

**Miss School = Miss Out: A Strategy for Improving Pupil Attendance -  
Consultation Document**

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**Consultation Booklet**

## Miss School = Miss Out: A Strategy for Improving Pupil Attendance - Consultation Document

### Introduction

Regular attendance at school is crucial to enhancing the life chances of all our young people. Attendance is linked to attainment and every school day matters. The Department of Education has developed a strategy to build upon current good practice within schools and promote the value of each school day.

This consultation provides an opportunity for you to consider this draft strategy, and have your say.

The Department would welcome your views and all interested parties are encouraged to make their responses as soon as possible and before the consultation closing date of **16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Name (Optional)

Please tick the box that best describes you as a respondent

Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade Union rep	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

If 'Other' please specify

Name of School (if applicable)

School Reference Number (if applicable)

The Department may make responses available on the website [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk), although contact names and addresses would be removed.

Please note that under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) (Annex A) your response may be made available, on request, to the public.

If you would prefer your response to remain confidential, please tick this box

Comments and responses should be submitted by 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to:

[attendance@deni.gov.uk](mailto:attendance@deni.gov.uk)

or

Additional Educational Needs Team

Department of Education

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**Q1: Do you agree that an attendance strategy will provide guidance to help those involved in managing attendance? (Please select only one)**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>

**Q2: Do you agree that every school should have an Attendance Policy which sets out the school's policies and procedures for managing attendance? (Please select only one)**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>

**Q3: Do you agree that there should be clearly defined roles and responsibilities for those involved in improving attendance internally and externally to the school? (Please select only one)**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>

**Q4: Do you agree that the Board of Governors of each school should regularly discuss the school's performance in respect of attendance and seek assurance that any concerns are being addressed appropriately? (Please select only one)**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>

**Q5: Do you agree that school leaders should consider attendance performance when determining school improvement plans and allocating resources from their delegated school budget? (Please select only one)**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>

**Q6: Do you agree that schools should have established procedures in place to monitor attendance patterns and intervene at the earliest opportunity, where there is cause for concern?**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>

**Q7: Do you agree that parents/carers should be involved at an early stage with any attendance concerns regarding their child? (Please select only one)**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>

**Q8: Do you agree that engagement between parents/carers, pupils and schools is important to improve attendance? (Please select only one)**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>

**Q9: Do you agree that support services should be available to intervene on a timely basis when a school has concerns about attendance that it is unable to resolve? (Please select only one)**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>

**Q10: Do you agree that those struggling with attendance including vulnerable groups should be given additional support? (Please select only one)**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>

**Q11: Do you agree that promoting the value of education and communicating the link between attendance and attainment is a good investment of resources? (Please select only one)**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>

**Q12: Please enter any additional comments here. Are there any other elements that should be included in this strategy? Please include any additional comments below.**

## **ANNEX A- FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

### **CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS**

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential. This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature;
- Acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>).