

PA6 Pembrokeshire County Council

Senedd Cymru

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Absenoldeb Disgyblion

Ymateb gan Cyngor Sir Penfro

Welsh Parliament

Children, Young People and Education
Committee

Pupil absence

Evidence from Pembrokeshire County Council

Record your views against the inquiry's terms of reference, which have been grouped into 5 themes.

1. Reasons

Pupils were told and continue to tell us, we closed the schools and gave them tools to work online. Many now do not feel the same 'pull' towards school now - being more comfortable at home or it has increased a reluctance to attend school. Many young people also say they have suffered increased mental health difficulties - the fear of covid, the pressure of exams and lost learning. For pupils with ALN, challenging backgrounds of poverty or abuse, this is more protracted.

2. Risks and consequences

Short term - lack of willingness to engage in a formal education setting. Young people report a lack of faith in the system - changing messages on wearing face coverings yet others work from home to stay safe. Concern for others who may be at risk of poor health, and the time spent away from direct support from friends and professionals.

Long term - lack of aspiration, increased reliance on IT and influencers online as opposed to professionals in person.

3. Impact

Yes - many families took a decision to home school due to the concerns around covid-19, some with great success. Others have struggled and have reapplied for a school place.

4. Effectiveness of policies

N/A

5. Other

N/A