

APPENDIX 2

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DATA

The following data shows the level of school attendance in Nottinghamshire schools over the three academic years 2004/5, 2005/6 and 2006/7, together with the data for the autumn term 2007. Data for the spring term 2008 is not yet available.

Alongside the Nottinghamshire data is the comparable English national average data drawn from the DCSF database.

2004/5

PRIMARY	Authorised	Unauthorised	Overall Absence
Notts	0.34%	4.92%	5.26%
England	0.43%	5.00%	5.43%

2005/6

Notts	0.34%	5.43%	5.77%
England	0.46%	5.30%	5.76%

2006/7

Notts	0.44%	4.79%	5.23%	PA 1.7%
England	0.52%	4.66%	5.18%	1.8%

2007/8 Autumn Term

Notts	0.44%	4.80%	5.24%
England	No data available		

Commentary

Attendance at primary schools in Nottinghamshire is good and in line with the national England average. For the first time in 2006/7 the level of persistent absence at primary schools was analysed and the level in Nottinghamshire is slightly better than the national average. However, we do have schools with persistent absentees.

APPENDIX 3

SECONDARY

	Authorised	Unauthorised	Overall absence	
2004/5				
Notts	6.44%	1.94%	8.38%	
England	6.58%	1.23%	7.91%	
2005/6				
Notts	6.71%	1.68%	8.39%	
England	6.70%	1.22%	7.92%	
2006/7				
Notts	6.48%	2.06%	8.55%	PA 7.8%
England	6.36%	1.50%	7.86%	6.7%
2007/8 Autumn Term				
Notts	5.84%	1.64%	7.48%	
England	No data yet available			

Commentary

Secondary attendance in Nottinghamshire is below the national average with a high level of unauthorised absence. Authorised absence is close to the national average. In 2006/7 the level of persistent absence was analysed and the level in Nottinghamshire was 7.8% which is 1.1% above the national average.

The autumn term 2007 data indicates an improvement in both authorised and unauthorised absence with significant reduction in both categories of absence.

APPENDIX 4

PERSISTENT ABSENCE PRIORITY SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In 2006/7 the DCSF identified schools across the country who had a significant number of pupils with high levels of absence. In 2006/7 16 secondary schools in Nottinghamshire were identified.

At the end of the academic year 6 of these schools had made significant progress and were removed from the list. However, a further 3 were added making 13 for the current year.

The data sets attached as Appendix 3a and 3b show the end of year data for the 16 schools in 2006/7 and the situation in the 13 schools in the current year at half term in February 2008.

Appendix 4a
Nottinghamshire priority schools
Progress of PA pupils
Autumn 2007

Former PA Schools
06/07

PA pupils 05/06 **PA pupils**

The Grove School	82	57
Redhill School	118	89
All Saints RC Comprehensive School	84	71
Sutton Centre Community College	102	60
Arnold Hill School and Technology College	169	119
Serlby Park A 3-18 Business and Enterprise Learning Community	89	89

Continuing PA Schools

Queen Elizabeth's (1561) Endowed School	180	184
Magnus C of E School	124	172
Valley Comprehensive School	160	145
Sherwood Hall School and Sixth Form College	193	136
The Manor School	141	118
Kirkby College	104	75
Retford Oaks High School	114	103
Wheldon School and Sports College	88	117
Portland School	256	227
Quarrydale School	103	93

New PA Schools

Alderman White	n/a	70
Eastwood	n/a	83
Selston Arts and Community College	n/a	82

- In 2005/6 the criteria for becoming a priority school were that:
- There were more than 80 pupils who were persistent absentees (i.e. who missed more than 20% of all possible sessions) and...
- More than 10% of the schools population were persistent absentees
- In 2006/7 the thresholds changed to 70 pupils who make up 9% of the school population
- DCSF issued no clear criteria for getting schools off the list so we are advising schools to aim to be under the thresholds of the criteria which placed them on the list

Appendix 4b
Nottinghamshire priority schools
Half Term 3 data 2007-8

Continuing PA Schools
2006-7

HT3 2007-8

HT3

40+

64+

40+

64+

Queen Elizabeth's (1561) Endowed School	147	5	224	109
Magnus C of E School	124	62	164	84
Valley Comprehensive School	95	33	146	64
Sherwood Hall School and Sixth Form College	96	47	150	54
The Manor School	102	41	138	41
Kirkby College	48	12	77	38
Retford Oaks High School	60	23	111	57
Wheldon School and Sports College	30	19	104	58
Portland School	187	97	237	124
Quarrydale School	60	23	106	31

New PA Schools

Alderman White	35	10
Eastwood	49	27
Selston Arts and Community College	38	5

- In 2005/6 the criteria for becoming a priority school were that:
- There were more than 80 pupils who were persistent absentees (i.e. who missed more than 20% of all possible sessions) and...
- More than 10% of the schools population were persistent absentees
- In 2006/7 the thresholds changed to 70 pupils who make up 9% of the school population
- DCSF issued no clear criteria for getting schools off the list so we are advising schools to aim to be under the thresholds of the criteria which placed them on the list

APPENDIX 5

COLLECTION OF ATTENDANCE DATA

Commentary

Attendance data is collected in a range of ways and at different times of the year from our schools. Detailed below are the different data collections with information about what they are used for.

