

## CME – A child missing from education

‘All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have.’

The government expects schools and authorities to:

- Promote good attendance and reduce absence
- Ensure every pupil has access to a full time education
- Act early to address patterns of absence

‘The proprietor of a school who fails to comply with these regulations is guilty of an offence and can be fined’

Education act 1996



# What does that mean for us?

- A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect
- Children with poor attendance achieve less
- Staff should follow the school procedures for dealing with children that are missing from educations, particularly on repeat occasions. This can help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks them going missing in the future
- it is important that registers are correct and completed at all times to enable staff to recognise patterns and those that are missing from lessons on repeat occasions



