

## PA44 Socialist Educational Association Cymru

Senedd Cymru

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Absenoldeb Disgyblion

Ymateb gan Cymdeithas Addysg Sosialaidd Cymru

Welsh Parliament

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Pupil absence

Evidence from Socialist Educational Association  
Cymru

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

### 1. Reasons

Non-covid related absenteeism is higher than that prior to the pandemic because of the psychological impact of the lack of schooling AND the increased in family poverty in the recent years. It is more prevalent among deprived sections of the working class and unemployed.

### 2. Risks and consequences

Short term risks involve the immediate psychological impact of negative attitudes and lack of positive experiences in school. The longer term risks involve persistent negative attitudes to schooling that result in long term lower achievement.

### 3. Impact

The result is personal rather than resulting in de-registration. There is no cross over with elective home education because such pupils have not been provided with effective home education.

### 4. Effectiveness of policies

This is an area of weakness. There is a lack of resources to support children and families. Schools have done their best but there is a shortage of support staff with the financial position of local authorities and the ending of state and local authority funding. This is compounded by the small size and lack of resources of the 22 Welsh local authorities.

### 5. Other

The Welsh Government and local authorities need to work together to ensure that opportunities for life long learning are available and further developed to remediate the impact of long term changes (such as funding and the availability of apprenticeships irrespective of age).

