

PA10 Head of School

Senedd Cymru

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Absenoldeb Disgyblion

Ymateb gan Pennaeth yr Ysgol

Welsh Parliament

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Pupil absence

Evidence from Head of School

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

1. Reasons

Persistent absenteeism - the rate of persistent absenteeism has increased since covid. It appears to occur more when a parent as it at home. This a variety of pupils who's parents do not work or if there is a parent/ older sibling working at home. On speaking to parents of persistent absenteeism it seems like a lack of routine/ sleep patterns. Parents of these pupils have said that they choose an 'easier life' and let the pupil stay home.

2. Risks and consequences

Short term risks/ consequences - missing fundamental learning skills. Missing out on personal and social development e.g. resilience when things are difficult as they can just choose to avoid the days that have specific learning in.

Longer term risks - move schools due to the school trying to address the issue. Non-attendees at secondary school. The big impact would be lower attendance is directly linked to lower achievement.

3. Impact

Pupils with lower attendance are making lower progress.

4. Effectiveness of policies

Effectiveness of existing WG policies does not directly address the parental input on these pupils not turning up to school.

LA - EWOs have been ineffective in improving attendance. There is no real deterrent for parents keeping their children away from school. Are we as effective as the England system?

5. Other

N/A

