

How can an Education Welfare Officer help?

- ◆ Advise you on your rights and responsibilities regarding school attendance
- ◆ Visit you and your child in your home to discuss any difficulties
- ◆ Liaise with school staff on your behalf
- ◆ Meet with your child in school if necessary
- ◆ Accompany you to meetings in school
- ◆ Suggest other agencies who may be able to help
- ◆ Provide information about school transfers
- ◆ Refer you to the exclusions officer if your child has been excluded
- ◆ Help with work permits and advice if your child would like a part time job
- ◆ Provide further information on the consequences of school non attendance

You can contact the
Education Welfare Officer
for your child's school on:-

West Team (Blaydon Office)
0191 4336262

East Team (Dryden Centre)
0191 4338500



**Education
Welfare Service**

**School
Attendance
Matters**

Why is regular school attendance important for my child?

Regular attendance means your child can make the most of their education, improving their chances in adult life.

School can also help your child's social skills, such as making and keeping friendships.

A regular and punctual attendance pattern will help your child when they enter the world of work.

How can I help my child attend school regularly?

- ◆ Talk to your child about school
- ◆ Take a positive interest in your child's work including homework
- ◆ Make use of the school planner
- ◆ Keep in touch with school staff
- ◆ Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason
- ◆ Attend parent's evenings and other school events

What should I do if I'm worried about my child's school attendance?

The first thing you must do is contact the school to discuss your concerns. If school staff are unable to resolve the problem they may suggest you speak to an Education Welfare Officer.

Each school has an allocated Education Welfare Officer who can help with difficulties, offer support and give independent advice to you and your child.

The Education Welfare Officer's help is free and confidential.

What are my responsibilities regarding my child's school attendance?

As a parent/carer it is your responsibility to ensure that any child of compulsory school age attends school both regularly and punctually.

The Local Education Authority has a duty to make sure that all parents/carers fulfill this responsibility.

What will happen if my child does not attend school regularly?

- ◆ The school should contact you if they are concerned about your child's attendance
- ◆ A referral will be made to an Education Welfare Officer if the attendance doesn't improve or there are complex difficulties

What if my child's school attendance does not improve?

If you continue to fail in your responsibility you may

- ◆ Be included in the Fast Track System which means you will be given 12 weeks to improve your child's attendance
- ◆ Receive a Fixed Penalty Notice (£50) for truancy, excessive holidays in term time or poor punctuality/attendance
- ◆ Be prosecuted in Magistrates Court and receive a Parenting Order or a fine of up to £2500 for each parent/carer

How will regular school attendance help my child?

School gives your child a wide range of opportunities and experiences in the form of academic lessons, educational trips and school clubs allowing them to develop their interests and achieve their full potential.

Regular school attendance means that your child can make the most of all of these opportunities and experiences.