- Annual Data Return – all schools required to submit in June/July each year an annual data return to FORVUS (agent for DCSF) which is used to produce annual league tables. This process ceased at the 2005/06 for the secondary school data collection but continued for the primary sector. The analysis of this data is still useful as a comparator.
- In 2006/07 secondary school data was collected termly and annually, again direct to the DCSF, via the pupil census. For primary schools the annual data collection continued. Also included for the first time was data collection and analysis by absence code for secondary schools.
- In 2007/08 all data will be collected from all schools termly via the pupil census. There will be no annual return but the DCSF will use the autumn and spring term data to produce annual data sets. Data collection and analysis by absence code will also be across all schools.
- Persistent Absence priority secondary schools are required to provide half termly data to the DCSF, which the local authority collects on their behalf and passes on.

APPENDIX 6 ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Commentary

The Education Welfare Service, on behalf of the local authority, enforces school attendance in appropriate cases. There are a number of enforcement actions available and Nottinghamshire uses court action, penalty notices and school attendance orders. Details about each of these is shown below.

COURT ACTION

2004/5 Number of cases prosecuted = 223

2005/6 Number of cases prosecuted = 246

2006/7 Number of cases prosecuted = 230

2007/8 Number of cases prosecuted = 162 (Sept 2007 to February 2008)

DISTRIBUTION OF CASES

2006/7

Mansfield Court	100
Newark Court	23
Nottingham Court	74
Worksop Court	33

NUMBER OF COURT APPEARANCES = 366 (1 case required 10 hearings)

DISPOSALS

Fines	118
Conditional Discharge	38
Absolute Discharge	3
Custodial sentence	4
Probation Order	1
Community Order/Supervision Order	1
Withdrawn	57

FINES

Maximum fine	£650
Minimum fine	20
Total fines	£18,595

COURT COSTS

Maximum costs awarded	£120
Minimum costs awarded	10
Total costs awarded	£8,795

Outcomes

In 2006/07 of the 230 cases prosecuted attendance improved in 92 (40%)

APPENDIX 7 PENALTY NOTICES

Commentary

Penalty notices were introduced in 2005/6 as an alternative to legal action through the Magistrates Courts. Once issued, parents/carers have 28 days to pay a fine of £50, or 42 days to pay a fine of £100. If they fail to pay the penalty notice then the case will be taken to the Magistrates Court for the original offence of failing to ensure their child attends school regularly and not for the non-payment of the penalty notice.

In Nottinghamshire we use penalty notices across all year groups in relevant cases but have a focus on year 10 during the autumn and spring terms.

2005/06 Number of penalty notices issued = 72

2006/07 Number of penalty notices issued = 61

2007/08 Number of penalty notices issued = 42*

*** This figure is up to 17/03/2008 and will rise as the cases in the north of the county reach the stage when a penalty notice is actually issued.**

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ORDERS

Commentary

In situations where a parent/carer does not enrol their child at a school the local authority, through the Education Welfare Service, will engage with them in an attempt to resolve the issue. In a few cases this is not possible and the EWS will then instigate School Attendance Order proceedings where the local authority names the school at which the child must be registered, following agreement with the governing body of the school.

2004/05 Number of SAO issued = 0

2005/06 Number of SAO issued = 3

2006/07 Number of SAO issued = 1

2007/08 Number of SAO issued = 4 (Sept 2007 to Feb 2008)

APPENDIX 8

TRUANCY PATROLS

Commentary

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 provides the legislation for joint truancy patrols between the Police and the Education Welfare Service. In Nottinghamshire an annual programme of patrols is planned jointly across the county. They usually last for half a day and are carried out in a designated area agreed by the local Area Commander. The Police Officer will stop children and young people and the Education Welfare Officer will then question them and any adult who is with the child. If the child is alone and has no reason to be out of school they may be returned to school immediately by the Police. All information about those who are stopped is passed back to the relevant school and monitoring of their attendance will take place.

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Number of patrols carried out	36	68	30(to Feb)
Ashfield	8	10	8
Bassetlaw	7	11	4
Broxtowe	3	17	5
Gedling	4	14	5
Mansfield	4	5	3
Newark	6	8	2
Rushcliffe	4	3	3
Number of children stopped	430	530	197
Number with unacceptable reasons	182	251	74
Number with unacceptable reasons Accompanied by adult	60	23	15
Number with unacceptable reasons Whose attendance improved	No data	71	11

APPENDIX 9

CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION

Commentary

In February 2007 the local authority was given a new responsibility to identify, track and re-engage into education those young people who were missing from education. A Children Missing Education Officer has been appointed to develop policy and procedural guidance and to work with other key stakeholders to ensure that the local authority is better informed about who this vulnerable group of young people are.

In the Children and Young People Plan a target has been set to reduce the number of young people who the local authority knows about who are missing from education by 10%.

Data

From October 2007 to 14 March 2008 99 young people have been referred to the CME Officer as missing from education.

A total of 39 have been traced and education provision identified for them.