



Children Missing Education Policy

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Linton School

Children Missing Education Policy

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Our School

Linton School is an independent special school for young people with social, emotional and mental health difficulties for both boys and girls aged 8-18 years old. The school is registered for up to 12 learners and consists of 4 small classes to provide a nurturing environment to develop and progress throughout their learning journey. We are a trauma informed school that is able to support children and teenagers who suffer with trauma or mental health problems and whose troubled behaviour acts as a barrier to learning. Located in rural Preston we therefore benefit from some amazing outdoor space where we develop our outdoor, equestrian and horticulture skills. All the staff at Linton School are committed to creating a setting which not only focuses on academic success, but also provides our learners opportunities to develop their social, communication and independent skills.

Culture and Ethos

We are committed to providing a nurturing, safe and ambitious learning environment that supports every young person to achieve lifelong skills through a diverse learner centered curriculum. Respectful and supportive relationships are at the heart of all we do; we value every member of the school community equally. Through bespoke curriculums tailored towards each individual pupil's needs, experiences, interests and strengths we foster a love for learning and support our young people to achieve their full potential. As an educational setting our main aim is to prepare our pupils to make a positive contribution towards society by giving our students the skills they need to be successful, resilient and inspirational young adults. Linton schools purpose is to improve the quality of life for our young people both now, and in the future, 'building our futures together'.

The Vision

Linton School provides a safe, nurturing learning environment to provide skills for lifelong opportunities, which gives the young people an ambitious outlook towards their future.

The vision drives everything we do and will be achieved through:

- Outdoor enrichment activities to promote life skills through play, nurture and teamwork.
- Promoting independence, patience and listening skills through Equestrian lessons.
- Multi-disciplinary links from both internal and external companies to provide a bespoke, broad and balanced curriculum that develops the education of our pupils.
- Empowering each learner to achieve their personal goals and develop a lifelong love of learning.
- A positive and ambitious school environment that promotes learning for all.
- Offering a broad range of learning experiences within the curriculum that values academic attainment as well as developing social skills, experiences and resilience.

More information about the school can be found in the school Prospectus.

1. Introduction

This policy sets out key principles to enable Linton School in partnership with Local Authorities (LA's) to implement their legal duty under section 436A of the Education Act 1996 to make arrangements to identify, as far as it is possible to do so, Children Missing Education (CME).

2. Overview

All schools (including academies and independent schools) must notify their Local Authority when they are about to remove a pupil's name from the school admission register under any of the fifteen grounds listed in the regulations¹ (Annex A). This duty does not apply when a pupil's name is removed from the admission register at standard transition points – when the pupil has completed the final year of education normally provided by that school – unless the Local Authority requests that such returns are to be made.

When removing a pupil's name, the notification to the Local Authority must include: (a) the full name of the pupil, (b) the full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil normally resides, (c) at least one telephone number of the parent, (d) the pupil's future address and destination school, if applicable, and (e) the ground in regulation 8 under which the pupil's name is to be removed from the admission register (see Annex A).

Linton School must make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child jointly with the Local Authority, before deleting the pupil's name from the register if the deletion is under regulation 8(1), sub-paragraphs (f)(iii) and (h)(iii) (see Annex A).

All schools must also notify the Local Authority within five days of adding a pupil's name to the admission register at a non-standard transition point. The notification must include all the details contained in the admission register for the new pupil. This duty does not apply when a pupil's name is entered in the admission register at a standard transition point – at the start of the first year of education normally provided by that school – unless the Local Authority requests that such returns are to be made.

When adding a pupil's name, the notification to the Local Authority must include all the details contained in the admission register for the new pupil.

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to an efficient, full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any Special Educational Needs (SEN) they may have.

Children Missing Education are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. Children Missing Education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) later in life.

Effective information sharing between parents, schools and Local Authorities is critical to ensuring that all children of compulsory school age are safe and receiving suitable education. Local Authorities should focus their resources effectively in intervening early in the lives of vulnerable children to help prevent poor outcomes.

A child going missing from education, particularly repeatedly, can be a warning sign of a range of safeguarding issues. This might include abuse or neglect, such as sexual abuse or exploitation or

child criminal exploitation, or issues such as mental health problems, substance abuse, radicalisation, FGM or forced marriage.

