

## PA46 The Bevan Foundation

Senedd Cymru

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Absenoldeb Disgyblion

Ymateb gan Sefydliad Bevan

Welsh Parliament

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Pupil absence

Evidence from The Bevan Foundation

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

### 1. Reasons

The term 'persistent absenteeism' is an unhelpful term. There are a myriad of reasons that a pupil may be absent from school, including long-term sickness, conditions in school such as bullying, or practical difficulties affecting attendance. We would prefer 'regular or long-term absence' which both more accurate and less perjorative. We would urge the Committee to base its understanding of the reasons for absence on sound research, which listens to pupils and their parents. This would help to understand the complex interaction of family circumstances and school circumstances that influence attendance.

### 2. Risks and consequences

The short-term risks are that learners miss out on learning and relationships with their peers. In the longer-term this affects future attendance and attainment, and life chances.

### 3. Impact

No response

### 4. Effectiveness of policies

No response

### 5. Other

N/A

