

## Finding out more

If you would like further copies, a large-print copy or information about us and our services, please telephone or write to us at our address below.

Për Informacion

للمعلومات

माहवारी लई

برای اطلاع

Per Informazione

معلومات کے لئی

Informacja

Za Informacije

তথ্যের জন্য

☎ 01234 228178 ☎ 01234 228304

✉ **Children Missing Education Officer**  
Education Welfare Service  
Bedford Borough Council  
Borough Hall  
Cauldwell Street  
Bedford  
MK42 9AP



**BEDFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Are you concerned about a child who may be missing education?



*Children's Services, Schools and Families*

## **If you believe that a child may be missing education, the Education Welfare Service needs to know**

Children missing education have a higher risk of:

- missing essential learning;
- suffering from mental health issues;
- being in danger of physical harm;
- being illegally employed;
- being exploited by unsuitable adults;
- becoming involved in criminal activity;
- demonstrating anti social behaviour;
- becoming easy prey for sex trade operators;
- abusing drugs and alcohol.

Parent and carers are legally responsible for their children. They must ensure that every child receives a full time education appropriate to their age and ability.

Where parents or carers experience difficulty with doing this, the Local Authority may be able to offer help through its Education Welfare Service and other services related to children.

## **All Bedford Borough agencies that regularly deal with children:**

- work together and share information in order to safeguard children, including those who are missing education;
- record details of each new contact with a child, including the name of the parent(s) or carer(s), the child's GP and, where relevant, the name of the child's school or nursery. If any details are missing they will alert the appropriate agency.

## **Please contact the Children Missing Education Officer at Bedford Borough Council if you:**

- have noticed a child who does not appear to be attending school regularly:

**OR**

- believe that you are aware of a child who is not receiving any education.

You can contact the Children Missing Education Officer in writing, by phone or email.

There is a referral form on the Bedford Borough website which you may find helpful. To find this, go to: [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk) (enter 'children missing education procedure' in the search box).

## **If you make a referral, you can expect the Children Missing Education Officer to:**

- investigate the child's educational provision;
- provide the necessary advice and help for children and families who are facing difficulties about securing education;
- initiate legal action, where appropriate, to ensure that the child receives an education.



**01234 228178**



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