One minute briefing on Education for professionals working with children in Oxfordshire (not schools)

* Parents are entitled to remove their children from school rolls for the purposes of elective home education (EHE). However, there is no professional oversight, funding or provision to support children and parents when this step is taken. There is also no guarantee that the child can return to the original school if parent cannot cope with the extent of the home educating commitment.
* Children are entitled to a school place within 15 school days of application.
* Children not on a school roll or electively home educated are considered children missing education and must be referred to childrenmissingeducation@oxfordshire.gov.uk. All children resident in Oxfordshire are entitled to a full-time education which consists of 10 sessions per week.
* Schools cannot suggest that parents remove their children from roll to avoid an exclusion. Should this emerge, it must be challenges by professionals.
* Schools cannot refuse to admit children with additional needs and children with one permanent exclusion on their record.
* Parents do not have a right to appeal a Penalty Notice for unauthorised absence from school. They have a right of review.
* Parents do not have a right to appeal a permanent exclusion from school. They have a right of review. Even if they are successful, schools are not obliged to readmit.
* Parents have a right to express a preference for a school, a mainstream or special school if the child has an Education, Health & Care Plan. This is a preference and not a choice.
* Grounds to appeal an allocated school place are limited by statute.
* Access to funded transport to school is defined by legislation and is not universal.
* Parents are not entitled to withdraw their children from school during term time for the purposes of holiday.
* Only schools have the right to authorise pupil absence, even medical absence, not parents.
* Children medically unfit to attend school for in excess of 15 school days (as determined by a medical consultant) are entitled to alternative education.
* Parents are not obliged to agree to reduced hours educational provision, otherwise known as Reintegration Timetables. Reintegration Timetables must be reviewed at least every two weeks and parents must be in agreement at every review. These timetables should only be implemented for a maximum of 6 weeks. Use of Reintegration Timetables for longer than six weeks and without parental consent must be challenged by professionals.
* Parents are not obliged to agree to alternative provision proposed by schools.
* Any child who is in employment (voluntary or paid) from the age of 13, must hold a valid work permit for that role.
* Should any colleague have any concerns about the appropriateness of any aspect of a communication or a conversation including with a Headteacher then it must be reported to the relevant Head of Service/Deputy Director in accordance with HM Government ‘Information sharing. Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers July2018’<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721581/Information_sharing_advice_practitioners_safeguarding_services.pdf>
* We must all ensure prompt and effective communication between the Council and agencies with Headteachers and other staff in schools including during any school holiday period.

* [Social Care induction (Education) July 2020](https://oxfordshirecountycouncil-my.sharepoint.com/personal/fg592927_oxfordshire_gov_uk/Documents/Social%20Care%20induction%20%28Education%29%20July%202020.pptx?web=1) This document offers a brief oversight of Education Services and key contacts for all partners and colleagues.

**Are you satisfied that the children you are working with are receiving their full educational entitlement and are those arrangements, particularly elective home education arrangements, appropriate and safe?**

**Following the partial closure of schools in March due to Covid-19, as of 3rd August 2020, all children are expected to return to school full time from the beginning of term in September. If the situation changes, this Briefing will be updated.**

 Please contact attendance@oxfordshire.gov.uk 01865 323513 with any queries and to report children who are not in receipt of appropriate and full time education or who may be at risk of exclusion.

 Updated August 2020