

1. School behaviour and attendance: parental

February 2017

responsibility measures

Local authorities and all schools have legal powers to use parenting contracts, parenting orders and penalty notices to address poor attendance and behaviour in school. In addition to using these powers, local authorities and schools can develop other practices to improve attendance.

Local authorities, police constables, school governing bodies, school head teachers (and staff authorised by the head) and teachers-in-charge of pupil referral units are required by law to have regard to the relevant parts of this guidance when carrying out their functions in relation to parenting contracts, parenting orders and penalty notices. This means that while the guidance does not have the force of law, there is an expectation that it will be followed unless there is good reason to depart from it.

Purpose and scope of these legal measures

Parenting contracts, parenting orders and penalty notices are interventions available to promote better school attendance and behaviour. Good behaviour and attendance are essential to children's educational prospects. These measures are permissive and it is for individual governing bodies and local authorities to decide whether to use them. In exercising these powers governing bodies, head teachers and local authority officers should have regard to their safeguarding duties¹.

Parenting contracts, orders and penalty notices for irregular attendance apply only to pupils of compulsory school age who are registered at a school. Penalty notices for parents of pupils found in a public place during school hours after being excluded also apply only to children of compulsory school age who are registered at a school. Parenting contracts, parenting orders and penalty notices for misbehaviour can be applied to pupils outside compulsory school age e.g. in a sixth form or maintained nursery.

All schools are required by law to have a written behaviour policy (see the Department's advice on ensuring good behaviour for more details). Schools can inform parents about their use of parenting contracts, parenting orders and penalty notices in their behaviour policy.

Local authorities also have other powers to enforce school attendance where this becomes problematic, including the power to prosecute parents who fail to comply with a school attendance order, or fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.

Local authorities and schools using parenting contracts, parenting orders or penalty notices need to ensure that parents affected have access to clear, accurate information, including about their own rights and responsibilities.

Parents are responsible for making sure that their children of compulsory school age receive a suitable full-time education³. This can be by regular attendance at school, at alternative provision, or otherwise (e.g. the parent can choose to educate their child at home).

Link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/581539/School_attendance_parental_responsibility_measures_statutory_guidance.pdf

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2. Disrespect Nobody

The second phase of the HO Disrespect Nobody campaign will run from 2 February until the end of March 2017. The campaign is focussed on digital and mobile first and will also run on TV aimed at young people.

The aim of the Disrespect NoBody campaign is to prevent young people, both boys and girls aged 12 to 18 years old from becoming perpetrators and victims of abusive relationships.

There's a person attached to every body, respect both. Healthy relationships are all about respecting each other. You should feel loved, safe and free to be yourself. Relationships can be confusing and it can be difficult to understand what is and isn't normal behaviour.

But disrespectful and unacceptable behaviour can come in many forms. It isn't limited to just physical behaviour; it can also go way beyond that. For example, it's not OK for someone to try and pressure you into sending a nude pic, or to expect the same things to happen that they've seen in a porn film. If someone makes you do something you don't want to, makes you feel scared, intimidated or tries controlling you, it's not acceptable and is never OK

Link: <https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk> https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/assets.smartcdn.co.uk/docs/Campaign_materials_for_Disrespect_NoBody_2017.pdf.pdf

3. MAPPA

Multi-agency public protection arrangements are in place to ensure the successful management of violent and sexual offenders. This guidance sets out the responsibilities of the police, probation trusts and prison service. It also touches on how other agencies may become involved, for example the YJB will be responsible for the care of young offenders.

Link: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/582380/mappa-guidance-2016.pdf