

CYPE(6)-06-22 - Paper to note 08

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Request for information on Pupil attendance & training for school governors

Response from: Caerphilly County Borough Council

1. Attendance

The Local Authority works with education settings to identify individual learners who require assistance, encouragement or specialist help to return to school. We monitor attendance data on a monthly basis, working directly with senior leaders, pastoral teams and family liaison officers in schools to support pupils with attendance below 85%.

Traditional indicators of vulnerability such as 'Looked after' or 'Free School Meals' are currently used in a limited way because we have found them less helpful in supporting vulnerable learners with individual needs and priorities. More helpful is the work of our Inclusion team to identify vulnerability and our EWS team to support them using suggested strategies. The education team is currently in the process of utilising additional funding from Welsh Government to develop the range of support to improve the attendance of vulnerable groups.

We don't share aggregated data widely as it is less useful in supporting groups of disadvantaged learners and individuals to return to school. It is also challenging to discern meaningful trends in data over short periods.

Since September 2021, pupil attendance has generally been approximately 6% lower than attendance rates before the pandemic. This is partly due to the high numbers of pupils who are symptomatic, have covid or are required to self-isolate.

Attendance for November 2021 is detailed below.

	All pupils	Free school meal pupils	Looked after pupils
	%	%	%
Secondary	86.0%	79.1%	87.2%
Primary	90.2%	86.2%	91.9%
3-18	86.7%	81.7%	90.6%
Special	82.3%	82.3%	74.8%
All	88.3%	83.2%	89.4%

2. Training for school governors

The Local Authority's support to governors is provided in partnership with the Education Achievement Service (EAS). Support is delivered through the EAS Service Level Agreement (SLA) with schools which includes both support and access to professional learning from both the Governor Support Team and colleagues across the service.

Professional Learning activity for governors has been offered virtually since June 2020, including all Welsh Government mandated training. A high-level summary of the regional approach and future planned developments are attached as a Word document, along with the full regional programme for Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022. In addition to this regional programme the LA delivers professional learning to governors in areas such as: Safeguarding, Finance and HR processes. This additional LA specific programme is also attached. The 'live' versions are accessible here on the EAS area of the Hwb platform: [Governor PL Programme](#).

Regarding the promotion of any information for Governors from Estyn or any other organisation, this would be done in partnership with the EAS. Any request to share useful information or opportunities with governors, would be promoted through the [EAS Supporting our schools Site - School Governance](#) and where urgent, backed up with an email to the approximately 3000 governors across the region.

Similarly, where the EAS Governor Support Service had any enquiry from a Governor about the programme we would direct them to the Estyn page on the Lay Inspector role, which has more information: <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/working-us/inspector-roles#layinspector>