

# Attendance for learning



## Compassionate attendance support



# Compassionate Attendance Support

*“This is different from support that we’ve previously had, the attendance worker gets my child. He’s now happy about attending school, plus they helped with our housing.” - Parent*

Compassionate attendance support understands pupil absence in context of the child’s world e.g. family, friends, peers, school and wider relations. It is child-centred to understand what school means to children and to make support personalised and relevant. In understanding that wider social areas (e.g. physical & mental health, disability, housing) might present barriers to attending school, it is also holistic in its support \*offering.

## Support includes:

- A dedicated support worker with a 'lead professional' caring role to engender trust and confidence, and to make change more probable and achievable.
- Understanding the 'Voice of the Child' i.e. their wishes, feelings and aspirations.
- A strength-based assessment to identify strengths within the immediate and extended family, friendship group.
- Identification of barriers to attending and being punctual for school and co-producing an improvement plan with the family.
- \*Where necessary, the convening of multi-agency support to address unmet support needs e.g. through Professionals Meetings, Team Around the Child/Family approaches.

**NB:** Where ongoing absences occur, parents do not engage with support or condone absences, statutory intervention can be instituted e.g. through the application of an Education Supervision Order, Penalty Notice or Prosecution.