

Introduction to the PRU, Inclusion & Attendance Service (PIAS)



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*School Liaison Officer/
Education Engagement
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PIAS Officers

| Role | Core duties |
|---|--|
| School Liaison Officer (SLO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General advice and guidance via requests for support• AS1 statutory investigations and court preparation• Child Missing Education referrals• School projects, e.g. 'Let's Get Better / Project 95'• Truancy sweeps• Register checks / Targeted Support Meetings (TSM's) in schools |
| Inclusion & Attendance Adviser (IAA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attending LIFT, IYFA, Inclusion Steering Groups, individual pupil meetings• Representing LA at governors meeting and Independent Reviews• AS1 statutory investigations and court preparation for PRU's• Governor and SLT training on exclusion process• Monitoring pupils on reduced timetables |
| Education Engagement Officer (EEO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Targeted intervention and outreach work for children and young people particularly those from Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT), minority ethnic (ME) and bilingual backgrounds.• Working closely with schools to enhance their provision in line with the needs of their setting and delivering training around GRT inclusion and history and culture of GRT communities. |

When Might a School Contact PIAS?

Evidence / indication child is in employment during school hours or working unlawfully

Parents want to remove their child to home educate

Child is being Home Educated and parents want him/her to return to mainstream education

Child has been refusing to attend school for a long term period

Child leaving the area

Scenario

Parents not engaging with school regarding attendance.

Child does not have a school place

Clear evidence parent(s) not engaging or being proactive to secure their child's regular attendance and all resources exhausted

Parents inform school they are currently going through a legal process from KCC

When Might a School Contact PIAS?

Child refusing to attend school following a fixed period exclusion

When school are considering moving the child to another school / PRU or 'managed move or direction off site'

Governors meeting following an exclusion

To review a part-time timetable

Child at high risk of permanent exclusion and / or repeatedly excluded for fixed periods

Child being sent home for disciplinary reasons

To attend Professionals Meetings/CORE Group/CIN etc

Child is on a part-time timetable and parents no longer want it to continue

Scenario

A 90% attendance rate for a child/young person in an academic year is not as good as it may look – and the pupil would be classed as a persistent absentee if under 90%!

Intermittent, regular or sudden absence from school and poor behaviour could be the first and only indicator of underlying issues for a child/young person/family.

School Attendance

The purpose of legal intervention is to try to empower parents to improve their child's attendance, not to punish them. Not all statutory cases reach court.

Not all children/young people miss school because they choose not to go, or because their parents do not want to send them. Authorised absence is as much of a concern as unauthorised absence!

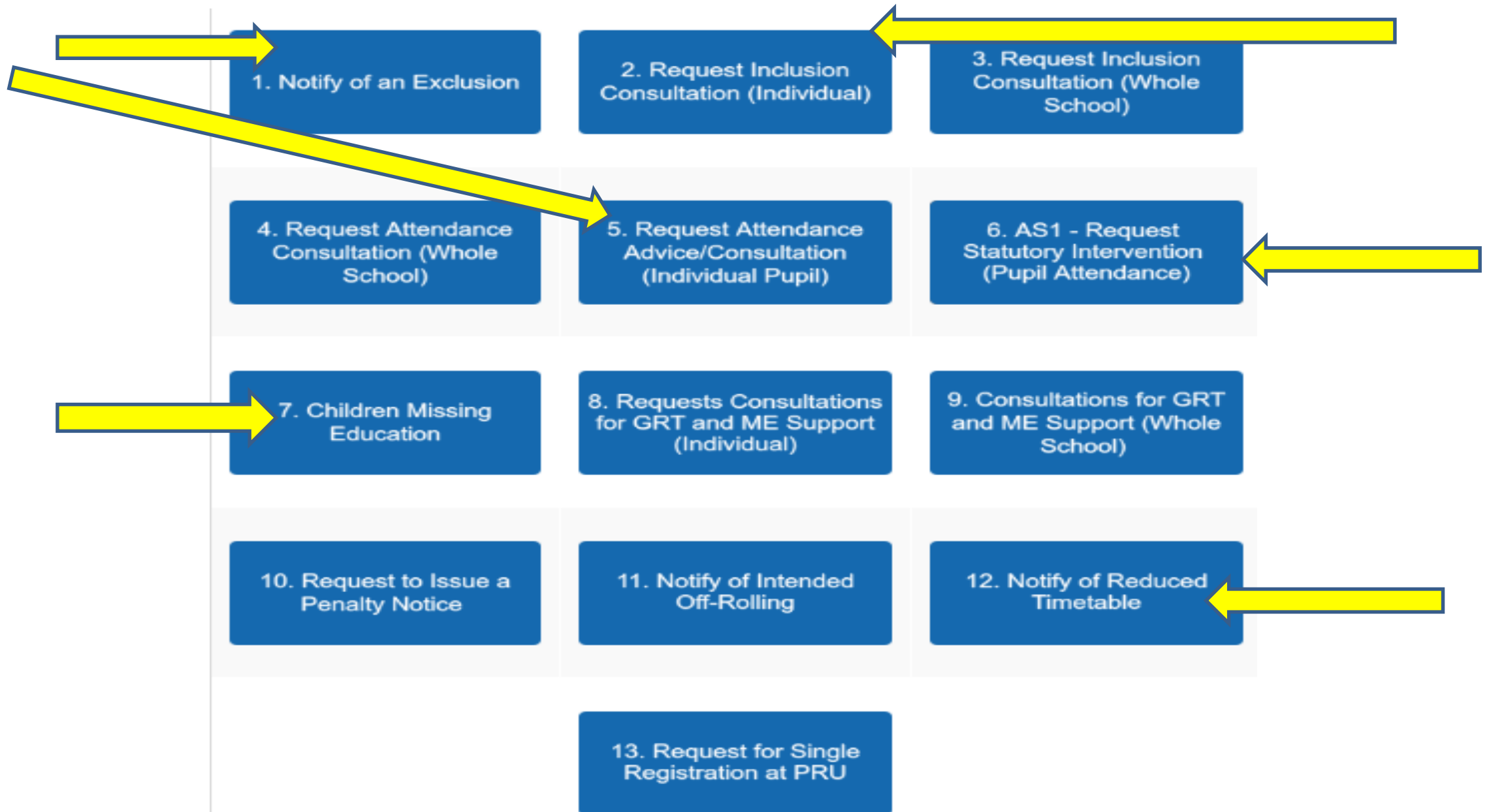
PRU, Inclusion & Attendance Service: Myths

