

What is an Education Supervision Order?

An Education Supervision Order is an order granted in the Family Proceedings Court requiring you and your child to follow directions made in the Order and work alongside the Attendance and Engagement Officer, as the Supervising Officer, to improve your child's school attendance.

Why is an Education Supervision Order (ESO) being sought for my child?

As your child's pattern of school attendance is not satisfactory, it is likely that you will have been working with an Attendance and Engagement Officer to try to improve the situation. The Local Authority now feels that a more structured plan, backed by the Family Court, will assist you to achieve the required improvement in attendance.

How does an Education Supervision Order Work?

In consultation with your family, the Attendance and Engagement Officer will complete a detailed report for the consideration of the Magistrates in the Family Court.

This will contain directions for both you, as a parent/carer, and your child. An example of this could be that there is a requirement for you to attend all meetings held in your child's school. Once the Family Court has agreed the Directions of the Order and explained them to the child and family, the Attendance and Engagement Officer, acting as the Supervising Officer, is required to "advise, assist and befriend" the child and family. This will

include regular meetings with the child and the family, helping them follow a structured plan of work. It is important that both the child and the family cooperate with the Supervising Officer if the child is to benefit fully from the educational opportunities offered.

What happens if I or my child are not happy with the Directions given by the Supervising Officer?

You can challenge the Directions and discuss them with the Supervising Officer if you consider them to be unreasonable. It may be possible to change the directions if the Supervising Officer is in agreement that this is appropriate.

What happens if I fail to comply with the Directions?

Once the Order is made you have a duty to comply with the directions. If you fail to comply the Supervising Officer will issue a warning and discuss the directions fully with you again. If you still fail to comply you may be prosecuted in the Magistrates Court, and may incur a fine or other penalty.

What happens if my child fails to comply with the Directions?

If your child persistently fails to comply with the Directions of the Order, they will initially be given a warning. If they still fail to comply with the directions the matter will be referred to the Early Years and Family Support Team, who then have a duty to investigate the child's circumstances.

How long will the Education Supervision Order last?

An Education Supervision Order usually lasts for twelve months but the Supervising Officer can apply to the Family Court, during the last three months of the Order, for it to be extended for up to three years.

An Education Supervision Order will lapse if:-

- The child attains compulsory school leaving age, which is the last Friday in June of the school year in which the child attains their 16th birthday; or
- The child is made the subject of a full Care Order; or
- The Order is discharged by the Family Court on the application of the parent/carer, the child, or the Local Authority.

**Can I object to an Education
Supervision Order being made?**

Yes, you or your child have the right to oppose an Education Supervision Order application. In reality, however, this is unlikely to happen as the Attendance and Engagement Officer working with you will take your views into consideration and is unlikely to go ahead with an application without your co-operation.

Where can I find help?

Contact the Attendance and Engagement Service, the contact details are listed below:-

Central Area—(Oxford)

Knights Court
Cowley
Oxford
Tel: 01865 323444

**North Area—(Banbury, Bicester, Chipping
Norton, Witney, Eynsham,, Burford,
Woodstock, Kidlington)**

Samuelson House
Banbury
Oxon
Tel: 01865 816666

**South Area—(Abingdon, Didcot,
Faringdon, Wantage, Henley, Thame)**

Foxcombe Court
Abingdon
Oxon
Tel: 01865 323513

Information is also available on the Internet at
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
Oxfordshire County Council's website

www.oxfordshireservicesdirectory.org.uk
Directory for parents/carers and people
working with children

Aug 2010

Attendance and Engagement Service

Education Supervision Orders

You and the law on School
Attendance
Children Act 1989
Section 36

Your questions answered