



**SEXEY'S**  
SCHOOL

## **Children Missing in Education (CME) Policy**

Date of Policy	September 2022
Review Date	September 2025
SLT Lead	Phil Clackson
Policy last reviewed by	Phil Clackson
Policy Level	School

We believe that all children and young people should have the same protection regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise the additional needs of children from minority ethnic groups and disabled children and the barriers they may face, especially around communication.

# SEXEY'S CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION POLICY

## SCHOOL ETHOS AND VALUES

Our Christian values are at the heart of the ethos of the school and through these we grow individually and as a community. The Story of the Good Samaritan underpins our 7 core values of:

- Honesty
- Forgiveness
- Empathy
- Courage
- Resilience
- Kindness
- Respect

These core values underpin our policies, procedures and the way we treat one another in our community.

This policy has been developed with the school's Christian values and principles, as a Church of England School, at its foundation.

## Introduction

All children, regardless of their circumstances are entitled to a full-time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. Section 436A of the 1996 Education Act (added by section 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) requires the Local Authority to establish the identities of children within the area who are not registered at a school and are not receiving suitable education other than at a school. Children of compulsory school age within this category are regarded as Children Missing Education (CME) and should be returned to full time education. The Local Authority have procedures in place to prevent children at risk of becoming CME.

## Rationale

Sexey's work with children and families to ensure that we:

- Meet statutory duties relating to the provision of education and safeguarding the welfare of children missing education.
- Have robust multi-agency systems in place to identify and track children missing from education or at risk of doing so.
- Establish monitoring and reporting systems for all children missing from education and at risk of becoming CME.

## Definitions

**Children Missing Education (CME)** refers to 'any child of compulsory school age who is not registered at any formally approved education activity (e.g. school, alternative provision, elective home education), and/or has been out of any education provision continuously for a period of not less than twenty school days'.

**CME is defined if the child is:**

- On a school roll, not attending and the family's whereabouts are unknown.
- Of compulsory school age; and
- Not on a school roll; and
- Not receiving a suitable education other than being at school, e.g. at home, privately or in alternative provision.

## **Compulsory School Age**

A child reaches compulsory school age on or after their fifth birthday. If they turn 5 between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> March they are of compulsory school age on 31<sup>st</sup> March; if they turn 5 between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> August they are of compulsory school age on 31<sup>st</sup> August; if they turn 5 between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> December they are compulsory school age on 31<sup>st</sup> December. A child continues to be of compulsory school age until the last Friday of June in the school year they reach sixteen.

**A Parent** is defined in Section 576, Education Act 1996 as:

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person
- Any person who has care of a child (having care of a child or young person means that the child lives with and is looked after by that person, irrespective of their relationship).

## **The Education Safeguarding Service (ESS)**

- The Education Safeguarding Service (ESS) fulfils its statutory responsibility in ensuring parents and carers have their child in education.
- The Education Safeguarding Officer (ESO) makes checks to identify any child missing from education. This may include home visits, school attendance sweeps, contacting known family members, liaising with Police and Housing Groups.
- In Somerset, ESOs are responsible for carrying out these duties. Each school in Somerset has a named officer who can be contacted through the school.

## **Our School's Duties**

We have statutory safeguarding responsibilities under the Education Act 2002. We will investigate any unexplained absences.

***The school follows the Somerset Education Safeguarding Process for Children Missing from Education as set out in Appendix A.***

The school will notify the ESS of any Child Missing Education via the electronic form on their website: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-safeguarding-service-forms/>

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix A: Children Missing from Education – Process Map for Schools**

**Related Policies**

Safeguarding Policy  
Attendance Policy

**POLICY REVIEW**

Policy Holder: Assistant Head (Pastoral).

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner should there be an statutory updates.

Subsequent amendments have been made:

<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Made by</u>
a			
b			
c			
d			
e			

# Appendix A: Children Missing from Education – Process Map for Schools

