



Every Day Counts

Raising Standards & Aspirations



Where can I find help?

Contact the County Attendance Team at:

The County Attendance Team
Oxfordshire County Council
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon
Oxon
OX14 3JD

Tel: 01865 323513
Fax: 01865 783327
Email:
attendance@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Information is also available on the Oxfordshire County Council's website:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
Further information can be found on www.oxfordshireservicesdirectory.org.uk for parent(s)/carer(s) and people working with children



The County Attendance Team

Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE)

You and the law on School Attendance
Children Act 1989
Section 36



What does PACE mean?

PACE is the abbreviation for:

Police

And

Criminal

Evidence Act

Why does it affect me?

As your child is failing to attend school satisfactorily, the matter has been referred to The County Attendance Team.

Anything you may say to the County Attendance Officer while they are working with you could be used in court as evidence. This is why you have received a PACE letter, but this does not automatically mean you will be taken to court.



Will I have to go to court?

No, not at present

This is the beginning of the process, however if your child fails to attend school regularly, court is a possibility.

What happens next?

The process is as follows:-

1. A First Warning and a PACE letter will be issued.
2. The County Attendance Officer together with you, your child and your child's school will agree an action plan at an attendance panel meeting, held at your child's school.
3. Your child will be set an attendance target that must be achieved.
4. You will then have 20 school days to follow the plan and improve your child's attendance.

What happens if my child's attendance improves during this period?

If your child's attendance improves to the target set and the plan appears to be working, the case will be reviewed and if appropriate it will be closed.

The case can, however, be re-opened if your child's attendance level drops to an unsatisfactory level.

What happens if I do not co-operate and my child's attendance does not improve?

If your child still fails to attend school regularly, you could be prosecuted under Section 444(1) Education Act 1996.

A Final Warning letter will be issued and legal papers sent to the Legal Department. If you are found guilty, you could be fined up to £1000.

If you have failed to make reasonable efforts to ensure your child attends school, you may be prosecuted under Section 444(1A) Education Act 1996, which is a more serious offence and could result in a fine of up to £2,500, an Unpaid Work in the Community Order being made, or a custodial sentence being imposed.

