

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, Witney, Eynsham, Chipping Norton, Woodstock, Burford, 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

Your Questions Answered

School Attendance Orders

You and the law on School
Attendance
Education Act 1996
Sections 437-444

What is a School Attendance Order?

A School Attendance Order is an Order issued by the Solicitor to the Council on behalf of the Local Authority requiring the child to become a registered full time pupil at the school named on the Order.

If you have not registered your child at a school you may be asked to provide evidence that they are receiving efficient, full-time education suitable for their age, aptitude and ability, including any special educational needs they may have. If you fail to do this, you will be contacted by an Education Social Worker.

If your child is put on the roll of a suitable school at this stage no order will be applied for. However, the child's school attendance will be monitored.

When is a School Attendance Order Issued?

If you have failed to satisfy the Local Authority that your child is receiving suitable education, either in school or otherwise than at school, you will receive a formal letter giving you a deadline by which you must do so. The letter will also indicate the school which will be named in the School Attendance Order if you fail to do this.

The School Attendance Order would be applied for from the Magistrates Court once the deadline had passed without appropriate action on your part.

What is suitable education?

Efficient full-time education according to the child's age, aptitude and ability. This must take into account any special educational needs of the child.

Can I/We choose a different school to the one named in the School Attendance Order Letter?

Yes, if the school is suitable to the child's needs, has places available in the child's year band and agrees to offer a place. In this case the order will be changed to name the school chosen by you.

What happens if you still refuse to register your child at school?

Failure to comply with the order means that you have committed an offence. The Local Authority will then prosecute you under Section 443 of the Education Act 1996. This offence carries a maximum fine of £1,000.

How long does a School Attendance Order last?

A School Attendance Order can continue to be in force for as long as the child is of compulsory school age; in practice, however, this is not usually the case. An order can be revoked if:-

- The Local Authority revokes the Order as it is no longer needed.
- You are acquitted in court
- A different Order is applied for and granted by the court e.g. an Education Supervision Order.

Where can I find help?

The Oxfordshire Education Social Work Service is committed to ensuring that all pupils of statutory school age have access to education and will assist parents/carers in all aspects of school attendance.

You can contact your local Education Social Work Team at the address given overleaf.