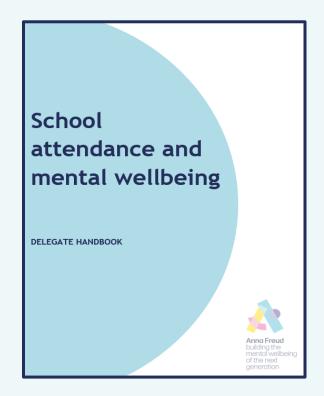
Before delivery

Before delivering face to face please check you have for each attendee:

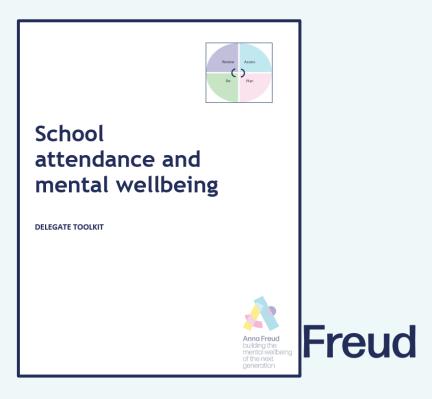
Copy of slide handout



Copy of handbook



Copy of toolkit





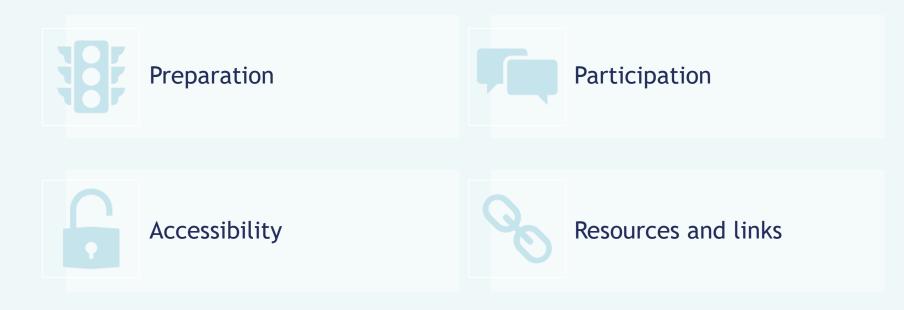
School attendance and mental wellbeing

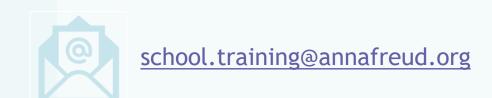
A workshop training course from Anna Freud for staff working in education.



Anna Freud
building the mental
wellbeing of the
next generation

Today's training







Who we are

We are a **world leading** children's mental health charity, pioneering mental health care and support for children, young people, and their families for over 70 years.

Our mission is to close the gap in wellbeing and mental health by advancing, translating, delivering and sharing the best science and practice with everyone who impacts the lives of children and families.

We recognise that discrimination and inequality undermine the opportunity for every child to thrive. We aim to be ambitious in driving change in ourselves and supporting change in those we work with, towards a more equitable society.



annafreud.org/about/
annafreud.org/about/diversity/

Our work

We believe that by working in collaboration with communities and professionals, together we can scale up our support for children, young people, and their families.

At Anna Freud, we champion research and innovation, along with clinical support for children and families. We continuously work in partnership with those of which we serve.

This expertise informs our training and ensures it is not only from a strong evidence base, but has the voice of children and families at its heart.



Looking after ourselves

The focus of our training is the wellbeing of children, young people, families and school staff.

Through our own lens of experience, we will relate and connect to the content in different ways, either personally, professionally or both.

It is important that you participate in a way that allows you to feel safe and comfortable.

Step away or take a break if you need to. Reach out if you need support or would like to skip an activity.

Please be respectful of differing opinions and experiences. Share with care.



Training overview

Section	Module title	Timings
 Introductions 	 Introductions and overview of policy 	9.00 - 9.45
Module 1	What is the link between school attendance and mental wellbeing?Why does it happen?	9.45 -11.00
	Break	11.00 -11.15
• Module 2	 A whole school approach to school attendance and mental health Collaborative parent/carer partnership 	11.15 -12.30
	Lunch	12.30 - 1.00
 Module 3 	 Workshop - assessment and formulation 	1.00 - 3.00
	Break	3.00 - 3.15
	 Workshop - strategies and interventions 	3.15 - 4.15
	Finish and close	4.15 - 4.30

Learning outcomes

By the end of today's training session, you will have:

- Further understanding of school attendance and mental wellbeing.
- Recognised the positive impact of using a relational approach.
- Increased awareness of the perspectives of children, young people and families who have personal experience of EBSA.
- Deepened understanding of evidence-based interventions and strategies to use as part of a whole school approach.
- Experience of selecting appropriate resources to assess and plan support of school attendance and mental wellbeing.



Introductions



Getting to know each other



- When and where you bought them
- Where the shoes have travelled to
- The story behind them

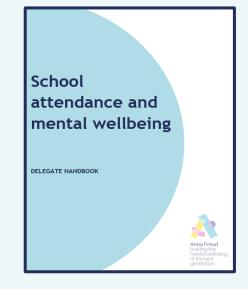


Activity: What do you hope to get out of today's training?



Think about your 'journey' around school attendance

- Why this training?
- Why you? Your role within your setting?







Attendance in the news







Home > Education, training and skills

Press release

New regulations for schools in next stage of attendance drive

Every state school in England will now share their daily attendance registers across the education sector.

From: Department for Education and The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP Published 29 February 2024

What next?

February 2023

January 2024 August 2024

March 2022



September 2023

Press release

Major national drive to improve school attendance

Attendance hubs to more than double to support 1,000 more schools and £15 million investment to expand the attendance mentor pilot programme.

From: Department for £ ducation and The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP Published 8 January 2024

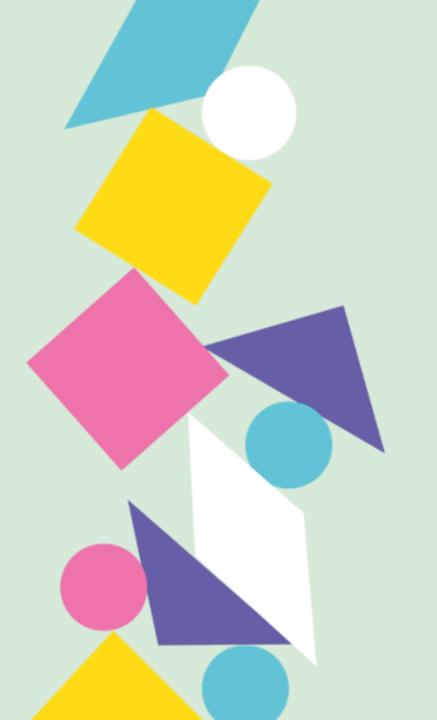
February 2024

Working together to improve school attendance

Statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities

August 2024





Policy and practice

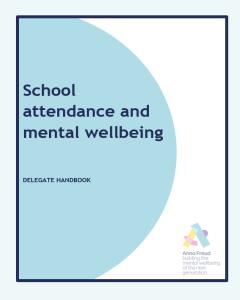
- Recognising and using data
- National and local guidance



Using the handbook

Reading list Guidance documents: 1. Working https://www.gov.uk/gove together to rnment/publications/work improve school ing-together-to-improveschool-attendance attendance 2. Mental health https://www.gov.uk/gove issues affecting rnment/publications/ment al-health-issues-affectinga pupil's a-pupils-attendanceattendance: guidance for guidance-for-schools schools Transforming https://www.gov.uk/gove children and rnment/consultations/tran sforming-children-andyoung people's mental health young-peoples-mentalprovision a health-provision-a-greengreen paper 4. Promoting https://assets.publishing.s children and ervice.gov.uk/government young people's /uploads/system/uploads/ mental health attachment data/file/102 and wellbeing 0249/Promoting children and young people s men tal health and wellbeing 5. Social, https://www.nice.org.uk/ emotional and guidance/ng223/resources /social-emotional-andmental wellbeing in mental-wellbeing-inprimary and primary-and-secondarysecondary education-pdfeducation NICE 66143833987525 guidelines Resources for https://assets.childrensco families mmissioner.gov.uk/wpupl oads/2022/12/aaa-guidefor-parents-on-schoolattendance.pdf

 Today's training handbook provides a reading list for the guidance documents we will discuss.





Working together to improve school attendance guidance



All schools must have an attendance policy.

This is now statutory guidance since August 2024.



Working together to improve school attendance

Statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities

August 2024



Statutory since August 2024

Evidence-base

Build strong relationships and work jointly with families, listening to and understanding barriers to attendance and working in partnership with families to remove them.

Develop and maintain a whole school culture that promotes the benefits of high attendance.

Have a clear school attendance policy which all staff, pupils and parents understand.

Share name and contact details of senior (SLT) member of staff as Attendance Champion.

Daily attendance returns

Regularly monitor and analyse data to identify and support

Share information and work collaboratively with other partners

Be particularly mindful of pupils absent from school due to mental or physical ill health or their special educational needs and/or disabilities, and provide them with additional support.



