

Tackling Low School Attendance through Collaboration

The Primary Early Intervention Team around the School (ETAS)

Schools at the heart of early intervention



An Overview of the ETAS

The Primary Early Intervention Team Around the School

- **Part of the system of Help and Support for families**
- **Designed to place schools at the centre of effective early intervention**
- **The goal is to bring out the best in every child by addressing the root causes of low attendance early**
- **Working together to Identify, Encourage and Respond**
- **Identify early signs of difficulties, social/emotional, behavioral, academic , or family related.**
- **Encourage parents/carers to seek support in managing challenges impacting school attendance**
- **Respond with empathy and collaborate effectively to reach practical solutions**
- **Respectful challenge and focus on improving outcomes**
- **Children at risk of becoming persistently absent**
- **Children already persistently or severely absent**

The Under 11 Locality Service

A Team of Experienced and Qualified Professionals

- The TAS consists of multi disciplinary professionals with expertise in education, social work, mental health and family support
- TAS can provide advice, consultation and support to address issues and causes of low school attendance
- Brings together professionals and key services with school representatives to explore children's needs in a roundtable conversation
- Adopts a problem-solving approach to joint working strategies that address the specific challenges families face in order to support better attendance, inclusion and better outcomes for vulnerable families.



Annual and Termly Targeted Support Meetings

A statutory requirement for schools

- Persistent absence rates below 90%
- Severe absence rate below 50%
- Schools must take more concerted action when children's attendance falls below these levels.
- **Frequency of meetings**
- Schools with absence rates higher than the minimum threshold must hold termly meetings
- Schools meeting the minimum threshold must hold an annual meeting



Preparing for the TAS

Steps to ensure a productive meeting

- Analyse the latest data and highlight the top 12 for discussion
- Share this with your TAS Lead before the meeting if at all possible
- Provide the dates for each meeting to your TAS Lead in advance
- Ensure the school representatives who will attend is also confirmed
- Discuss the expertise needed to consider whole school and or community factors and let your TAS lead know
- Before, or after a TAS meeting you can contact your TAS Lead to discuss a child and family in between TAS meetings directly or send a request via email.



How will Targeted Support Meetings work ?

How will targeted support meetings work in primary schools?

- **A Team around the school (TAS) approach**
- The meeting will function as a team around school review of the most vulnerable children and families
- Schools should prepare a detailed review of children with persistent or severe absence focusing on the top 12 as well as those with vulnerability needs.
- **Key factors to consider**
- Understanding the underlying cause of low attendance both in school and at home
- Identifying assessment, help or resources that may be required for the child and their family's needs
- Exploring risk, and help and support options
- Agreeing actions and monitoring progress regularly



Final Thoughts

Attendance and Outcomes

- **Collaboration to work towards effective solutions**
- **Address persistent and severe absence as a priority**
- **Schedule your annual or termly meeting based on your attendance rates and vulnerable families in need of help**
- **Engage with your TAS Lead to support your work and help families address the causes of low attendance and other difficulties and challenges**
- ***Together we can improve school attendance for every child and family***



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