Resources for Schools – May 2024

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2024/april/podcast-absenteeism-schools

Learn more about why children miss school and the potential safeguarding implications.

Education is a vital part of ensuring children get the best possible start in life, and there can be safeguarding implications for children who are absent from school. If children miss school, the ability that schools have to offer them the support they need is compromised. And missing school may be an indicator of broader child protection concerns.

The number of children who are persistently absent from school has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. In this podcast episode, experts from the NSPCC and Childline discuss the potential causes for this, and what schools can do to address the problem. You'll also hear two secondary school students share their thoughts on how the stresses and strains of school life can affect attendance.

The discussion covered:

- what school absenteeism is and how it is defined?

- what the safeguarding implications could be for children who miss school

- the impact of the pandemic on absenteeism trends

- what schools can do to prevent absenteeism and support persistently absent children?

- what Childline is hearing about why children miss school.

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/building-connections?modularPage=who-it-is-for

Building Connections is an online service for young people up to the age of 19, empowering them to find a way through loneliness.

Young people work with a trained befriender, who guides them and champions them each step of the way. Building Connections gives young people tools that can help them build their confidence and better equip them to manage loneliness.

https://carers.org/news-and-media/news/post/372-carers-trust-reacts-to-figures-showing-persistent-absence-rate-for-young-carers-is-nearly-twice-as-high-as-for-their-peers

These figures should ring alarm bells in government, showing all too starkly how being a young carer can have a devastating impact on children's education and future prospects. Young carers have a persistent absence rate of 39% - almost twice as high as their peers. On average they miss 23 days of

school per year, far more than those without a caring role. These lays bare the glaring inequality in the life opportunities for young carers compared to their classmates.

"There are one million young carers in the UK – that's two in every classroom - including at least 15,000 children caring for over 50 hours each week. By selflessly looking after loved ones they're saving the state millions in social care costs and deserve targeted support. That's why it's essential that the Government requires every school to have a young carer lead and policy in place. A cross-government national carers strategy is also desperately required, along with funding, to ensure these young people and their families get the help they need."

Carers Trust have produced an insight briefing summarising the main findings as well as the evidence from other studies relating to young carers and education.

https://youngcarersinschools.com/

Run jointly by Carers Trust and The Children's Society, the Young Carers in Schools (YCiS) programme works with schools across England to share good practice, provide relevant tools and training, and celebrate the great outcomes many schools achieve for young carers.

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/professional/resources/supporting-school-transitions/

Resources to help pupils, schools, parents and carers to cope with the changes and transitions they experience during their time at school.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IoeKj8nTsGM

Barriers to Education (Replacing the EBSA Guidance) Webinar.

https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/mental-health-in-schools/

This page provides information on how schools can support children and young adults experiencing mental health difficulties and when a mental health difficulty can be considered a disability or Special Educational Need.