There are many circumstances where a child may become missing from education, but some children are particularly at risk. These include children who:

- Are at risk of harm or neglect
- Are at risk of forced marriage or FGM
- Come from Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller families
- Come from the families of service personnel
- Go missing or run away from home or care
- Are supervised by the youth justice system
- Cease to attend a school
- Come from new migrant families

We will follow our procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of going missing in future. This includes informing the Local Authority if a child leaves the school without a new school being named, and adhering to requirements with respect to sharing information with the Local Authority, when applicable, when removing a child's name from the admission register at non-standard transition points.

Staff will be trained in signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns which may be related to being missing, such as travelling to conflict zones, FGM and forced marriage.

If a staff member suspects that a child is suffering from harm or neglect, we will follow local child protection procedures, including with respect to making reasonable enquiries. We will make an immediate referral to the Local Authority children's social care team, and the police, if the child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or in immediate danger.

3. Roles and responsibilities

Local Authority

- 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. This duty only relates to children of compulsory school age.
- The Local Authority should consult the parents of the child when establishing whether the child is receiving suitable education. Those children identified as not receiving suitable education should be returned to full time education either at a school or in alternative provision. Prompt action and early intervention are crucial to discharging this duty effectively and in ensuring that children are safe and receiving suitable education.
- Local Authorities should have robust policies and procedures in place to enable them to meet their duty in relation to these children, including ensuring that there are effective tracking and enquiry systems in place, and appointing a named person to whom schools and other agencies can make referrals about children who are missing education.
- Some children who are missing from education can be identified and supported back into education quickly; other children who have experienced more complex problems face tougher obstacles to getting back into suitable education. When developing policies and

procedures for children not receiving a suitable education, Local Authorities should consider the reasons why children go missing from education and the circumstances that can lead to this happening.

- Arrangements made under section 436A also play an important role in fulfilling the Local Authority's wider safeguarding duties. This duty should therefore be viewed alongside these wider duties and local initiatives that aim to promote the safeguarding of children.
- Local Authorities should have in place arrangements for joint working and information sharing with other Local Authorities and agencies. Individual Local Authorities can determine the specific detailed arrangements that work best in their area that not only meet this statutory duty but also enable them to contribute to a range of work aimed at improving outcomes for children. The [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) provides advice on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Local Authorities should undertake regular reviews and evaluate their policies and procedures to ensure that these continue to be fit for purpose in identifying children missing education in their area.
- Where there is concern for a child's welfare, this should be referred to Local Authority children's social care. If there is reason to suspect a crime has been committed, the police should also be involved. Where there is a concern that a child's safety or well-being is at risk, it is essential to take action without delay.
- Local Authorities have other duties and powers to support their work on CME. These include:
 - a. Arranging suitable full-time education for permanently excluded pupils from the sixth school day of exclusion
 - b. Safeguarding children's welfare, and their duty to cooperate with other agencies in improving children's well-being, including protection from harm and neglect
 - c. Serving notice on parents requiring them to satisfy the Local Authority that the child is receiving suitable education, when it comes to the Local Authority's attention that a child might not be receiving such education
 - d. Issuing School Attendance Orders (SAOs) to parents who fail to satisfy the Local Authority that their child is receiving suitable education, if the Local Authority deems it is appropriate that the child should attend school
 - e. Prosecuting parents who do not comply with an SAO
 - f. Prosecuting or issuing penalty notices to parents who fail to ensure their school-registered child attends school regularly
 - g. Applying to court for an Education Supervision Order for a child to support them to go to school

Parents/Carers

- Parents have a duty to ensure that their children of compulsory school age are receiving suitable full-time education. Some parents may elect to educate their children at home and may withdraw them from school at any time to do so, unless they are subject to a School Attendance Order.
- Where a parent notifies the school in writing that they are home educating, the school must delete the child's name from the admission register and inform the Local Authority. However, where parents orally indicate that they intend to withdraw their child to be home educated, the school should consider notifying the local authority at the earliest opportunity.
- Children with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans or statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) can be home educated. Where the EHC plan or statement sets out SEN provision that the child should receive at home, the Local Authority is under a duty to arrange that provision. Where the EHC plan or statement names a school or type of school

as the place where the child should receive his or her education but the parent chooses to home educate their child, the Local Authority must assure itself that the provision being made by the parent is suitable. In such cases, the Local Authority must review the plan or statement annually to assure itself that the provision set out in it continues to be appropriate and that the child's SEN continue to be met.

