

What can you do to help your child?

- Ensure your child arrives at school on time every day as this encourages a positive and healthy approach to learning.
- If your child is unable to attend school, it is vital that you let the school know in the first instance and on subsequent days if appropriate.
- If you suspect your child is having difficulties attending school you should contact the school immediately.
- Ensure that your child has the appropriate equipment in preparation for learning. For example, school uniform, lunch and lesson equipment.

Every day counts and every lesson matters

Receiving a full-time education will give your child the best possible start in life. Research shows that children who do not attend regularly are vulnerable to less positive outcomes generally and may be drawn into criminal or anti-social behaviour. Therefore attending school on time every day is essential if children and young people are to make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Contacts

For more information, the Education Welfare Service can be contacted as follows:

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The Education
Welfare Service

What does the law say?

The Education (Jersey) Law 1999 states:

“Parents have a duty to ensure that children of compulsory school age receive full-time education appropriate to the child’s age, ability and aptitude, and any special educational needs that the child may have, either by regular attendance at a school at which the child is a pupil or otherwise”.

What is the Education Welfare Service?

The Education Welfare Service (EWS) is part of the Education Support Team within the Education Department. The EWS consists of seven Education Welfare Officers (EWOs), four based in the States 11-16 schools and three centrally based allocated to primary schools and colleges.

It is the role of the Education Welfare Service to support the Education Minister by working with children, young people and families alongside a broad range of services and voluntary agencies to promote positive attendance and punctuality.

It is the EWOs’ philosophy to work alongside children, young people, families and agencies to find solutions to support your child’s learning experience.

What does an Education Welfare Officer do?

Schools will intervene if your child’s attendance and/or punctuality becomes a cause for concern, however if the support from school does not improve the situation, a request for the involvement of an EWO will be made.

The EWO will contact you and arrange to meet with you, either at home or at school, to identify and discuss these concerns. An attendance plan and further actions will be agreed to improve your child’s attendance and/or punctuality. Your child will be given the opportunity to contribute to any attendance plans and agreed actions appropriate to their age.

Agreed actions may involve further support from school, the EWO, an educational psychologist and if appropriate a referral may be made to other agencies for support.

How might an Education Welfare Officer work with your child?

EWOs will gather information about your child in a number of ways. This may include:

- Consulting with school to gain background information
- Discussing your child with other professionals if appropriate
- Carrying out assessments
- Talking with your child about any concerns they may have to identify a way forward

Should the EWO consider, at any point, that as a parent/carer you are unable or unwilling to support your child’s education, a referral will be made to the Education Department’s Attendance Panel. This is a formal process and the outcomes can consist of the following;

- A review period for parents/carers and pupil to evidence significant improvements. This will sit within an attendance plan and may include the involvement of further professionals.
- An enquiry to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- A referral to the relevant Parish Hall with a view to prosecution.
- Application to the court for an Education Supervision Order.