Working together to improve school attendance

Statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities

August 2024





Focus from August 2024

'Schools must take a 'support-first' approach to help learners and their families to tackle barriers to attendance'.

'Particular emphasis on the importance of support for pupils with SEND and mental ill health who often need more individual consideration due to wider barriers... encouraging early intervention and close working with families to address their individual needs'.

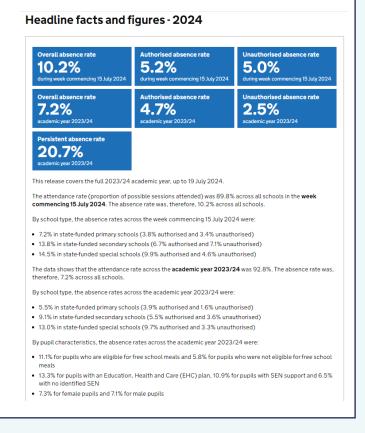
Every state school in England will now share their daily attendance registers across the education sector.



Live data - daily attendance returns



Headline school
 attendance data
 from national and local authorities is published on
 Explore Education
 Statistics every 2
 weeks:



The more detailed **pupil attendance** dashboard is updated fortnightly: Pupil attendance and absence in schools in England Background Info The dashboard provides data on attendance and absence at National, Regional and Local Authority geographic levels. Data is available across state-funded primar reseries that was previously sourced from the daily Educational Settings Survey (EdSet). Due to the timeliness of the data and that they are based on a subset of Users will need to select a geographic level prior to selecting further options at Region or Local Authority level. schools, the figures are estimates that we expect to change as registers are adjusted. They should be viewed as an early indicator for the more detailed but less regular National Statistics on pupil absence (which will include school level breakdowns You can navigate directly to tabs of the dashboard using the 'Headlines', 'Reasons' and 'Local authority data' links belo This number is approximately 95% of the number of schools participating in the School Census. As schools opt in to sharing of data, the number of schools reporting . Charts on this tab display overall, authorised and unauthorised absence rate across all schools has been weighted based on the Spring 2023 school census. Weighted total figures are not city all schools have been recognised as the spring and the spring across all schools are spring and the spring across all schools are spring and the spring across all schools are spring and the spring across school types and, therefore, not representative of the total school population, the basence figure for all schools has been weighted based on the Spring 2023 school census. Weighted total figures are not included at local authority level due! Summer, Spring and Autumn term and year to date is available at the link below: Pupil attendance in schools Reasons year to date, depending on dropdown selecte a termly basis in the National statistics, while this dashboard enables more timely daily and weekly data. They should, therefore, be viewed as an early indicator for the more detailed but less regular National Statistics (which will include school level breakdowns) Local authority data If you are a school that has not yet signed up to share your data, please visit Share your daily school attendance data for more information. This will also

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/share-your-daily-school-attendance-data





Communicating with families

Ways to communicate

Methods of communication

Letters and emails

Text messages

Phone calls

Face to face meetings

About the research

Guidance

Toolkit for schools: communicating with families to support attendance

Updated 19 August 2024



Statutory guidance - updated



Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance

Statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities

Published 19 August 2024



Children missing education

Statutory guidance for local authorities

August 2024

Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance - August 2024

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education



Mental health issues affecting attendance





Summary of responsibilities where a mental health issue is affecting attendance

February 2023



Support for pupils where a mental health issue is affecting attendance

Effective practice examples

February 2023



Activity: what is your local offer?

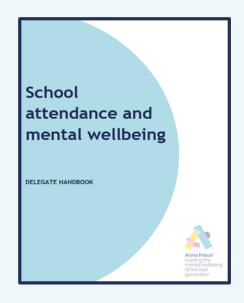
10 minutes

Research what local support is available to you

Consider:

- Local authority attendance team
- MAT/academy trust
- Educational psychology team
- Charities/other





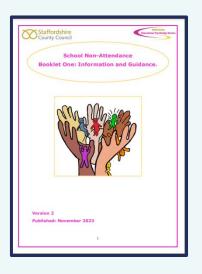
Guidance available - access these materials

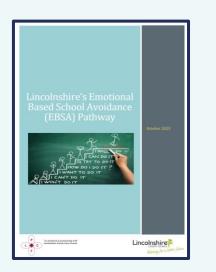


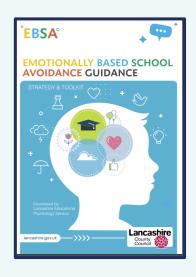




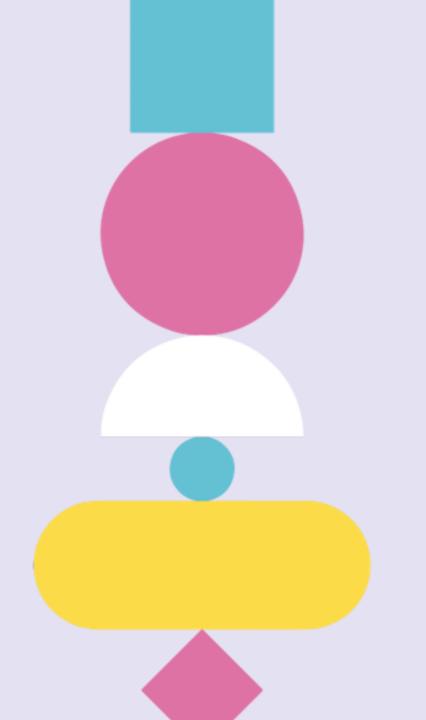












The voices of children and young people, parents/carers, and schools.



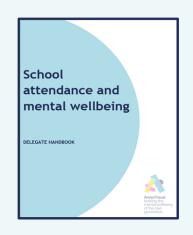
Participation - our champions



Young Champions: Emily and Kelly



Parent Champions: Nicola and Lorna







If you have avoided school what was the reason?



Activity: Menti and Discussion - Em and Kelly

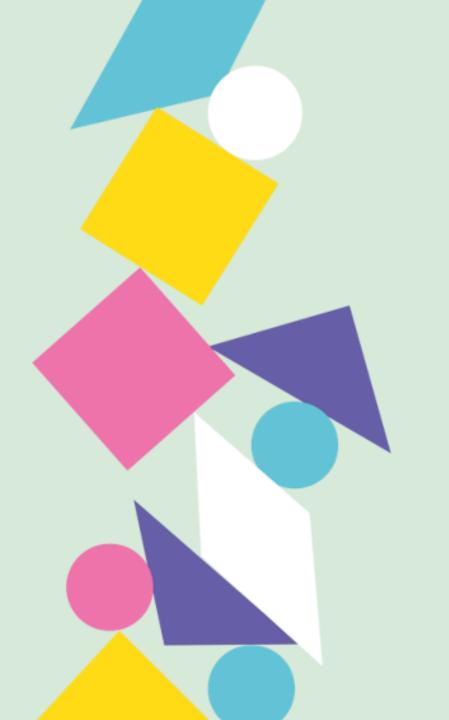


How did the video make you feel?

What can we learn from the videos?







Module 1

What is the link between school attendance and mental wellbeing?

How do we define Emotionally Based School Avoidance and what are some of the possible causes?



Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)

- EBSA is <u>not</u> a stand alone medical or psychological condition
- It is an umbrella term used to describe behaviours of learners who have difficulty in attending school, often due to underlying factors

Unique to each individual.





The function of non-attendance



There is no single cause of non-attendance; there are many possible factors. Research suggests however that there are four key functions (reasons) for school avoidance

What is **pushing** the child AWAY from school?

To avoid school related stressors

To avoid social situations and/or

activities

Home related reasons

To engage in preferred activities

What is **pulling** the child TOWARDS home?



Does language matter?

Truant

Anxiety
Based School
Avoidance

Extended School Non-Attendance Non - attendance

School refuser

Anxiety Related Non -Attendance Emotional Barriers to School Attendance

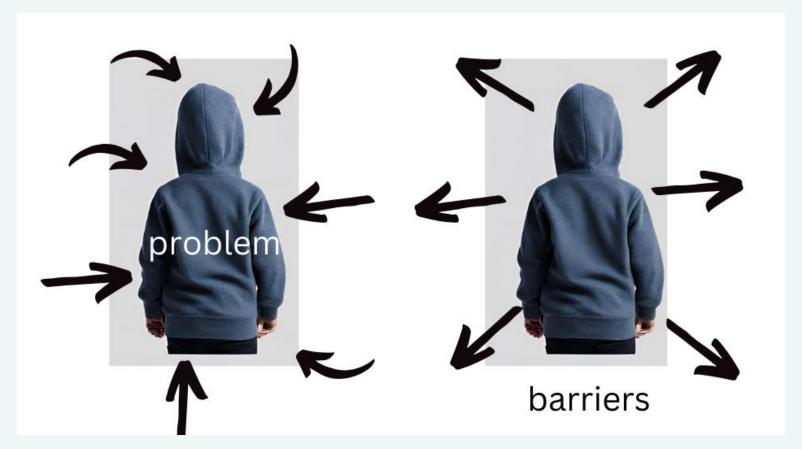
Emotionally Based School Avoidance ?

