

## 1 Background

Children missing from Education is known as CME. CME are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving a suitable education elsewhere. Effective information sharing is essential between all parties to ensure children are safe and receiving a suitable education. This is not the same as children leaving school at standard transition points.

## 7 What to do

Please see flow charts on next page

## 6 Risk Indicators

Professionals must consider the circumstances of each individual case however there are some groups at higher risk:

- children at risk of abuse or neglect
- children of Gypsy, Roma or Traveller (GRT) families
- children of service personnel
- children who go missing or run away from home or care
- children who are supervised by the Youth Justice System
- children of new migrant families

## 2 Why it matters

CME are at significant risk of underachieving, being at harm, exploitation or radicalisation and it can affect later life chances.

Missing children can be amongst the most vulnerable in our borough. It is essential that all services work together and that schools who often know the child and family best, work together to protect the children of Slough.

## Children Missing from Education



## 5 Key Guidance

The updated DFE guidance for **Children Missing Education**

**Slough Borough Councils website** where you can follow the protocol

**Contact [pupiltracking@slough.gov.uk](mailto:pupiltracking@slough.gov.uk)**

- If a child is missing for 20 consecutive school days
- If a child moves across authority borders and fails to give you a new school??
- With completed forms

## 3 The Law

Schools must make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child jointly with the local authority, before deleting the pupil's name from the register if the deletion is under regulation 8(1), sub-paragraphs (f)(iii) and (h)(iii) (see Annex A). All schools (including academies and independent schools) must notify their local authority when they are about to remove a pupil's name from the school admission register under any of the fifteen grounds listed in the regulations (Annex A).

## 4 Key Messages

Anyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children as described in statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. Local Authorities have a duty to take all reasonable steps to identify and track children missing from education but we need your help.

Do you know where the family moved to?  
Have you checked they are at the new school?  
Who is responsible at your school for this?

## CME Cases Flowcharts

In all cases DO NOT off roll without confirmation from the Attendance Team at SBC or the child's new school.

