

Children, Young People and Education Committee
Request for information on Pupil attendance & training for school governors
Response from: Wrexham County Borough Council

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Jayne Bryant
Chair of the Children, Young People and
Education Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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Eich Cyf/Your Ref	KE/ELL
Ein Cyf/Our Ref	20 January 2022
Dyddiad/Date	Karen Evans
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Dear Ms Bryant

PUPIL ATTENDANCE AND TRAINING FOR SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Thank you for your letter dated 17 December 2021 which I have been asked to respond to on behalf of the Chief Executive regarding pupil attendance and training for school governors.

In response to your request, please see below information:-

Information about how we are working with schools to monitor and improve the attendance of pupils who have not returned to school since the two periods of general school closures, have done so on a very limited basis, or have been regularly/persistently absent; and any data you hold on the numbers and absence rates of these pupils?

The department has developed an MIS system which tracks pupils with attendance below 95%. This information is collated on a weekly basis and monitors attendance by school and national curriculum year. The data is matched with the rate of current covid cases in schools and support is made available as required.

The Education Social Work Team and Attendance Support Officers provide support to schools and individual pupils and regularly make home visits, as required.

Education Social Workers and Attendance Officers, regularly meet with allocated schools to review attendance, identify trends and concerns, and agree action. There is a close working relationship between the LA staff and school pastoral teams. From 1 September 2021, a total of 1,535 interventions have taken place. This includes visits, meetings and telephone calls.

Half termly Education Support Meetings take place with all secondary schools with the Education Support Manager. These meetings focus on attendance and exclusion data, and check the accuracy of coding. Trends are identified and additional targeted resources are agreed.

Regular meetings have been held the ALN lead, LAC Education Officer, YJS officer and EAL/Gypsy and Traveller Inclusion Officer to review attendance and exclusions of these cohorts. Additional support is actioned following these meetings via home visits, letters or multiagency support meetings arranged.

Attendance Improvement Plans have been put in place to support individual pupils.

Information about the support you provide to school governors, including how you are encouraging school governors to take up Estyn's lay inspector training programme?

Most of our headteachers are trained Estyn inspectors as part of their continued professional development and as such bring their knowledge and experience back to their own schools and governing bodies. They are, therefore, well placed to encourage their school governors to train as lay inspectors to gain insights into how school inspections work.

We will use our Wrexham Schools Governing Body Association meetings and communication platforms in future to promote this programme and other opportunities for governors to engage with external training.

In addition to this, all Wrexham schools are currently subscribed to Governors Cymru Services whom collaborate with Estyn on various training and development projects. As part of their subscription, Wrexham governors have preferential access to these sessions.

Yours sincerely



Karen Evans
Chief Officer Education and Early Intervention

cc Chief Executive