Emotionally Based School Refusal



Where does the problem lie?

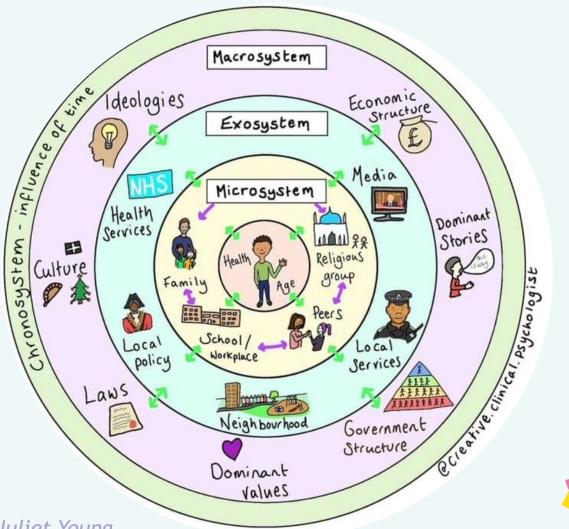






Emotional wellbeing develops through our environment



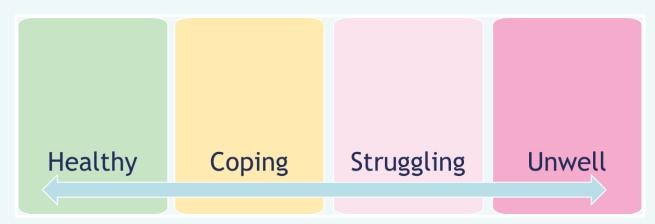




Continuum of wellbeing



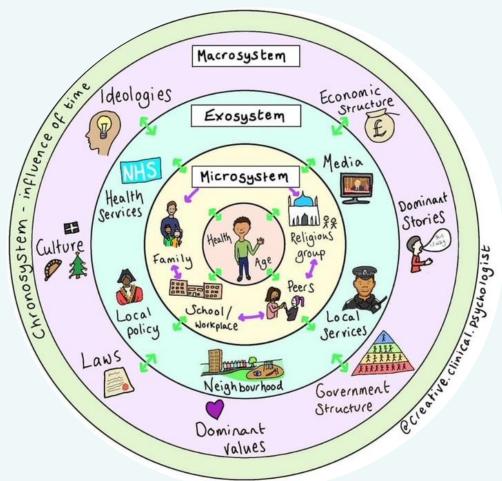
- Emotional wellbeing is not a fixed state.
- It is a dynamic, constantly evolving process.
- Emotional health can fluctuate throughout a person's life.
- It can be influenced by a range of internal and external factors, such as life events, relationships, stressors, and learnt coping strategies.





Discussion:





- In your setting, can you think of any particular children and young people who may be more vulnerable?
- Why might this be?

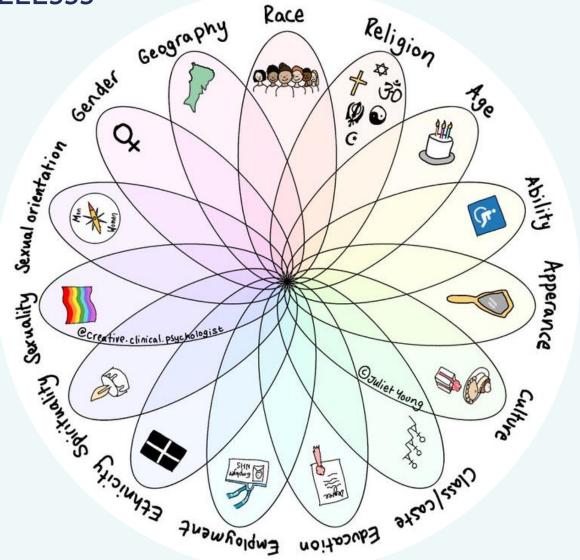




Intersectionality

Evidence-base

Social GGRRAAACCEEESSS





Neurodiversity

 Neurodiversity refers to the diversity of human minds meaning it is expected for brains to be different and unique.



 Neurodivergent children and young people are more likely to be impacted by EBSA. "Although they may appear to be coping at school, autistic young people can experience high levels of stress and anxiety... If the triggers for this behaviour are not identified and addressed at school, it can lead to emotional based school avoidance and mental health needs"

Autism Education Trust



Neurodivergent needs



Masking: Children often mask to fit into neurotypical norms. Masking can lead to poor mental health, exhaustion and low self-esteem.



Moods: Neurodivergent children's development is different from their neurotypical peers, including emotional regulation. The brain and body processes information differently, meaning the usual techniques may not be appropriate.



Demands: Different sensory processing needs can mean the demands of school in a neurotypical world can easily overwhelm a neurodivergent child. Meaning they can easily be triggered into meltdown or shut down, often perceived as defiance or challenging behaviour.



Missing in school before missing from school

Persevering for up to for 8-9 years more, before finally stopping attending.

In some cases, students entirely absent from lessons, despite being recorded as present in school.









Reports of wanting to stop going to school as early as their first year.

Within this time, multiple examples of **informal absences** that do not show up in official statistics.

Being out of school provides relief and worry for most of the young people.



Risk factors that may challenge children and young people's school attendance and mental wellbeing



School Bullying Exam stress Transition Exclusion

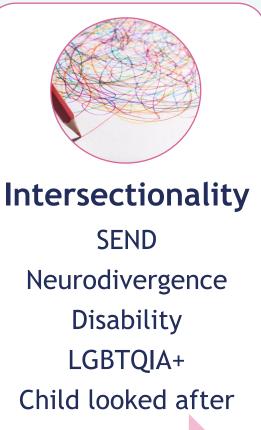
Environment



Home
Divorce/Separation
Conflict
ACEs/Trauma
Poverty
Young Carer



CCE
Illness
Poor Self Esteem
Peer Pressure
Social Media





Enhancing wellbeing by increasing protective factors: The balancing act

Protective factors

Risk factors

Coping skills

Sense of belonging

Safe school environment

Transition

Peer relationships



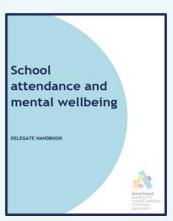
Activity: Menti and Discussion



What protective factors can the school environment offer?

You might think about this in terms of:

- Individual
- Family and Friendships
- Community
- Learning environment







Protective factors that may support children and young people's school attendance and mental wellbeing



School

Secure adult
Emotional literacy
skills

Peer network

Problem solving skills



Family

Supportive relationships
Validation
Autonomy
Security



Community

Strong community
Acceptance
Belonging
Safety



Individual Resources

Positive coping strategies

Healthy self esteem

Interests and hobbies



What does the research tell us?

Enhancing protective factors within the education setting:

"Think about it like building with layers of Swiss cheese. There will be gaps at each layer, and if you're relying on just one of those layers there's a greater chance of falling through the gap. But the more layers you build with, the more gaps are closed."

Professor Jess Deighton





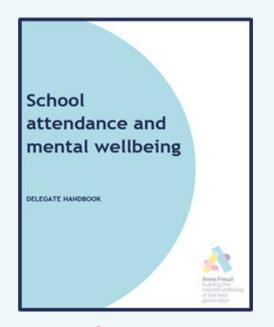
What were some of your challenges regarding attendance?





Discussion

What can we take from Ben's approach?



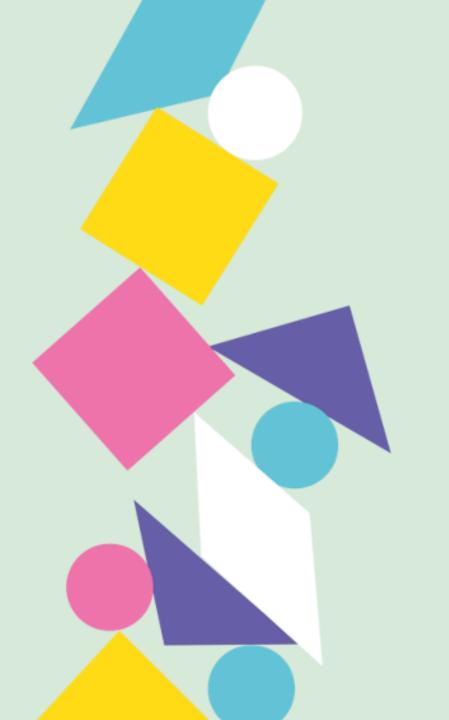




Break

15 minutes





Module 2

A whole-school approach to attendance and mental health

Collaborative parent/carer partnership



Using a graduated response



What is a whole-school approach?



