



# Do you know a child who is missing from education?

Published March 2018

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## Children Missing from Education (CME)

A statutory requirement that all local authorities identify children missing from education.

In Sunderland we are concerned about any child or young person who is missing out on their educational entitlement, as it may not only be their attainment at risk, but also their safety and welfare. That's why we need your support.

By sharing information with us about the children and young people who you think or know are missing from education, we can make sure they are safe, and

registered at a school or an alternative education setting as soon as possible.

## Who are 'children missing from education'?

These are children and young people of compulsory school age (aged 5-16) who are not on a school roll: being otherwise educated in alternative provision at home, or in private education, and who have been out of education for a substantial period of time.

## Why do children go missing from education?

There are a number of reasons, including:

- they don't start school at the appropriate time and so they do not enter the educational system;
- they are removed by their parents due to disinterest, problems at school or poor attendance;
- they cease to attend, due to exclusion, illness or bullying;
- they fail to find a suitable school place after moving to a new area;
- the family moves home regularly.

## What should I do if I am concerned about a child who is, or may be missing from education?

If you are aware of a child who is either not in school or receiving education at home then please contact us as soon as possible.

We take referrals from professionals and the general

public, both from Sunderland and outside of the area.

## What will happen when I report a concern?

By making a referral you are ensuring the safety and well-being of some of the most vulnerable youngsters within our community. The longer a child misses education, the more likely it is for their problems to become entrenched.

When children go missing from Sunderland we will use the 'national network of children missing from education coordinators' to find out whether they have arrived safely at a new school.

## How can I find out more information?

For more information or to make a referral please contact the Early Help Advice and Allocations Team on 0191 561 2837 or e-mail: [ehaat@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:ehaat@togetherforchildren.org.uk)

A referral form is available online at: [www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/children-missing-education](http://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/children-missing-education)