# MAEB
## Health & Attendance

# Thematic group
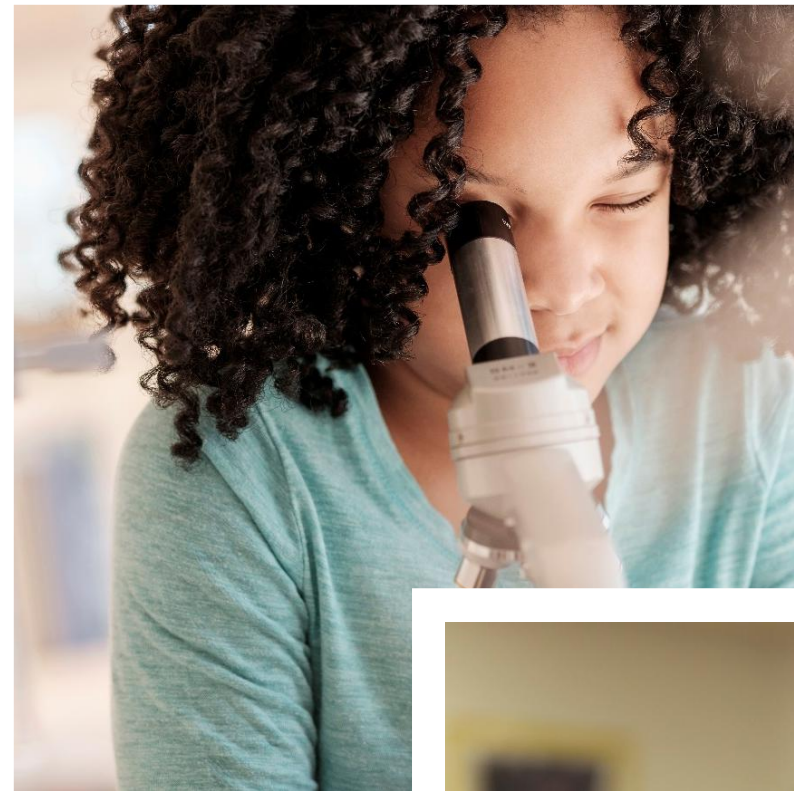
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# Why it matters

Health related illness and medical appointments are the biggest cause of authorized absence from school

Since the Covid epidemic, parents / carers are more cautious about sending their children to school.

We have also seen a rise in children and young people suffering with their mental health, and the impact of parental mental health on school / college absence.

Parents / carers are often confused about when they should send their son / daughter to school and are not always aware of the resources / support available to them.

# What has led us in looking at health and attendance?

- Absence relating to illness suggests unmet/undiagnosed health needs
- Emotionally based school absence has increased
- Mental health is cited as a main cause of absence but lack of 'coding' makes this difficult to quantify and understand
- Parents are unsure about when to keep CYP off school
- Schools need to be supported to be confident in having health related discussions
- Health, education and the community need to work better together
- Public Health services need to be aligned to better support attendance

# WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR……..

- Launched the HeadStart attendance pilot

- Launched HealthStart

- Promoted Heathier Together Schools

- Planned the role out of MECC

- Extended the remit of the schools mental health network to include all health

# Tell us what we can do next?

1. **How can we align education, health, and community partners around a shared goal of reducing health-related inequalities that impact attendance?**

2. **How can we provide good quality information, advice and signposting for parents / carers about how to support their child's health / mental health?**

3. **How can the 'Making Every Contact Count', Heathier Together and HealthStart approach be embedded in schools so staff feel confident having health-related attendance conversations?**