School

- Linton School must enter pupils on the admission register at the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed, or been notified, that the pupil will attend the school. If a pupil fails to attend on the agreed or notified date, the school should undertake reasonable enquiries to establish the child's whereabouts and consider notifying the local authority at the earliest opportunity.
- Linton School will monitor pupils' attendance through their daily register. Linton School will agree with their Local Authority the intervals at which they will inform Local Authorities of the details of pupils who fail to attend regularly, or have missed ten school days or more without permission. Linton School will monitor attendance closely and address poor or irregular attendance. It is important that pupils' poor attendance is referred to the Local Authority.
- Where a pupil has not returned to school for ten days after an authorised absence or is absent from school without authorisation for twenty consecutive school days, the pupil can be removed from the admission register when the school and the Local Authority have failed, after jointly making reasonable enquiries, to establish the whereabouts of the child. This only applies if the school does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil is unable to attend because of sickness or unavoidable cause.
- Schools must also arrange full-time education for excluded pupils from the sixth school day of a fixed period exclusion. Additional information can be found at: [School suspensions and permanent exclusions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- Linton School has a safeguarding duty in respect of their pupils, and as part of this should investigate any unexplained absences. Further information about schools' safeguarding responsibilities can be found in the [Common transfer file \(CTF\) and co-ordinated admissions data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) statutory guidance.

4. Admission register

Linton School's admission register is accurate and kept up to date. We will regularly encourage parents to inform them of any changes whenever they occur, through using existing communication channels such as regular emails and newsletters. This will assist both the school and Local Authority when making enquiries to locate children missing education.

Where a parent notifies a school that a pupil will live at another address, Linton School is required to record this change in the admission register:

- a. the full name of the parent with whom the pupil will live;
- b. the new address; and
- c. the date from when it is expected the pupil will live at this address.

Where a parent or Local Authority representative of a pupil notifies Linton School that the pupil is registered at another school or will be attending a different school in future, we will must record in the admission register:

- a. the name of the new school; and
- b. the date when the pupil first attended or is due to start attending that school.

5. Sharing information with the Local Authority

Linton School will notify the Local Authority when a pupil's name is to be removed from the admission register at a non-standard transition point under any of the fifteen grounds set out in the regulations, as soon as the ground for removal is met and no later than the time at which the pupil's name is removed from the register. This duty does not apply at standard transition points – where the pupil has completed the school's final year – unless the Local Authority requests for such information to be provided.

Where Linton School notifies a Local Authority that a pupil's name is to be removed from the admission register, the school must provide the local authority with:

- a. the full name of the pupil;
- b. the full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil lives;
- c. at least one telephone number of the parent with whom the pupil lives;
- d. the full name and address of the parent who the pupil is going to live with, and the date the pupil is expected to start living there, if applicable;
- e. the name of pupil's destination school and the pupil's expected start date there, if applicable; and
- f. the ground in regulation 8 under which the pupil's name is to be removed from the admission register (see Annex A).

Linton School is required to notify the Local Authority within five days when a pupil's name is added to the admission register at a non-standard transition point. Linton School will provide the Local Authority with all the information held within the admission register about the pupil. This duty does not apply when a pupil's name is entered in the admission register at a standard transition point – at the start of the first year of education normally provided by that school – unless the Local Authority requests for such information to be provided.

6. Making reasonable enquires

The term 'reasonable enquiries' grants schools and Local Authority a degree of flexibility in decision-making, particularly as the steps that need to be taken in a given case will vary. The term 'reasonable' also makes clear that there is a limit to what the school and Local Authority is expected to do.

If there is evidence to suggest the child has moved to a different Local Authority area, contact should be made with the named person in the new authority using secure communication methods. The Local Authority should maintain a record of the child's details until they are located or attain school leaving age.

7. Procedure for when a child is missing education

When the whereabouts of a child is unclear or unknown, Linton School will complete the following actions:

- a. make contact with the parent, relatives and neighbours using known contact details;
- b. check with the Local Authority and school from which child moved originally, if known;
- c. make contact with social worker and other external agencies to try and find the whereabouts of the child/family;
- d. check with any Local Authority and school to which a child may have moved;

- e. follow local information sharing arrangements and where possible make enquiries via other local databases and agencies e.g. those of housing providers, school admissions, health services, police, refuge, Youth Justice Services, children's social care, and HMRC. For more details please follow [5.28 Missing Children and Families \(proceduresonline.com\)](#). The latter provides up to date information provided by the Local Authority relating to pupils who fall under Lancashire and Blackpool Local Authorities.
- f. check with the Local Authority where the child lives, if different from where the school is;
- g. home visit(s) made by appropriate team, following local guidance concerning risk assessment and if appropriate make enquiries with neighbour(s) and relatives.