An ethos and environment that promotes respect and values diversity

Curriculum teaching and learning to promote resilience and support social and emotional learning

Targeted support and appropriate referral

Leadership and management that supports and champions efforts to promote emotional health and wellbeing

impact of

interventions

Enabling student voice to influence decisions

Staff

development to

Working with **Parents** and carers

support their own wellbeing and that of students and monitoring

Identifying need

A whole-school approach involves all parts of the school working together and being committed. It needs partnership working between senior leaders, teachers and all school staff, as well as parents, carers and the wider community.

Public Health England. Promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing: A whole school and college approach. London: Public Health England; 2015.



School attendance is everyone's responsibility

The importance of a whole school approach

- Shared ethos and understanding
- 2. Tailored, multi-faceted support

SENCO Pastoral/HOY/ Designated Class Safeguarding teacher/Form Leads tutor Attendance CiC/LAC team Designated /officer **Teachers** Parents/Carers

5 Steps to mental health and wellbeing framework:

A whole-school or FE college approach



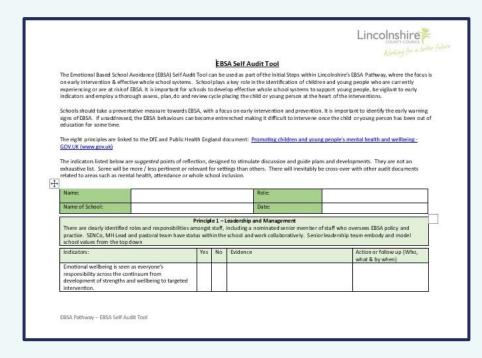


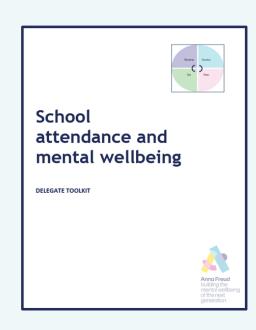
Activity: Reflect on your current whole school approach

What would be a priority area for your setting?

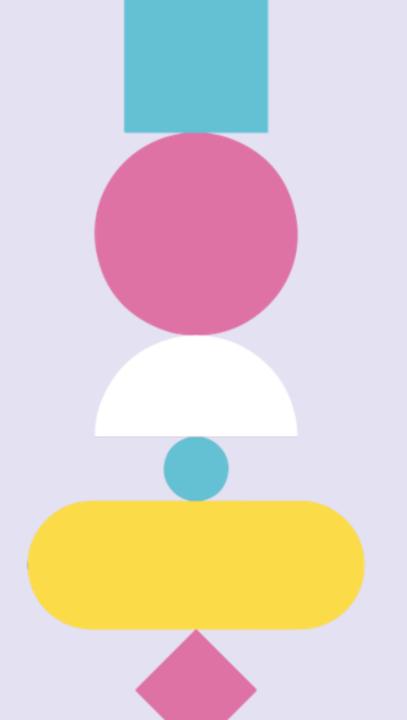
- Whole school training
- Ethos
- Policy

Which do you prioritise and how?









Parent and carer partnership

Working collaboratively with parents and carers through building a relationship of trust.



Training for managing parent/carer relationships



- 52% of respondents had never had any training.
- Those that had received some training was during initial teacher training year.



If your child avoided school what was the reason?

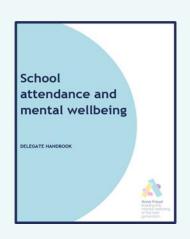


Activity: Discussion and Menti - Nicola and Lorna



How did the video make you feel?

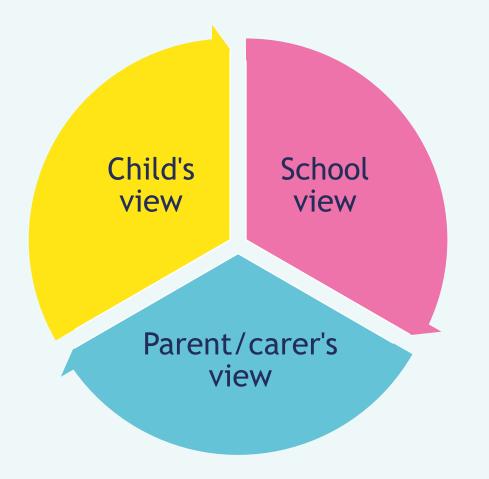
What can we learn from the videos?

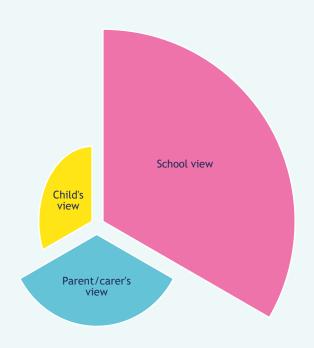






Collaborative Participation





- How can we facilitate space for different viewpoints, whilst creating a shared understanding?
- How can we engage the family in a way that reduces shame, accusation and judgement?

What we need to hear

What we maybe hear



Parent and carer partnership

Partnership: Collaborative planning and problem-solving between parents or carers and staff to solve children's behavioural and emotional challenges.

Recognise that partnership with parents or carers is not always a given.

To best work with parents or carers, trust must be established.

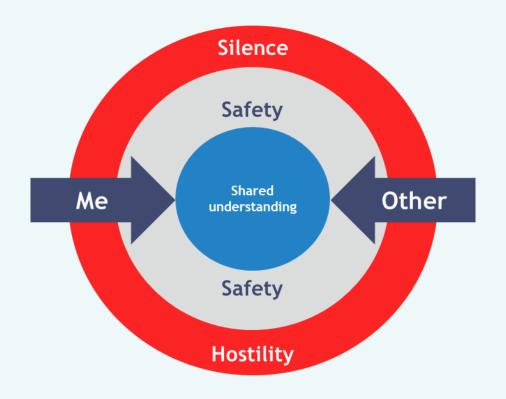
Establishing positive relationships at the earliest point, so that when the time comes to have a "high stakes" conversations, it feels safer for those involved.

Find out which parents or carers may need that "trust building" beforehand.



Parent or carer partnership

High-stakes conversations



Step out, make it safe and step back in again.



Case study example





Reflection



What have you taken away from these experiences?



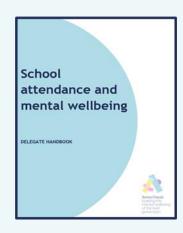
"It only takes one teacher to really care"



"Giving me the opportunity to voice what I think"



"Dealing in a sensitive, supportive way is hugely important"





"Make them feel special"



"Empathy and trying to understand"

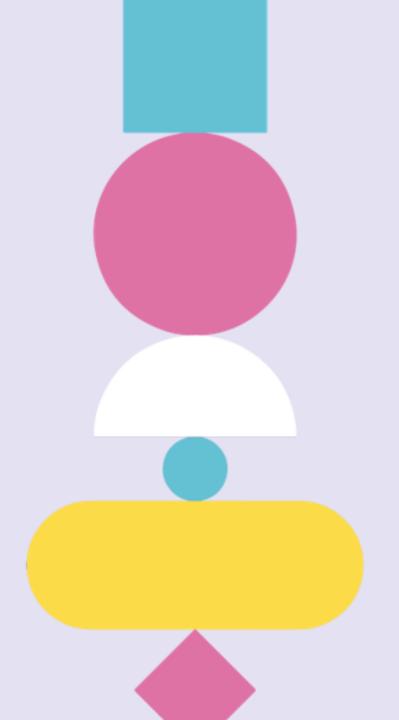


Lunch



30 mins





Module 3: Strategies workshop

How can we effectively support a child / young person experiencing challenges in attending school?



Using a graduated response

Specialist

Targeted

- Assess > Plan > Do > Review
- Personalised, systemic approach
- Evidence-based interventions

Universal



Assess, plan, do, review

- Monitor the progress made and adjust the plan for the next steps
- Further consultation with other agencies may be needed
- Continue cycle of Assess, Plan, Do, Review

- Ensure resources and support are in place; good communication with school, family and others
- Implement interventions

 Information gathering (CYP/parent/staff)

Assessment tools

Early identification

Formulation (5Ps)

Plan

Assess

Review

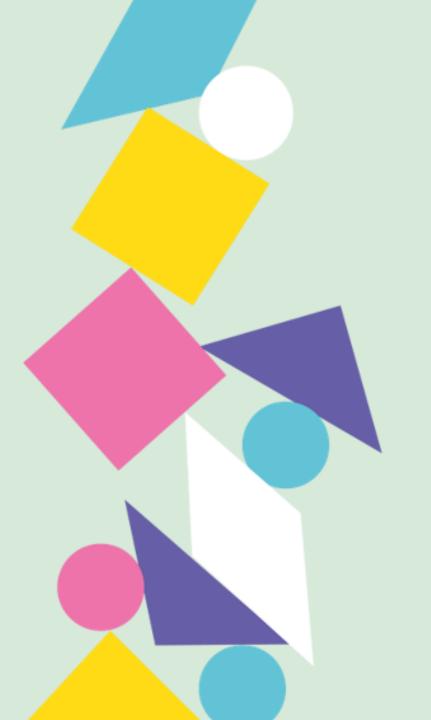
Do

 Co-produce a return to school action plan. Agree date of review. Share with all parties.

