



# Children Missing Education (CME) - a five-minute read



A '5 minute read' provides a brief overview and basic information on a particular subject and directs to sources of more detailed information.

## Who are Children Missing Education?

CME are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education in another way, for example, via suitable Elective Home Education (EHE).

CME <b>includes</b> children who:	CME <b>does not include</b> children who:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are in the process of applying for a school place.</li> <li>• have been offered a school place but have not yet started.</li> <li>• are receiving EHE that is unsuitable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are older or younger than compulsory school age.</li> <li>• are registered at a school, even if they are persistently/severely absent.</li> <li>• receiving suitable EHE.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Everyone has an important part to play in identifying CME and supporting them to return to education.</b></p>	

## Why is this group of children so important?

CME are at **significant risk** of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation, or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment, or training) later in life. (*CME: Statutory guidance for Local authorities, Department for Education, September 2016*)

## What should I be doing? If I am a.....

- **Parent:** it's your duty to ensure that your child accesses education either by attending school or via a suitable Elective Home Education (EHE). Information on applying for a school place, and EHE, can be found on the BCP Website – (see the next section for details).
- **BCP colleague:** ask about a child's education and check our systems. If you think they may be missing education, but the CME team may be unaware, email [CME@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:CME@bcpcouncil.gov.uk) including the child's full name and date of birth and/or as much information as you have available.
- **School colleague:** Familiarise yourself with the CME Policy so you know when and how to notify BCP of a CME. The CME Policy is on our EduKnowledge website for Schools at: [Children Missing Education Team \(eduknowledgehub.co.uk\)](http://www.eduknowledgehub.co.uk)
- **Other agency:** If you believe a child is missing education and you don't know whether BCP is aware and/or whether anyone is helping to return them to education, please email the team at: [CME@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:CME@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

## Where can I find out more information?

DfE guidance: [Dfe Statutory guidance for Local Authorities on CME Elective home education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/542222/Statutory_Guidance_for_Local_Authorities_on_Children_Missing_Education.pdf)

BCP Information: [CME Policy on BCP Website](#)  
[Elective Home Education](#)  
[how to apply for a school place in BCP](#)

For further information contact the BCP CME team at [CME@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:CME@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)