

Education Department Policy

Title: Reducing Disaffection

Date: April 2016

1. The Policy

It is the policy of the Education Minister that a range of strategies will be implemented to reduce the numbers of pupils who are disaffected or disengaged from school.

2. Interpretation

Pupils are identified as disaffected or disengaged if they have:

- i. sporadic attendance at school with attendance levels below 40%
- ii. a long term record of school refusing or failure to accept school discipline
- iii. long term or recurring illness
- iv. been placed in an alternative provision such as the Alternative Curriculum

3. Responsibilities required to implement the policy.

- a. It is the responsibility of the Education Department (ED) to:
 - i. ensure that advice and support is provided to schools to adopt strategies to reduce disaffection and disengagement, through meeting pupil needs
 - ii. ensure that alternative arrangements for pupils who are disaffected or disengaged are resourced in schools
 - iii. ensure that access to external educational arrangements is managed to prioritise those pupils for whom the ED has a particular responsibility
 - iv. encourage partnerships with other agencies to support pupils who are at risk
 - v. provide services such as Education Welfare to support schools
- b. It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to:

- i. ensure that the school offers an appropriate curriculum for all pupils
- c. It is the responsibility of the head teacher to:
 - i. provide appropriate curriculum and learning opportunities to meet the needs of all pupils
 - ii. adopt a range of strategies to prevent disaffection and provide support and guidance to pupils
 - iii. deploy funding allocated by the ED relating to the provision of specialist support within school to reduce disaffection according to the specified roles
- d. It is the responsibility of all school staff to:
 - i. follow school policies for teaching learning and behaviour management so as to reduce disaffection

CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Date Issued	Issued by	Reason for Change
0.1	June 2011	Principal Educational Psychologist and Head of SEN	
0.2	May 2014	Assistant Director, Inclusion & Family Support	Change of ownership
0.3	April 2016	Director, Inclusion & Family Support	Updated to reflect new Department name and job titles/contacts.

Approval

Presented To	Approved by:	Date

Additional Information

Planned review date:	Distribution:	
Associated policies	Name	Reference