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Contacts & Resources

If you require further clarification or have any queries in relation to CME please do not hesitate to contact Bury Council's Community Learning Officer for Children Missing Education on cme@bury.gov.uk or 0161-253 7670

[Children Missing From Education - Bury Council](#)

[Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

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What to do

In Bury, we have a CME policy, protocols and systems in place to meet our legal duty. We have established arrangements for joint working and appropriate information sharing with other local authorities and relevant partner agencies who have contact with children and families, including multi-agency decision making panels. This proactive approach will help us to limit the opportunity of children and young people becoming missing or 'lost' to the education system. If you feel that a child/ren are at risk of significant harm, then contact [Bury MASH](#).

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Working Together

[Working Together to Improve School Attendance 2024](#), is statutory guidance aimed at attendance being everyone's business, and not just an education matter. [The Children Act 2004](#) places a duty on all agencies to work together to promote the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people and to share information. This principle underpins the policy and there is an expectation that all agencies will work together to ensure that children do not 'slip through the net' and become missing from education.

Bury Safeguarding Partnership

7 Minute Briefing: Children Missing From Education (CME)



[Bury Safeguarding Partnership](#)

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Everyone's Responsibility

Children who are CME are amongst the most vulnerable children in the UK. CME data nationally shows that children missing education is rising dramatically, with an alarmingly high number of children not in any education. It is vital that practitioners work together to identify and re-engage these children back into education as quickly as possible.

Bury has seen a 73% increase in CME cases in one year.

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Background

Children Missing Education (CME) are children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll, who are not being educated otherwise (Elective Home Education) and who have been out of educational provision for a substantial period of time, usually four weeks or more.

CME is NOT children who are missing or absent from home or care, nor is it those children who are registered at a school but are not attending regularly. [Stat guidance template \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

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Our Legal Responsibilities

Local authorities have a duty under section 436A of the [Education Act 1996](#) to make arrangements to establish the identities of children in their area who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise. It is expected that schools and local authorities will undertake "reasonable" enquiries to establish the whereabouts of a child.

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 places a responsibility on parents to provide efficient full-time education suitable to her/his age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs the child may have.

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Why it matters

Children and young people who are missing from education are at a much greater risk of abuse and exploitation, including gang affiliation, sexual exploitation, and radicalisation. There is a higher proportion of children recorded as missing education when there is a link to poverty, deprivation or involvement with social services. Those children who needed extra support to engage with education are more likely to leave a school roll than their peers. [Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)