Highlight success stories within your community to motivate others.
- **Address Barriers:** Identify and address specific barriers to attendance, whether they are related to health, transportation, or family challenges. Tailored interventions can make a significant difference.

What do we need to do?

- Both addressing and ultimately removing the wider barriers to attendance requires a strategic approach across local authority services. As such, all local authorities are expected to have a clear strategic approach to their efforts on school attendance that:
- Recognise the importance of good attendance across the council's areas of responsibility, including how attendance improvement is everyone's business.
- This means that attendance is understood by all frontline operational staff in attendance and associated teams (as a minimum this should include social workers, early help keyworkers, and youth justice teams) as well as local partners (both statutory and voluntary including police and integrated care boards). This should include an understanding of which people and teams are responsible
- Recognise that absence is a symptom and that improving attendance is part of wider pupil welfare and therefore needs to be a key feature of all frontline council services

that work with children and families, but especially services that focus on education or safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children including, early help, statutory social care, and the Virtual School. For each element of attendance delivery and how teams and professionals will work together.

Conclusion

School attendance is indeed everyone's business. By working together, professionals across sectors can ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. Your role, whether in education, healthcare, social services, or the community, is vital in making regular school attendance a reality for all students.

Let's commit to making school attendance a priority, so that every child can thrive and reach their full potential.



www.herefordshire.gov.uk/schools-education/school-attendance-absences

School attendance (professionals)



Introduction

Ensuring regular school attendance is not just the responsibility of teachers or parents-it's a collective effort that involves educators, healthcare providers, social workers, community leaders, and all those who work with children and families.

This leaflet outlines how each professional can play a crucial role in supporting school attendance and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Why School Attendance Matters

- **Academic Success:** Regular attendance is essential for academic achievement. Students who attend school consistently are more likely to perform well, graduate on time, and pursue higher education or employment opportunities.
- **Social and Emotional Development:** School is where children develop social skills, build relationships, and learn to navigate social challenges. Regular attendance fosters a sense of belonging and community.
- **Long-Term Impact:** Poor attendance can lead to significant gaps in learning, lower academic performance, and reduced life opportunities. Chronic absenteeism is linked to higher dropout rates and decreased chances of success in adulthood.

Your Role in Promoting Attendance Educators

- **Early Identification:** Monitor attendance patterns and identify students who may be at risk of chronic absenteeism. Early intervention is key to addressing potential issues before they become entrenched.
- **Engagement:** Create a welcoming and supportive classroom environment where students feel valued and motivated to attend regularly.
- **Communication:** Maintain open lines of communication with parents and guardians, emphasising the importance of attendance and offering support when issues arise.



Healthcare Providers

- **Health Screenings:** Recognise that health issues, both physical and mental, can impact attendance. Provide timely care and referrals to ensure that health challenges do not become barriers to education.
- **Parental Guidance:** Educate parents on the importance of regular attendance and how to manage common childhood illnesses in a way that minimises school absences.

Social Workers and Family Support Services

- **Family Support:** Work with families to address underlying issues that may contribute to absenteeism, such as housing instability, transportation difficulties, or family conflict.
- **Advocacy:** Advocate for policies and programs that support families in overcoming barriers to regular school attendance.
- **Home Visits:** Conduct home visits to understand the challenges families face and provide them with resources and support to ensure their children attend school regularly.

Collaborative Strategies for Success

- **Early Intervention:** Identify and address attendance issues as soon as they arise. Regularly review attendance data to spot patterns and intervene early.
- **Multi-Agency Collaboration:** Work together with other professionals and organisations to provide a comprehensive support system for students and families. Sharing information and resources can lead to more effective interventions.
- **Parent and Guardian Engagement:** Engage parents and guardians as partners in promoting attendance. Provide them with the tools, information, and support they need to ensure their children attend school regularly.