• Co-produce a return to school pupil support plan with young person. Share with all parties







Assess

Building up a holistic picture of the contributing factors to EBSA



Top tips to "assess"

Systemic picture

e.g. 5 P's formulation

Using tools to refine understanding

e.g. card sort activity, mapping exercise, timetable RAG

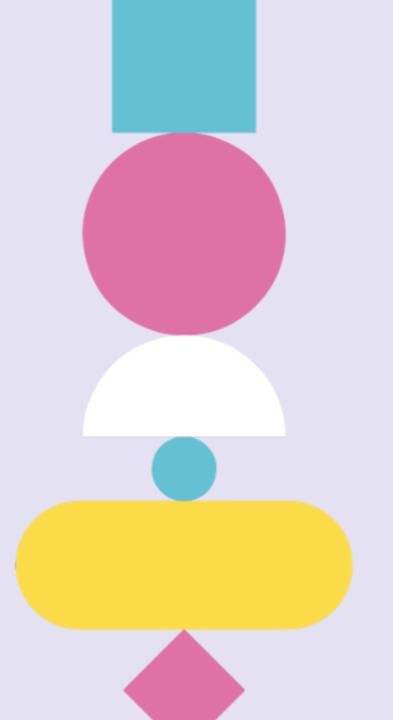
Triangulating

e.g. speaking to parents and carers, key members of staff and any mental health professionals working closely with the child or young person.

Gaining a holistic picture of the child or young person's experience. What's happening in the background. Using this understanding as a "working hypothesis".

Identifying specific tools to help gain an understanding of the function of the non-attendance.

Pull together all relevant information to gain an in-depth assessment to support planning process.



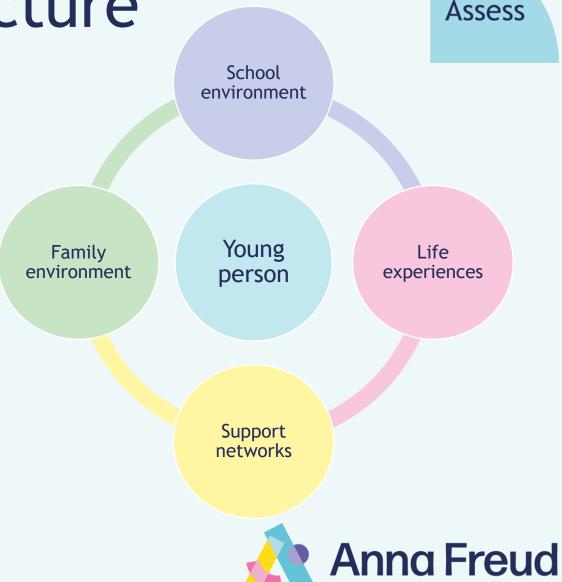
Systemic Picture

Using formulation



Building a systemic picture

- Considering the systems around the child / young person allows us to highlight gaps in our understanding and approach the situation more practically.
- Facilitates tailored and personalised support, helps to highlight any potential barriers early on.
- Identifies risk and protective factors.



The 5Ps formulation

Assess

What made me vulnerable in the first place (predisposing factors)

Triggers for the most recent episode (precipitating factors)



'The problem - presentation'



Things that keep 'the problem' going (perpetuating factors)

Positive things I've got going for me (protective factors)



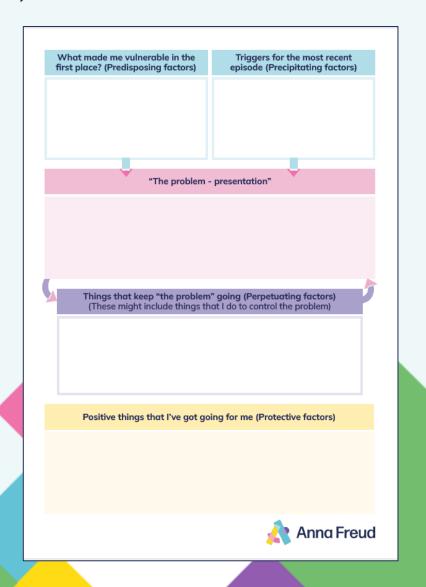
Activity - Formulation (5Ps)



 Using the case study information about Layla, complete a formulation/ 5Ps in your handbook







Layla

Layla is 15 and is academically capable. Ever since she returned to school from lockdown her attendance has been inconsistent. She is a quiet student but used to have a small group of reliable friends and has always completed her classwork and homework to a high standard.

More recently her approach to her work has become less enthusiastic. Teachers have noticed that her moods can be variable. Some days she seems happy and gets on well in class, other days she's very quiet, lacks concentration and doesn't seem to want to participate in anything. She has begun to forget to complete homework and doesn't have much to say when asked about it.

She has asked to move seats in two of her subjects. She told one teacher that she thinks thinks people are judging her. For a while at the start of the year she asked her form tutor if she could stay in her classroom at lunch time but that teacher has now gone on maternity leave. She frequently brings notes excusing her from PE.

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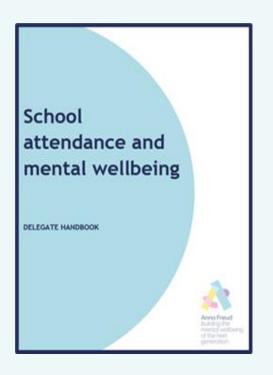
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Reflection - Formulation (5Ps)

Adjust your 5Ps in handbook as we reflect



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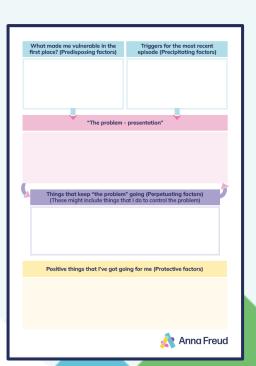
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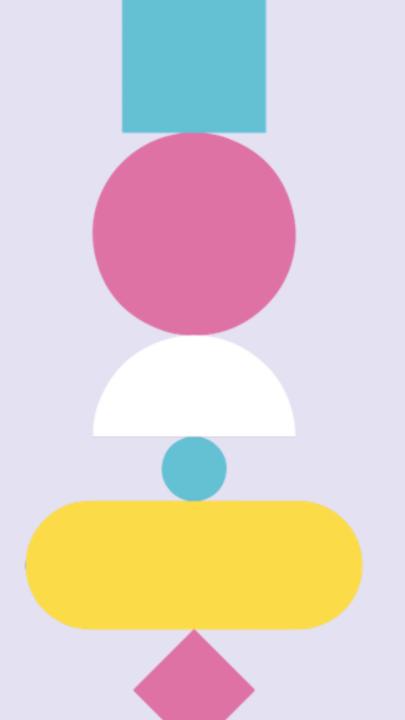
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Assess







Using tools to refine understanding

Ensuring tri-angulation



What lies behind non-attendance?



It can be tempting to try and identify a simple reason and simple solution for the attendance behaviour.

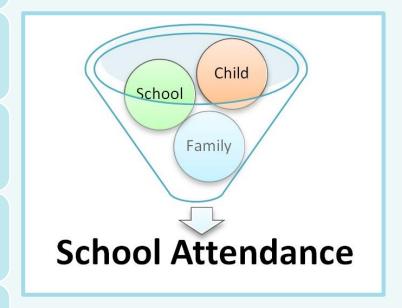
However, this is complex and often an interaction of several factors.

For assessment to be meaningful it will need to be multi-faceted and use a mixture of creative tools for drawing out views.

School should lead on this and involve the child or young person, their family, key adults in school and involved professionals.

The important element is the quality of the information that is gathered.

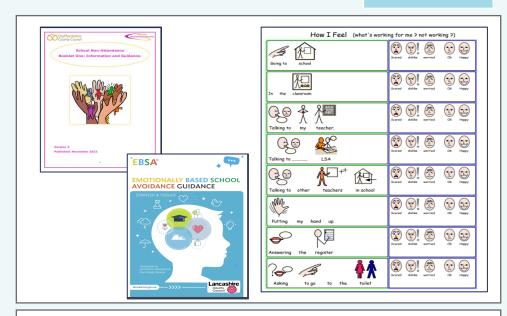
This allows the areas of concern to be broken down into smaller more manageable parts, identifying how they interact with and contribute to the behaviours and lead to robust planning.





Assess

- It is very important for at least one trusted adult to listen fully and carefully to the student's voice.
- Not all students will necessarily require resources to facilitate their conversations with staff (simply talking may be enough for some), but it is helpful to have a range of tools available in the school.
- Schools will need to select and adapt these based on:
 - Student age
 - Reading/language skills
 - Communication and/or learning difficulties
- We must always recognise the **individual needs**there is no magic bullet or one tool that fits all.



Creative expressions of how student feels



The function of non-attendance

Assess

What is **pushing** the child AWAY from school?

To avoid school related stressors

To avoid social

To avoid social situations and/or activities

Home related reasons

To engage in preferred activities

PULL

What is **pulling** the child TOWARDS home?



