



No: 033
12 June 2013

One Minute Guide: Education Welfare Service (EWS)

What is it?

The Education Welfare Service (EWS), based at CRC Ray Lodge, has statutory responsibilities in terms of school attendance. The government expects that schools and Local Authorities should:

- Promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence;
- ensure every pupil has access to full time education to which they are entitled; and
- act early to address patterns of absence.

In addition to this, the Government has placed a duty on Local Authorities under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to make arrangements to identify children in their area who are of compulsory school age and not receiving a suitable education. The EWS has a Children Missing from Education Officer to monitor and track young people that have been removed from the school roll or moved out of borough. There are 12 Education Welfare Officers and 3 Senior Education Welfare Officers, each of which each carry a school caseload, this is normally a secondary and a number of feeder primaries.

The Service also has a Child Employment and Licencing Officer to ensure that all employers register details of statutory school age young people with the Local Authority that participate in employment in order that health and safety and the welfare of the young person is monitored. Contact details from 24 June 2013 will be on Redbridge I. In addition to this, the Child Employment and Licencing Officer provides child entertainment licences that allow young people up to 16 years of age to take part in the entertainment industry. This ensures they are in a safe environment where all necessary checks are validated by the officer including chaperone checks, times of productions, payment being received and time out of school.

What does the Service do to support the Local Authority in meeting its statutory obligations?

(a) Prosecutions by Local Authorities

If a child of compulsory school age fails to attend regularly at a school where they are registered or at a place where alternative provision is provided for them, the parents may be guilty of an offence and can be prosecuted by the Local Authority. Only Local Authorities can prosecute parents and government are clear that if education is provided by the Local Authority and there is not justifiable cause for the young person's non-attendance the authority is charged with the task of taking enforcement action.

(b) School Attendance Orders

If it appears to the Local Authority that a child of compulsory school age is not receiving a suitable education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise, then they must begin procedures to issue a School Attendance Order. The Order will require the child's parents to register their child at a named school. If they fail to comply with the order the parents can be prosecuted.

(c) Redbridge Attendance Strategy

Redbridge Council has an attendance strategy [Attendance Strategy for schools \(pdf 3 MB\)](#) intended as a guidance document for schools and education establishments to adopt in full or in part. This document is aimed at providing advice in accordance with government recommendations as to when leave of absence should not be authorised.

New guidance from September 2013 (DfE article 15.04.13) states that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time for holidays etc. unless there are exceptional circumstances to be considered. In line with this, Head Teachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

(d) Learning and Development

The Service also includes a full time Safeguarding Trainer. This role involves being the link person with schools (maintained and independent) regarding cascading of Level 1 and 2 training to education establishments and also provision of multi-agency training [Redbridge Local Safeguarding Children's Board \(LSCB\)](#).

In addition to this the Education Welfare Service has two accredited trainers for the delivery of positive handling training (Team-Teach) –to train school staff on de-escalation, diffusion and diversion strategies on managing young people with challenging behaviour in an education setting.

What legislation does Education Welfare Service Advice refer to?

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education Act 2002
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- The Education Act 2005
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006
- The Education (Parenting Contracts and Parenting Orders) (England) regulations 2007
- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) regulations 2007
- The Education and Schools Act 2008

How can I find out more?

More information on the Service can be found on [Redbridge i](#) or by contacting Lynn Jago, Education Welfare Service Manager, via lynn.jago@redbridge.gov.uk.