- We always know if a child has been excluded, on a part-time timetable or not attending school regularly.
- We have case holding responsibility.
- Attendance is an 'education' issue and for PIAS to resolve.
- We have no role if a case is open to Integrated Children's Services.
- All our work involves prosecuting parents.
- There is a reluctance to pursue legal intervention against parents.
- We support the parent and/or child's point of view.
- We have the power to overrule decisions by schools.
- We go around the community catching children who are not in school!

What is PIAS doing to tackle absence?

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Let's Get Better / Project 95'• Safety In Action• Summer / transition schemes |
| Awareness raising | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assemblies to children – e.g. Attendance Ted• New Year R parent events• Truancy sweeps• 'Late gates' |
| Intensive | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preventative meetings (i.e. to reduce risk of legal intervention)• Attendance Success Plan / Pupil Attendance Passport• TSM's– identifying pupils and next steps, data analysis• Home visits / joint home visits• Attendance Toolkit – whole school improvement – policies etc• Statutory investigations |
| Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff training for schools – Attendance Network Meetings• Training for multi-agency colleagues• Bespoke Training |

Digital Front Door (DFD): *Requests, Referrals and Notifications*



Exclusion (Code E)



- Exclusion of any type should always be a last resort.
- Power for School Leaders to exclude a child has always remained, even when the law to attend school was not mandatory due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- KCC must be legally notified of any exclusions (via the Digital Front Door).
- School sending children home 'informally' is unlawful.
- Exclusion does not require parental consent.
- Parents may wish to follow school's complaints policy to challenge exclusions.
- Each district has an In Year Fair Access process for secondary schools and alternatives to permanent exclusion are generally found in South Kent.
- Some schools may try a reduced timetable, direction off site or managed move to another school to reduce risk of exclusion.

Part-time Timetable (Code C)

- Generally used for pupils with high level Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs but sometimes for those with medical needs or as a transition in to school to support attendance.
- Parental consent must be obtained, and ideally commitment too.
- Should only be a short-term intervention.
- A pastoral support plan (PSP) and risk assessment should be conducted by school – need to consider safety of pupil when not in school.
- Schools notify KCC VIA the Digital Front Door (DFD Pathway 12)
- Recorded as C in register, although if pupil is not statutory school age then school may apply code X (which won't count as an absence).
- Code B (educated off site) must not be used unless child receiving supervised education – a parent does not count.
- Still a form of exclusion even though it's not designed to be a sanction.



Managed Move & Direction Off Site

- **Off-site direction is when a governing board of a maintained school requires a pupil to attend another education setting to improve their behaviour.²¹ Whilst the legislation does not apply to academies, they can arrange off-site provision for such purposes under their general powers. Where interventions or targeted support have not been successful in improving a pupil's behaviour, off-site direction should be used to arrange time-limited placements at an AP or another mainstream school. During the off-site direction to another school, pupils must be dual registered. Code B should be used for any off-site educational activity, if the provision is an approved educational activity that does not involve the pupil being registered at any other school**
- **A managed move is used to initiate a process which leads to the transfer of a pupil to another mainstream school permanently. Managed moves should be voluntary and agreed with all parties involved, including the parents and the admission authority of the new school. If a temporary move needs to occur to improve a pupil's behaviour, then off-site direction should be used. Managed moves should only occur when it is in the pupil's best interests.**

Resources

- Digital Front Door <https://www.kelsi.org.uk/pru-inclusion-and-attendance-service-pias/access-to-the-service>
- DfE Attendance Guidance [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance)
- DfE Exclusions Guidance [School suspensions and permanent exclusions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/school-suspensions-and-permanent-exclusions)
- Information, Advice & Support Kent <https://www.iask.org.uk/>
- https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/60105/Personalised-Timetables.pdf
- https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/60101/Pastoral-Support-Programme-PSP.pdf
- [Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/mental-health-issues-affecting-a-pupil-s-attendance)



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