Activity - the 'function'

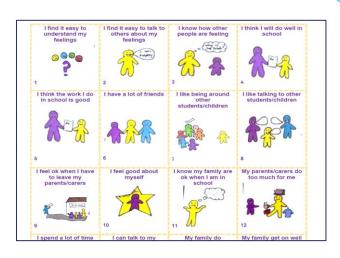
Function of non-attendance

- Essex questionnaires
- Lancashire card short
- Staffordshire card sort/tick chart









	Card	Factors	Category Placement			Additional Exploration/Comments
Level	No		Not True	Sometimes True	Often True	
	1	I find it easy to understand my feelings				
	2	I find it easy to talk to others about my feelings				
	3	I know how other people are feeling				
	4	I think I will do well in school				
	5	I think the work I do in school is good				
Ē	6	I have a lot of friends				
Individual	7	I like being around other students/children				
ä	8	I like talking to other students/children				
	9	I feel ok when I have to leave my parents/carers				
	10	I feel good about myself				
	11	I know my family are ok when I am in school				
	12	My parents/carers do too much for me				



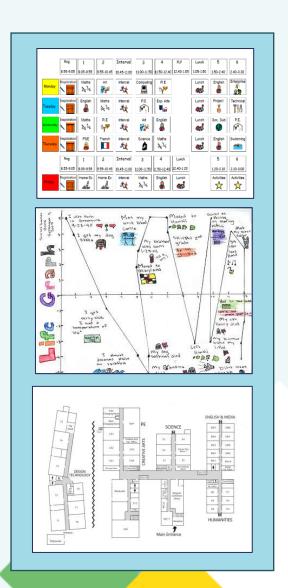
Look through the resources and consider:

- Physical environment
- Social environment
- Learning environment



Can we use this information to begin to make 'reasonable adjustments'?







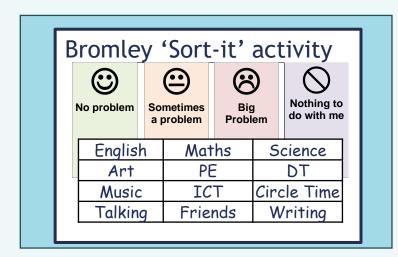
Seeking the detail - scaling

Scaling tools give an insight into academic difficulties, relationships with teachers or other peers, or even the specific learning environment. For example, a science lab being too sensory stimulating

Bromley - When talking about different aspects of school, ask the pupil to identify quickly their initial feeling as 'no problem', 'not sure' or a 'problem'.

<u>Lancashire</u> - When the pupil has rated their subjects, compare a high and low scoring lesson to give some insights into triggers for anxiety.





Laddering Activity (example statements)			
Score 1 or 2	Score 4 or 5		
Science	Maths		
We have to get into groups or find a partner to work with	We sit at our tables		
 The teacher sometimes changes his mind and takes us out of the classroom to find things 	I have a set place at the side of the class People do not talk or mess about		
The lab smells.	The teacher does not shout		

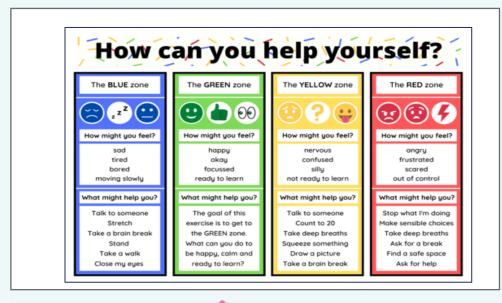
Scaling exercises

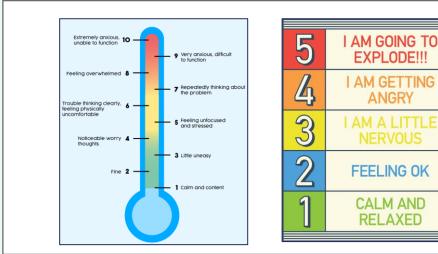
- Try using common tools to highlight key times/areas/lessons of challenge.
- Remember to include home, travel and non-school time.

Scaling

- Anxiety thermometer
- Feelings scale







External support identified

Throughout the process be mindful if referral to external teams is appropriate:

Safeguarding

Referral needed to Front Door/SPA

Education Welfare

- Liaison with EWS?
- Personalised tracking procedures e.g. standard letters/text messages

SENCO

- Unidentified need?
- Reasonable adjustments
- Screening tools -Boxall

External SEN

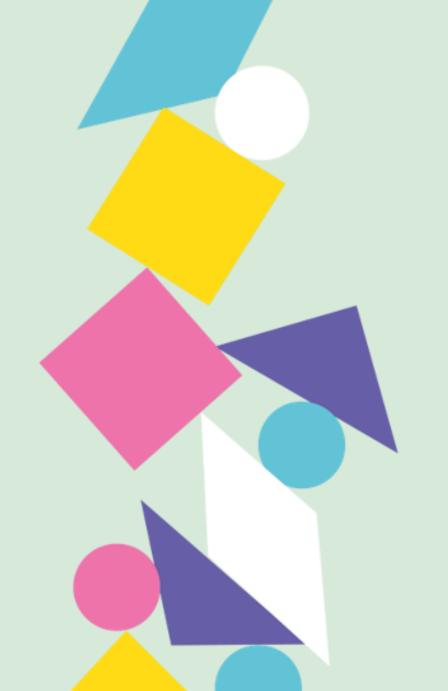
- Ed Psych
- Speech and Language
- ASD pathway
- Occupationa l Therapy
- Hospital school or equivalent

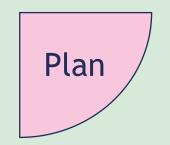
EHCP

 Does EHCP need updating and/or provison plan changing?

- Is a multi-agency approach needed?
- Are we inviting any involved external agencies to be part of process?







Plan

Planning to best support the child or young person.



Reasonable adjustments

Plan

"When a flower doesn't bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower"

Alexander Den Heijer





When co-developing any reintegration plan, factors to consider are:



Do we have an understanding of their sensory profile?

How do they manage daily transitions within the setting?

How do they feel about interactions in class?

Which members of staff are they most comfortable with?

Who are their support network at school?

Are there safe spaces for them at school?



Activity - Layla's Case Study



Plan

- 1. How can you support Layla to successfully reintegrate back into school?
- 2. What things would you need to consider?





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A good reintegration plan:

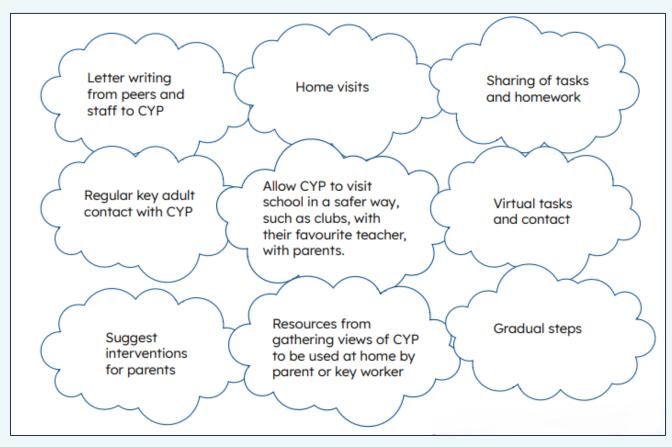
- Is child-led and supported by parents/carers and school.
- Is informed by what the child finds difficult (assess) and not by timetables or other contextual restrictions
- Has small steps to allow for confidence to develop and success celebrated.
- Is supplemented by appropriate, evidence-based interventions/referrals.



Maintaining connection

Plan

How do we ensure we maintain the relationship between school and home?





Plan examples

WSCC Return to School Planning Tool - Appendix 1 Return to School Planning - Feedback and analysis sheet Child or young person (CYP) name: Staff member name: 'About Me' section: What things and people are important to the 'My Home' section: How did they feel being at home? What did they do? How did they feel about home learning? 'Return to School' section: How do they feel about returning to school? Are they looking forward to anything? What are their questions about returning to school? What would they like to get better/need support with? 'My Coping Toolkit/When I Feel Worried' section: What activities were selected? Do they have a preference for one type? Integrate the information above and the pictures selected on pages 8&9 (Version A) and 7&8 (Version B) to identify: Push and pull factors keeping them away from school: Push and pull factors encouraging them towards home: Avoid situations which are negative, social pressures and health concerns. (Pictures with Attention and time from parents, preferring to spend time more time out of school as it is border colours light green, grey, blue and purple. These are areas to reduce through support.) more fun or stimulating. (Pictures with border colours dark green and orange. These are areas to reduce through support.) Push and pull factors encouraging them to attend school Factors to promote attendance that were selected (Pictures with yellow borders. Find Factors to promote growth which were not selected (Pictures with yellow borders. Find opportunities to promote these)

4.5 Pupil / Young Person's Attendance Support Plan My Attendance Support Plan Name: My plan will be reviewed on (date) by (who) My key adults: My safe place: I can get help by... I can go to this place by... What I'm finding difficult at the moment: My next steps are to: To help me... My teachers will: My family will: I will: Other changes in school (e.g. timetable, lunchtimes):

