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The CMES also works with children and young people on issues to do with:

- Attendance
- Exclusions
- Bullying
- Child Protection
- Child Employment & Entertainment.

**Most** of our work comes via referrals from teachers when they are concerned that children and young people need additional support to achieve at school.

**Sometimes** other agencies may ask us to work with families if they think that your support is needed to address educational issues.

**Parents** can contact us direct if they are having difficulties and need any advice or support on how to resolve them.

**In** most cases we are able to work with families and schools to find solutions to the difficulties.

**Sometimes**, we may take legal action if children are not attending school or are working illegally.

**If** we have to take legal action, we will provide parents with information about the law on school attendance and how the legal process will apply to them.

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**INCREASED ATTENDANCE**  
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**IMPROVED ATTAINMENT**

**Contact us if you are aware that children are not in school or other educational provision**

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**Children Missing  
Education Service**

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**Bath & North East Somerset Council  
PO Box 25, Riverside, Temple Street  
Keynsham, Bristol BS31 1DN**

**Tel: 01225 394241**

**Fax: 01225 394296**

**Email: [cmes@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:cmes@bathnes.gov.uk)**

**[www.bathnes.gov.uk](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk)**

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**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**

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## **Children Missing Education**

**A Local Authority service**



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**ATTENDANCE  
ONLY THE BEST WILL DO**

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The **Children Missing Education Service** works with schools and other agencies to identify and support children and young people who are missing, or at risk of missing education.

#### Who are children missing education (CME)?

- Children of compulsory school age who are:
- Not on a school roll
- Not being educated other than at school
- Identified as having been out of any educational provision for a substantial period of time (4 weeks)

#### Children go missing from education for 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
- Behaviour and/or attendance difficulties
- 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 move home regularly
- Problems at home

**The law requires all children between the ages of 5 & 16 to be in full time education**

#### Children and young people in the following groups are more likely to be missing from education:

- young people who have committed offences;
- children living in women's refuges;
- children of homeless families perhaps in temporary housing;
- young runaways;
- children with long term medical or emotional problems;
- unaccompanied asylum seekers and refugees or children of asylum seeking families;
- looked after children;
- children with a Gypsy/Traveller background;
- young carers;
- children from transient families;
- teenage mothers;
- children who are excluded from school.

#### Why is it important to get Children Missing Education back in school?

**Children** who are not in school could be missing out on vital educational and social opportunities and experiences. Some of them may be at risk of harm or be in situations that are unsafe.

**Children** who are not in school are at greater risk of involvement in criminal activity and becoming victims of crime themselves. There is also a higher risk that these children will be victims of abuse.

**Bath & North East Somerset's Children's Services** are keen to know about these children so that we can make sure that they are safe and that they receive an appropriate education.

**If** you are aware of children who are not either in school or receiving education at home then please contact us. You can do this confidentially either by phone, letter or e-mail.

**Please** also tell us if you have any concerns about children who have gone missing from your area or neighbourhood.

**Someone** will then make contact with the family and children to make sure that they are safe and to arrange for some appropriate education.

**If** the children need some support to help them get back into school this will be provided.

**Although** the vast majority of children are located and returned to education, we will work with other agencies such as the Police if we cannot trace a child quickly.

**Where** children go missing from the Bath & North East Somerset area we will use the national missing children database to inform other parts of the country that there may be children new to their area in need of educational support.

