

What we do

Work within a statutory framework to help, support and enforce **attendance** with individual pupils on your school roll.

Provide an **effective** and efficient combination of support, challenge and sanction to those with parental responsibility.

Work in **partnership** with your school to improve the educational outcomes for individual pupils.

Keep the child or young person central to plans at all times ensuring the child's right to an **education**.

Provide **casework** through to commencement of legal action.

Results/Benefits

INCREASED ATTENDANCE

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IMPROVED ATTAINMENT

Contribution to Ofsted requirements linked to two areas within the Ofsted framework

- Achievement
- Behaviour and safety

Improved whole school attendance

Contact us for further information:

Children Missing Education Service

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**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



Children Missing Education Service

Information for Education Providers

A Local Authority Service



ATTENDANCE

ONLY THE BEST WILL DO



About Us

The **Children Missing Education Service** (CMES) is a team of specialist professionals employed by Bath & North East Somerset Council to support school attendance work. The team has, between them, 50 years of education welfare experience and are skilled at delivering both support and challenge.

Our school customers say ...

“The CMES has really helped me to make a difference.”

“CMES work has been invaluable in moving the school forward & making a difference to the lives of children.”

“CMES is proactive and effective.”

“Parents don’t always respond to action by the school but the CMES provides another way of tackling the issues.”

“I feel that the way that the CMES work with our families and staff is a truly supportive one and a fine example of multi agency working.”

Why use a local authority service?

The Local Authority retains the statutory responsibility to initiate legal action under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

The unique function of the CMES is the ability to use statutory powers under relevant Education and Child Care Acts to ensure parental engagement without the need to gain consent in advance from parents and carers to address absence from school.

A structured and well tested case management system has been developed which encourages, promotes, monitors and enforces school attendance within agreed timelines.

Why use a local authority service?

If appropriate cases will proceed to Magistrates Court having had due regard to statutory defences. Section 9 witness statements and supporting documentary evidence will make up the prosecution file.

The information must be laid before the Court within 6 months of the alleged offence. The CMES collect and collate all necessary evidence to support a prosecution. Ensuring legal processes and requirements are fully met and adhered to. Provides the best opportunity for a successful outcome in the Magistrates Court.

There may be cases that go to trial following a ‘not guilty’ plea. In these circumstances parents/carers believe they have a defence. The CMES, as the case worker, will act as witness for the prosecution. This relieves school staff of stress, anxiety and time consuming attendance at court.