Plan



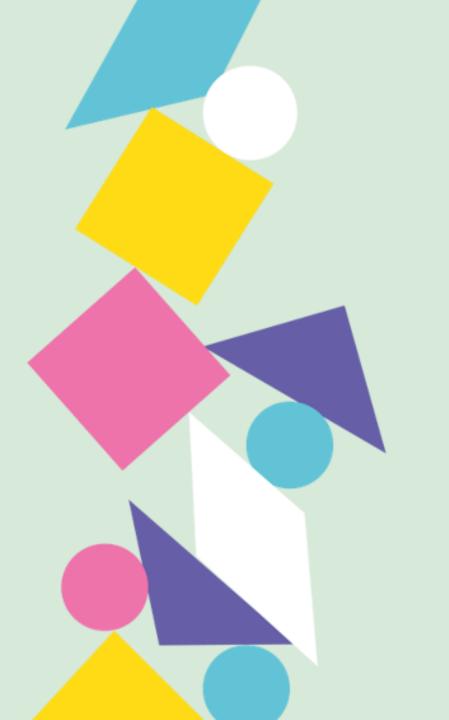
Break



15 mins

















Planned programme

Based on a sound theory

Supported by independent research evidence.

<u>Education Endowment Foundation</u> <u>Mentally Healthy Schools</u>

Interventions

Lincolnshire



Universal and Targeted Approaches

The interventions that could be used will greatly depend on the specific needs of the child or young person and the nature of the issues identified through the phases of the EBSA Pathway. Any provision that is put in place should not be considered a long-term solution but a bridge towards eventual reintegration. Continued assessments to ensure appropriate provision is in place is key. While not an exhaustive list, here are some potential interventions or adjustments:

Checking and doing the basics:

For example

- Getting enough sleep
- Eating healthfully
- Exercising
- Going on walks
- Connecting with people the CYP loves and/or trusts, including trusted adults at school.

Interventions and adjustments:

For example

- · Targeted interventions on key areas of difficulty
- Revision of instructional practices
- Revision of how the information is presented and delivered
- Differentiated learning approaches
- Adjusted expectations in line with emotional needs
- Allowing a child to start a few minutes earlier or later than their class
- · Change of classes / form group
- · Appropriate positioning within the class to reduce the impact of sensory needs
- · Allowing a child to sit with a child they have an established relationship with
- Phased return starting with favourite / least challenging lesson or time of the day, starting small and building up; for example 15 minutes if a whole lesson is too much

Essex

Function 2: Avoiding difficult social situations, evaluations or judgements in school

As above, interventions should include teaching about anxiety and how to manage it. Pupils may also need to be taught specific social skills and given opportunities to practice coping skills in real-life situations, starting small and building up to those which are most challenging for them.

If their anxiety and social difficulties are linked to neurological diversity (such as Autism Spectrum Disorder), they may need more specialised interventions. Seek further advice from your school's link Educational Psychologist or Inclusion Partner, where necessary.

Do

Bromley

	Pupil:	_ Year:	_ Date:
Initia	al actions that may resolve specific iss	ues/harriers	
√	Personalised support/intervention	ues/barriers	
	Address and resolve any bullying or restorative justice approach may be ap		es that may be taking place (a
	Ask class/subject teacher(s) to make all for example changing the seating plan	ny specific and	simple reasonable adjustments, omework expectations
	Agree a change or set of changes in the example, an exact plan for 'drop-off helpful)	e routine arour	nd school with parents/carers (for
Clas	ss-based differentiation and strategies	for teachers	and support staff to support
	lity First Teaching		and support stan to support
✓	Personalised support/intervention		
	All of the pupil's class teachers and sur	port staff mad	e aware of pupil's circumstances
	and relevant aspects of the plan		F-F
	Advised differentiation and personalise SEN) listed in a central place which it teaching assistant and/or provided in a	s easily accès	sible to each class teacher and
	teaching accident anaror provided in a	one page pro	
Wrai	p-around support and pupil self-care re	esources	
√	Personalised support/intervention	coodioco	
	Safe space(s)		
	Buddy/peer support system		
	Seating plan for each subject/teacher		
	Colour-coded/visual timetable including	all parts of th	e school day (not only lessons):
	this might include the step-by-step sch		
	before/after school provision and break		
	'Circle of adults' personal reference (fe		
	the pupil can check in with)		,
	Special responsibilities/jobs		
	'What if' prompts personal reference (re-set activities')	what to do in a	anxiety-provoking situations, e.g.
	Signal card, to show a teacher/support for the pupil and staff to know what		
	response the pupil can expect from adu	ilts and what a	dults can expect the pupil to do)

Emotionally-Based School Avoidance (FBSA) Interventions Sheet





Do

 Are there any specific interventions that come to mind for Layla?

Now think about your current whole-school approach to mental wellbeing.

What interventions do you already use?

 Are they applicable to supporting a CYP with emotionally based school avoidance?

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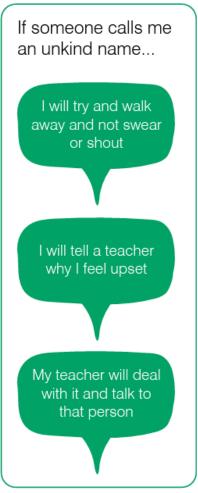
School attendance and mental wellbeing

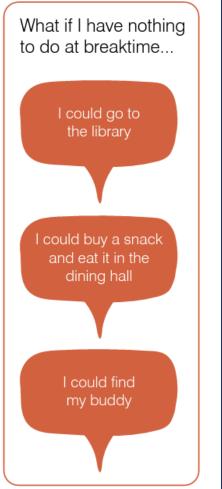
DELEGATE HANDBOOK

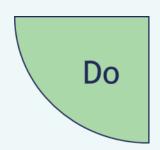


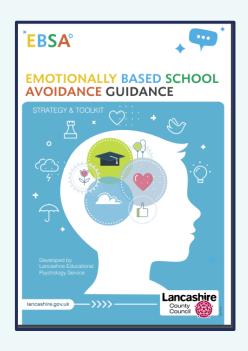
What if prompts



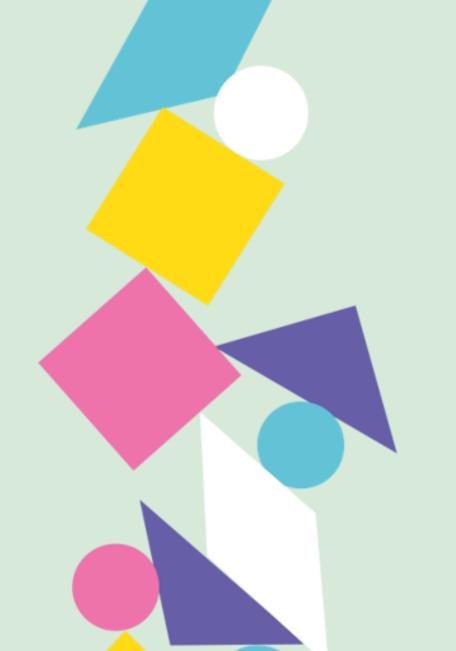














Review



Review

Review

Assess

Plan

Action and support plan should be regularly reviewed with the child or young person, parents and carers, key staff (SENCo, key person, etc.) and other professionals (MHSTs, social workers, family support workers, etc.).

- Celebrate progress.
- Remember that progress isn't always linear.
- Identify if there needs to be further consultation with, or referrals to, other agencies.
- Consider any new information or changes to the situation and plan next steps.
- Continue the cycle of Assess, Plan, Do, Review.



Review

Do

Using a graduated response



Specialist

Targeted

Universal

Referrals to specialist support:

School Attendance Support Team

Ed Psych team

CYPMHS

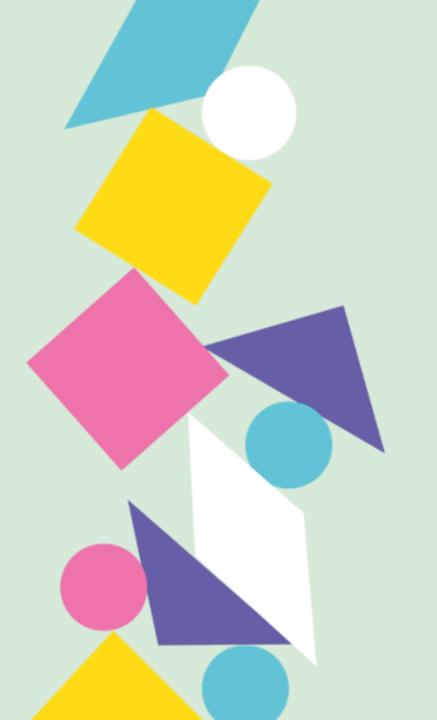
Social Care

Virtual Schools (for LAC)

Youth Justice

SEN/Disability Teams





Apply strategies

Applying strategies and resources to case studies to develop a plan.