When the above steps have been exhausted Linton School will complete the following steps:

For Lancashire Children - Lancashire County Council's Children Missing Education Officers by completing the online form [Children missing education - Lancashire County Council](#)

For Blackpool Council Children – Contact Clare Riley-Berry (Senior Team Manager) clare.riley-berry@blackpool.gov.uk, 01253 476854 or 07586 978977

This list is not exhaustive or prescriptive, and so Linton School will treat each case on its individual merits and use their judgement, ensuring they have taken into account all of the facts of the case. It should be recognised that the type of reasonable enquiries required to try to locate a child will differ from case to case and additional enquiries to those suggested in this section may be necessary.

Making these enquiries may not always lead to establishing the location of the child, but will provide a steer on what action should be taken next, for example, to contact the police, children's social care and, in cases where there may be concerns for the safety of a child who has travelled abroad, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

8. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Head Teacher and Regional Lead.

It will be due for review in **October 2023**.

9. Links to other policies

Certain points discussed in this policy may be investigated in greater detail through referring to other policies and documents listed below:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Additional Learning Needs policy
- Behaviour and Positive Handling Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Admission Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Post-16 Educational Provision Policy

Annex A: Grounds for deleting a pupil from the school admission register

Grounds for deleting a pupil of compulsory school age from the school admission register set out in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, as amended.	
1	8(1)(a) - where the pupil is registered at the school in accordance with the requirements of a school attendance order, that another school is substituted by the local authority for that named in the order or the order is revoked by the local authority on the ground that arrangements have been made for the child to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude otherwise than at school.
2	8(1)(b) - except where it has been agreed by the proprietor that the pupil should be registered at more than one school, in a case not falling within sub-paragraph (a) or regulation 9, that he has been registered as a pupil at another school.
3	8(1)(c) - where a pupil is registered at more than one school, and in a case not falling within sub-paragraph (j) or (m) or regulation 9, that he has ceased to attend the school and the proprietor of any other school at which he is registered has given consent to the deletion.
4	8(1)(d) - in a case not falling within sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, that he has ceased to attend the school and the proprietor has received written notification from the parent that the pupil is receiving education otherwise than at school.
5	8(1)(e) - except in the case of a boarder, that he has ceased to attend the school and no longer ordinarily resides at a place which is a reasonable distance from the school at which he is registered.
6	8(1)(f) - in the case of a pupil granted leave of absence in accordance with regulation 7(1A), that — (i) the pupil has failed to attend the school within the ten school days immediately following the expiry of the period for which such leave was granted; (ii) the proprietor does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil is unable to attend the school by reason of sickness or any unavoidable cause; and (iii) the proprietor and the local authority have failed, after jointly making reasonable enquiries, to ascertain where the pupil is.
7	8(1)(g) - that he is 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 nor his parent has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
8	8(1)(h) - that he has been continuously absent from the school for a period of not less than twenty school days and — (i) at no time was his absence during that period authorised by the proprietor in accordance with regulation 6(2); (ii) the proprietor does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil is unable to attend the school by reason of sickness or any unavoidable cause; and (iii) the proprietor of the school and the local authority have failed, after jointly making reasonable enquiries, to ascertain where the pupil is.
9	8(1)(i) - that he is detained in pursuance of a final order made by a court or of an order of recall made by a court or the Secretary of State, that order being for a period of not less than four months, and the proprietor does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil will return to the school at the end of that period.
10	8(1)(j) - that the pupil has died.

11	8(1)(k) - that the pupil will cease to be of compulsory school age before the school next meets and— (i) the relevant person has indicated that the pupil will cease to attend the school; or (ii) the pupil does not meet the academic entry requirements for admission to the school's sixth form.
12	8(1)(l) - in the case of a pupil at a school other than a maintained school, an Academy, a city technology college or a city college for the technology of the arts, that he has ceased to be a pupil of the school.
13	8(1)(m) - that he has been permanently excluded from the school.
14	8(1)(n) - where the pupil has been admitted to the school to receive nursery education, that he has not on completing such education transferred to a reception, or higher, class at the school.
15	8(1)(o) where— (i) the pupil is a boarder at a maintained school or an Academy; (ii) charges for board and lodging are payable by the parent of the pupil; and (iii) those charges remain unpaid by the pupil's parent at the end of the school term to which they relate.