

Families Remaining Abroad

We are aware that many schools have pupils who have travelled overseas during the pandemic and who have not yet committed to a return date.

Where you have pupils who have been absent since at least the formal return to school after lockdown in March 2021, and who have been confirmed as being overseas, it may be possible to remove them from roll under regulation 8e of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations (2006):

(e) except in the case of a boarder, that he has ceased to attend the school and no longer ordinarily resides at a place which is a reasonable distance from the school at which he is registered.

Each case should be looked at on an individual basis. Schools must make reasonable attempts to confirm that the family are overseas and that there are no safeguarding issues or exceptional reasons as to why the child cannot return. These attempts may include, but are not limited to, asking for proof of overseas address, a visit to the Buckinghamshire address, video calling the family to see the child, contacting all known contacts (including emergency contacts).

Schools have a safeguarding duty to their pupils, and **a pupil must not be removed from roll if you have any safeguarding concerns**. If you are concerned about a child report this concern to the [First Response Team](#).

If the issue that is preventing the family from returning is a financial one, then you could consider use of a proportion of your pupil premium grant funding to support that return (for example to facilitate part of the cost of a quarantine facility if that were appropriate). This would only be appropriate if the child in question was eligible for the PPG and should only be relating to exceptional costs relating to that child. For example, the flight home should not be considered an exceptional cost as that would have been anticipated when the family left the country.

If the decision is made to remove a child from roll, notice should be given to the parents - it would be reasonable to do this via phone and email. There should be a written record of this decision. It is also important that you retain records of the pupil until such time as you can ascertain their new school. It would also be good practice to inform all parents of any change to your attendance policies. Suggested wording is below.

If your child is absent for more than 20 school days, they are at risk of losing their school place. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations (2006) state that a child can be removed from roll after 20 days unauthorised absence if the Local Authority and School have not been able to confirm the child's location and there is no evidence of exceptional reasons why they have been unable to return to school. If your child's location is confirmed but is no longer within a reasonable distance of the school, we reserve the right to consider them as ordinarily resident elsewhere and therefore also at risk of removal from roll unless evidence of exceptional circumstances preventing return is provided.