

EASTERSIDE ACADEMY

Attendance / EWO / Care Team – Pupil Premium Case Study



Pupil Premium funding has been identified to support attendance within school and ensuring all children are in school to learn every day. Funding is identified for buying in the services of '**Education Welfare Ltd**' an external company. Funding also supports the work of the Academy's '**Care Team**' which also supports attendance where identified e.g. vulnerable pupils and families.

Specific Example of Support and Impact:
A child is identified that recently joined the school at the end of Reception, and has poor attendance in the Autumn Term in Year 1. Attendance declines.

Identified as a PA and a **vulnerable child** due to their level of attendance, as well as the EWO following attendance protocol and procedures, the 'Care Team' also identify the child.

Action is put in place by the 'Care Team'. They take personal responsibility for carrying out '**First Day Calls**' rather than the Office who carry these out for non-vulnerable. The Care Team also carry out regular '**home visits**' in a bid to make contact with the parent. No contact is ever made by home visits and the parent rarely picks up the phone to first day calls or informs school of the child's absence. LA issued a **Fixed Penalty Notice** – fine not paid.

Referral made by EWO / Care Team to **School Nurse**, due to concerns around health, eating habits and anxiety suffered (according to Mum). Care team liaised with school nurse who made various attempts to contact Mum. Mum did not engage or return messages.

The child's attendance dropped to 50%. Discussion with the Head Teacher and Attendance Team (EWO and Care Team members), a decision was made to put in a **Safer Referral** – reasons - Child in school sporadically; no contact and engagement from parent; no visible sighting of anyone at the home address.

Safer Referral didn't make the threshold and was therefore referred to **Early Help**. Care Team member made contact with mum following this. Member focused on building a relationship with mum and arranged to carry out the **Early Help Assessment** with her.

Mum agreed and assessment was done. **Key issues were identified and discussed. Support identified and offered.** Mum engaged.

Mum called school when child was absent. Week beg: 23.01.17 – first full week in school and one day off in two weeks. Punctuality improvements. Attendance % increasing.