

## Case Study on Attendance by Pastoral Lead Gill Johnson

Child X (Year 4) and Sibling (Dial Park Nursery)

Child X started Dial Park School in 2014 and his sibling followed in 2018.

Attendance from the very beginning was very erratic leading to an end of year attendance record of under 80%

The effects of this poor attendance were two fold. X left Reception as a non-reader as he missed the daily phonics groups and he also had no support at home. We have a specialised reading recovery teacher but he was not accepted on this programme as it is essential that children attend all sessions and parents support at home too.

Another important factor was that because of his poor attendance X found it difficult to forge friendships and he became frustrated in Year 1 and this led to his behaviour becoming worrying.

We make regular Home Visits with the class teacher and we met with Mum at home to inform her of our concerns.

It was evident that home life was not ideal and the family were living in chaos. There was no bedtime routine, evidence of anxiety and depression in Mum and living conditions poor.

We became even more concerned as attendance did not improve so we discussed the family in our regular TAS (Team Around the School) meetings and decided that our school Family Support Worker would work with ourselves to support the family.

If X did not come to school we would call at the home and collect him.

We regularly gave him breakfast and provided good quality second hand shoes and clothes.

We held school led TAC meetings but Mum still failed to attend and by the end of Year 1 and despite so much support family life stayed the same. Child X's progress was poor and he was working at below the level expected for his age.

We noted our concerns and filled in numerous Notes of Concerns. We also put in an online referral form and the family were allotted a social worker. After a full Social Work Assessment it was deemed necessary for the family to be subject of a Child Protection Plan under the terms of neglect. The family are still subject to that plan that started in December 2018.

### Conclusion

Since that date I am really pleased to report that Child X attendance is just under 98% . We have remained fully involved supporting the family and making sure that the parents remain engaged. We have worked really closely with the Social Worker and held numerous Core Meetings at school.

Although Mums mental health will always remain a concern she now feels able to talk to us and regularly asks for financial support in the form of Food and Fuel Vouchers. We have escorted her to her mental health meetings and liaised with her GP. We have also supported the family with connections to Young Carers who take him on regular out of school outings. We have provided toys and books on his passion Thomas The Tank Engine!! Also school has taken him to a model railway.

Child X is a different boy.

He is working at near the level expected, comes to school, has many friends and is beautifully behaved.

Home life will never be perfect for child X and his sibling and we will constantly review their needs but we have come a long way from where we started. We will continue to liaise with the social workers and report if there are concerns.

There are no signs at present of the family being scaled down from Child Protection which is good.

Gill Johnson

Pastoral Teacher

July 2019