

Welfare and Attendance Services

Attendance Audit

This is a one off, deep-dive piece of work which identifies patterns and trends in attendance based on data and background information. This consultation will identify any coding errors, areas for development, any potential safeguarding risks associated with poor attendance.

From the consultation you will be provided with a document which highlights key areas for improving, comparisons to previous years and to other schools in Torbay (this can be tailored to compare to other schools within a specific Academy Trust also) and can be used as evidence for Governors and Ofsted.

This piece of work can take several hours and is undertaken for a one off fee.

Attendance advice and guidance

We can provide advice on any attendance problems that occur throughout the year, for example, specific coding enquiries, school refusers, holidays in term time, welfare issues etc.

Our experienced Welfare and Attendance Officer can advise on Government policy, the law and best practice, as and when problems occur.

Monitor and analyse attendance

We can develop an action plan that is created through identifying areas of concern and targeting specific groups, for example children with SEN or pupil premium. The action plan will also focus on specific areas of coding that may be higher than average such as authorised holidays or illness and identify a way of working together to improve those figures.

As well as an action plan, regular monitoring of overall and individual attendance is important to gain an understanding of the issues affecting your school and to reduce persistent absence. This will also help to identify those children who are risk of becoming Child Missing Education and can support the Local Authority to ensure these children are in school as soon as possible to avoid children being without a school place and accruing unnecessary unauthorised absences.

Case work

In order to improve attendance, individual pupils whose attendance is at an unacceptable level should be tracked, issues identified and a plan for improving their attendance put in place. This can be done via home visits to the families, work with individual students in school, parenting contracts and monitored through phone calls, texts and emails and signposting to other relevant services.

Each family is different so we aim to work in a flexible and creative way so that we can be effective.

Legal action

If you are considering applying to the Court for an Education Supervision Order because a pupils attendance is not improving and you have been unable to maintain any changes through the support offered within school; the Local Authority will expect you to appoint a Supervising Officer. The Supervising Officer will make directions and work with the family in order to ensure that changes are made.

SWFV can provide an experienced Supervising Officer, attend Court and work with the family. This is a specific piece of a work consisting of around 2 hours a week.

First day contact/door knocks

If a child is not in school and you have not been able to make contact with the family to establish a reason for this, Children's Services advice is that someone should go to the home to ensure the child is safe and well. This can be a time consuming activity for a school based member of staff. We provide a service where you can call us on the day of the absence and someone will go and knock on the door in order to establish the whereabouts of the child. Not only will this mean that you can rest assured the child is safe but this will enable you to enter an accurate absence code.