

The Education Welfare Officer

If the school has a concern about your child's attendance you will be contacted by letter. If there is no improvement then the Education Welfare Officer will intervene.

If the EWO is involved the education welfare service will contact you by phone or letter and may visit your home. The service is part of the school improvement services within Essex County Council's Children and Families Department. The EWO's have a statutory duty to ensure that children are receiving suitable education by attendance at schools or by other means.

The EWO will work with you to try to improve your child's attendance. They have access to other agencies and can offer support in this way. Unfortunately, in a small number of cases the matter has to be settled in court. There are 3 stages in the EWS casework procedures. The EWS has a statutory duty to uphold the law and prosecute parents whose children do not attend school regularly.

The Legal Procedures

Every effort is made to work with parents and support them. Most of the work of the EWO is at Stage 1.

STAGE 1

The strategies employed at Stage 1 could include:

- Letters concerning your child's attendance.
- medical certificates required relating to your child's attendance.
- Home visits.
- Meetings at school.
- Setting attendance targets.
- Agreeing a contract.
- Referral to another agency.
- Referral to social care.

If there is no improvement the case will move to.....

STAGE 2

If everything fails at Stage 1 the senior practitioner for the EWS becomes involved. They meet with parents and the EWO and review what has been put in place. A period of time will be given for attendance to improve, but if it does not then the parent is guilty of an offence and the case moves to.....

STAGE 3

This only happens in exceptional cases and when all the strategies of the school and the EWS have not resulted in improved attendance.

THE OUTCOME

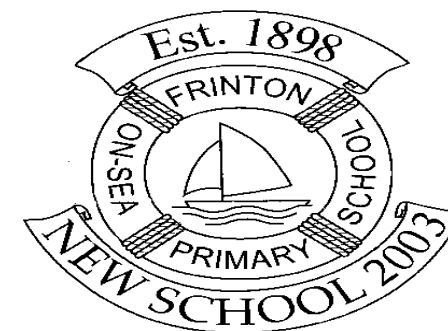
The EWS Court Officer will invite the parent and pupil to a meeting at the EWS office. There they are read their rights by the court officer and informed of the procedures for prosecution. The pupil will be given a date on which they are expected to return to full time attendance. If this is not adhered to then an application is made to the Magistrates Court for a summons and the parent is required to appear in court.

Each parent can be fined up to £2,500 and in some cases receive a prison sentence of up to three months.

Stages 2 & 3 are sometimes combined so that certain cases can be fast tracked. This is done when a parent has been prosecuted before or when a pupil is not attending school at all.

We would hope that at Frinton-on-Sea Primary School we will never have to take legal action against a parent and that our parents understand that we are trying our best to give their child the best possible education.

FRINTON-ON-SEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Believe, Succeed &
Grow Together*

ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW



Your child's attendance matters!

Head Teacher : Mrs T. Caffull

