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Resources & Services

[Bury Neglect Strategy](#)

[Bury Neglect Practice Guidance and Toolkit](#)

[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)

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What to do

Consider the significance of educational neglect if you become aware of persistent and/or severe absence from school. Demonstrate Professional Curiosity if children not in school including those who are not on roll or those who are electively home educated (EHE) and ensure that you inform the local authority for CME and EHE pupils:

CME@bury.gov.uk or EHE@bury.gov.uk

All agencies should challenge parents and carers as to why their child/ren are not attending school. If you feel that a child/ren are at risk of significant harm, then contact [Bury MASH](#).

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Working Together

As per the statutory guidance Working Together to Improve School Attendance 2024, educational neglect is everyone's responsibility and not just a 'school problem'. The key statutory partners work together to address Educational Neglect. Community Education, Education Safeguarding and the School Attendance and Exclusions Team work together to raise the profile of educational neglect across multi-agency partners.

Bury Safeguarding Partnership

7 Minute Briefing: Educational Neglect



[Bury Safeguarding Partnership](#)

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Information

Child neglect can come in many forms and is one of the main reasons for a child being on a child protection plan in the borough. The effect of neglect on children and young people can be devastating. Part of child neglect includes educational neglect: being absent from school regularly for long periods of time, failing to be provided with education out of the school environment such as EHE/home schooling, not having a child on roll at a school – Children Missing from Education (CME) and lack of engagement with agencies means that children are falling behind the age-related expectations.

1

Background

The Department for Education (DfE) has stated, 'persistent failure to send children to school is a clear sign of neglect', and the NSPCC has cited, 'failure to ensure regular school attendance which prevents the child reaching their full potential academically' as one of their six forms of neglect. The guidance from the DfE '**Working Together to Improve School Attendance' (2024)** is now a statutory guidance and provides a neglect description 'The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of their health and/or development'.

2

Why it matters

Educational neglect, persistent and severe absence are recurring themes in Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs). In contrast, regular school attendance is a protective factor for the most vulnerable children and young people, providing opportunities for support whilst giving them the best possible start in life. In accepting that 'School attendance is everyone's business' (Education White Paper), the Local Authority intention is not to increase social care referrals, but to agree a pathway that creates a shared responsibility for responding to 'educational neglect'.

3

Information

Educational neglect refers to a parent/carers failure to ensure that their child's educational needs are being met. Children have a legal right to an education and so failing to send the child to school regularly is an example of educational neglect. It isn't illegal to take a child out of school if the parents/carers are providing an alternative educational provision, such as home schooling (Electively Home Education - EHE).