Activity - case studies



Select one of the case studies on your table (Mateo or Fatima) or use an example from your own setting to:

- Carry out a formulation using the 5Ps.
- Work out the 'function' of avoidance.
- Consider and select appropriate assessment tools that you would use, in order to...
- Create a plan, incorporating elements of the whole-school approach and including any interventions that might be necessary.
- Present back and justify choice of tools, using the 'Assess/Plan/Do/ Review' structure.





Case study - Mateo

Mateo is a 5 year old boy. He has just moved to the area with his mum, joining the school in the middle of the Autumn term. His mum recently lost her job and so moved to be closer to family.

Mateo is generally well-behaved in class and in school. He is polite and appears to enjoy learning; he would be considered academically able.

Mateo has become particularly friendly with one other child but otherwise comes across as quite shy and insular; he often looks unsure and unhappy if that friend isn't at school.

When Mum drops him off at school he becomes visibly upset when she tries to leave, refusing to let go of his mum. Often, staff have to physically lead Mateo into school. Lunchtime supervisors have reported to Mateo's teacher that he often complains of a tummy ache at lunchtime.



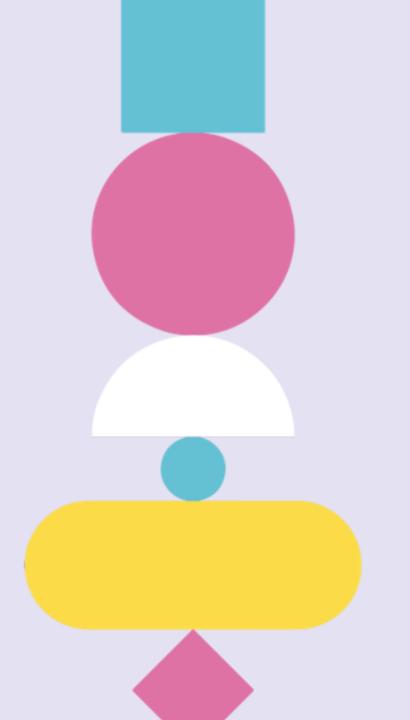
Case study - Fatima

Fatima is a 15-year-old girl at secondary school. She would be considered a high achiever and very academic. Both her parents are heavily invested in her education and are both doctors in the local village. Fatima doesn't appear to have a solid friendship group and in class appears withdrawn and often looks unhappy.

It has been observed that at lunchtime she goes to the toilets and cries. She presents as being quite closed off and reluctant to speak and reports to tutor that she experiences heightened anxiety and panic when asked to speak in front of others.

Fatima's attendance is at 75% and school are concerned. Fatima says that she feels sick as the reason she doesn't want to go to school. Mum encourages her to go to school and would tell her to 'buck up' and get on with things.





Good practice

Preparing for success.



Work through your process

Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) One-page essential school practice checklist

EBSA is a complex, multi-variant phenomenon and unique for each pupil and their family, often but not always intersecting with possible or identified SEND. Schools are strongly advised to make use of the concise Bromley EBSA Toolkit, available with supplementary EBSA resources provided on the SENCO Hub and the SEMH Padlet. This includes a set of eight supplementary self-guidance and training materials, providing more detail, alongside other curated resources.

This checklist provides an 'at-a-glance' one-page list of essential points of school practice to prevent, reduce and manage persistent absenteeism where EBSA is likely or known feature.

Key points of expected practice:

Identify indicators of EBSA (attendance, patterns of work, peer relationships, adult relationships, school belonging, personal, physical, environmental, etc.)
Explore risk factors of EBSA (school factors, family factors, pupil factors) and protective factors in these areas.
Identify the functions (reasons) of the EBSA as negatively and positively reinforcing (i.e. things the pupil wants to avoid or gain by not attending school).
Explore push and pull factors (pushing towards attending school, pulling away from attending school).
Establish a formulation (overview/summary of all of the above → hypotheses).
Devise and monitor a solution-focused plan of support (including referrals, class- based approaches, reasonable adjustments, wrap-around and self-care strategies, structured interpretations and return to school plan if processing.)

Common ac	tivities as part of this work:
Att	tendance tracking and enhanced attendance/education welfare interventions
Sc	reening and checklists for SEND, including SEMH (particularly anxiety) → making
	ferrals for SEND assessments, if appropriate (e.g. Bromley Y, CAMHS, Community
Pa	ediatrics, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, EP)
Sc	chool refusal screening
cla	athering information from pupil, staff, parents/carers (e.g. card sorts, scaling, ideal issroom activity, round robins, surveys, conversations/meetings, etc.), including use Early Help Assessment, if appropriate
Ris	sk assessments
	istoral contacts and referrals – e.g. Children & Families Hub, Bromley Children oject, Virtual School (if CLA)
	assroom-based approaches with teachers to adapt HQT; may include use of one- ige pupil profile/passport
Re	easonable adjustments (e.g. equipment, passes, exams, trips, uniform)
Sa	ife spaces and key adults in the school identified and provided
Sc	thool day enhancements (e.g. clubs)
	rap-around and self-care/coping strategies (e.g. exercises, visuals, apps, helplines, me-based approaches with parents/carers and community supports)
St	ructured interventions (e.g. CBT programs, anxiety management, social skills)

Interventions if EBSA is more entrenched:

ı	Personalised timetables (e.g. full school day but some lessons out of class/alternative)
I	Reduced/part-time timetables with suitable remote learning and support arrangements
	Step-by-step plan for a gradual return to school (involves finely graded steps)
	Referral to Gateway Panel if persistently absent and with health evidence that pupil is
	too unwell to attend school: the pupil may require short-term personalised education

Have you done everything?

What has changed? - stepped approach

Could some elements be repeated?

How will you hold this whilst waiting for external support?



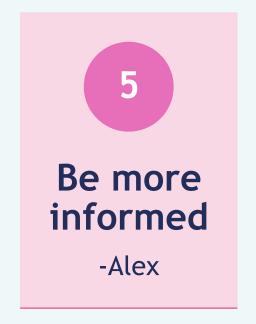
What did young people said would help them thrive in school?









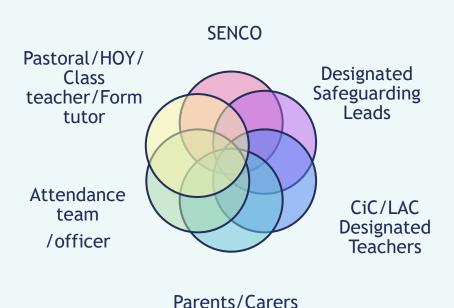




First steps and next steps

Think about:

Who will you work with?

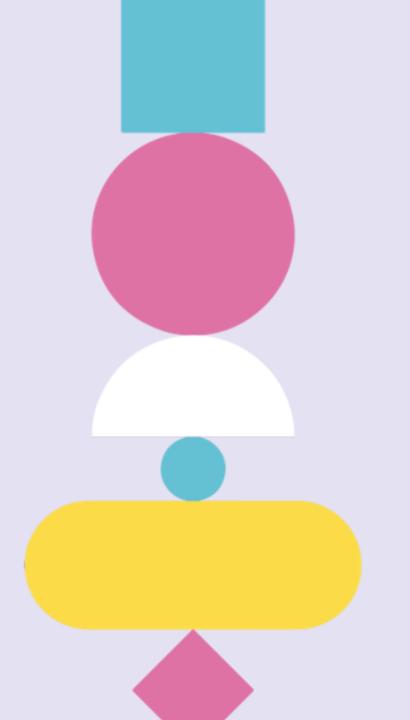


What is your graduated approach?



- How are you protecting your staff who are crucial to these relationships and assessment?
 - Give them time
 - Celebrate and support relationships





Review

An opportunity to reflect on today's training



Learning outcomes

By the end of today's training session, you will have:

- Further understanding of school attendance and mental wellbeing.
- Recognised the positive impact of using a relational approach.
- Increased awareness of the perspectives of children, young people and families who have personal experience of EBSA.
- Deepened understanding of evidence-based interventions and strategies to use as part of a whole school approach.
- Experience of selecting appropriate resources to assess and plan support of school attendance and mental wellbeing.



Feedback form

Thank you for taking a moment to complete our feedback form for today's training.

For any questions following today's training, including training requests for your school, please email school.training@annafreud.org

Schools Training Feedback





Personal reflection

What is your starting point for tomorrow?

What is one thing you will do?

Who will you share with?

Link with a Governor/ trustee

Develop a whole school approach











Questions?

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Key resources

To accompany this training and support your development.





Sign up for monthly newsletter updates about our resources, training, research and more.

Schools in Mind | Anna Freud



Access hundreds of free, clinically assured mental health resources and information for schools and colleges.

<u>Home: Mentally Healthy Schools</u>



A podcast, 10 practical resources and an elearning course on anti-racism and mental health in schools.

Anti-racism and mental health in schools e-learning | Anna Freud





Thank you

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building the mental
wellbeing of the
next generation