



Symposium 9: Government Policy Aimed at Attendance: Is it Working in the Netherlands and England? Legal frameworks for school attendance: What would the ideal framework for England look like?

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Provider of Education Welfare Services (Independently) to 8 Islington Schools

Chair of Governors: Pooles Park Primary School (Islington North London)



Celebrating the Centenary



MANAGING ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Joint presentation of two organisations supporting pupil attendance in UK

Ian Norman-Bruce

General Secretary – Association for Education Welfare Management

Joint presentation with

Victoria Franklin

President

**National Association of Support
Workers in Education UK**

naswe

1. The Inaugural Conference

The photograph is of the twenty-four members at the first conference of "The Association of Superintendants of School Attendance Departments" which met at the Education Offices in Birmingham on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th October 1917.

Members at First Conference.
HELD IN BIRMINGHAM 1917.



Front Row : LEWIS, LEE, SELBY, CAPEN, YARROW, STEVENSON, BIRD, TURNER, FOULDS, BATES.
Second Row : SAUNT, JEPSON, JONES (Croydon), HAYES, BENTLEY (Kesteven), IRVING, CHALLONER, HAWKINS.
Back Row : BENTLEY (Bucks.), HANBURY, BARNES, JONES (Walthamstow), CAIN, KELLETT.

My hypothesis

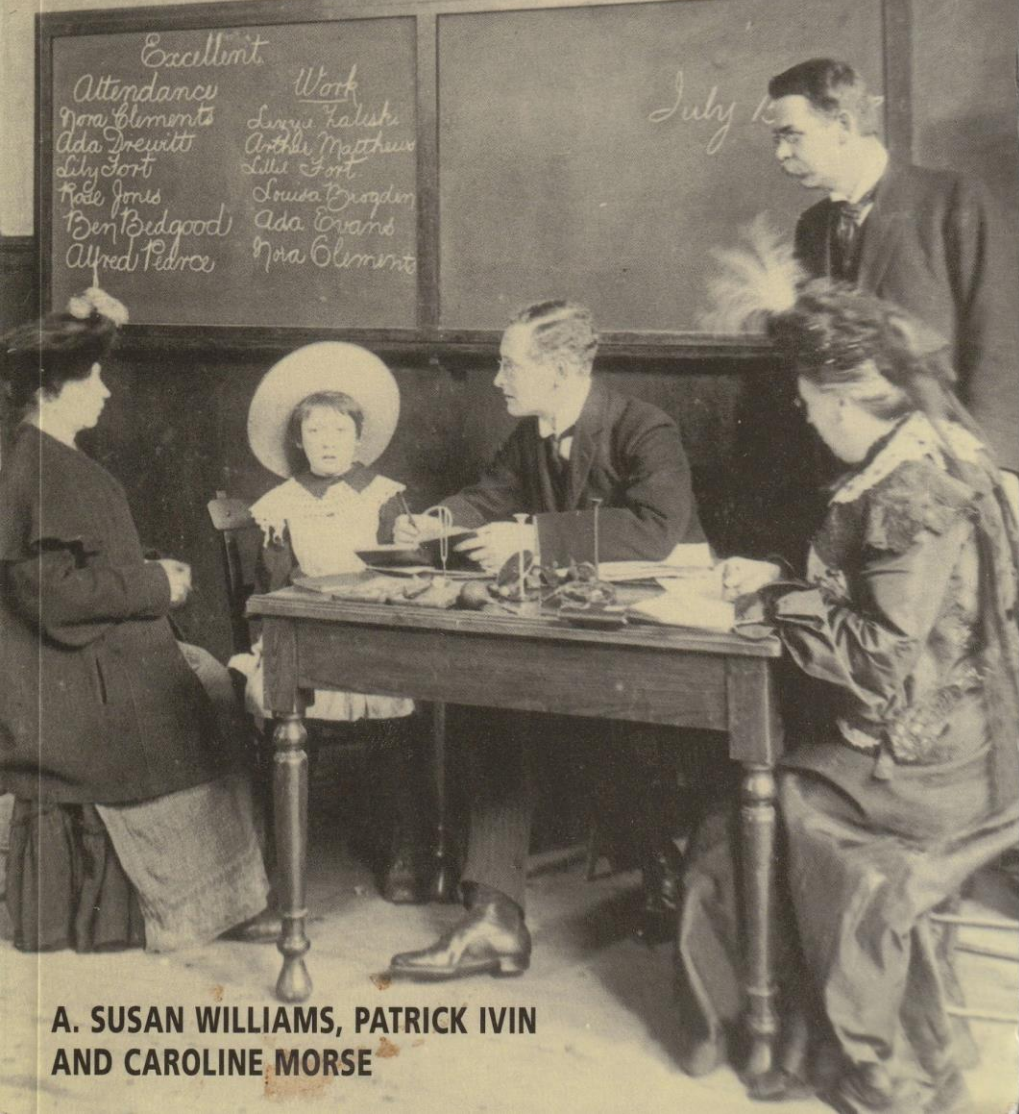
- Legal Framework is fine (just about)
- Schools in the main adapt well
- Policy is problematic and creates difficulties
- Care and control balance is not right
- Support services are fragmented and reducing
- Needs of children and families are often not met
- Children at risk of state and services sanctioning them being out of education
- Not sufficiently child centred
- The need for a coherent and supportive policy framework



Plate 6 'A "B" Meeting', where parents were warned of prosecution if they did not send their children to school. An illustration from *How the Poor Live* by George Sims (1883).
British Library H276i12

The Children of London

Attendance and welfare at school 1870-1990

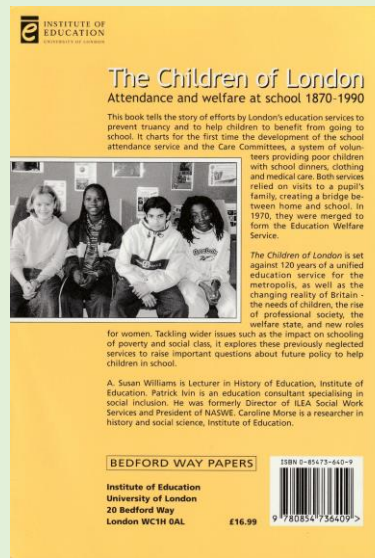


A. SUSAN WILLIAMS, PATRICK IVIN
AND CAROLINE MORSE

History

Key Dates

- ✓ 1833 restrictions of employment and development of schools
- ✓ 1870 Foster Education Act: Compulsory school age 5 to 10
- ✓ 1870s School Boards and Building schools and infrastructure
- ✓ 1918 Fisher Act raised compulsory school age to 14
- ✓ 1944 Education Act (education structures) + leaving age raised to 15
- ✓ 1970 Education Welfare Service
- ✓ 1989 Children Act (social work principles) Children not placed in care for truancy
- ✓ 2013 Penalty Notices for non attendance introduced



Themes / Issues

- ✓ Educating workforce
- ✓ Improving social conditions
- ✓ Politics: left / centre / liberal
- ✓ Social control policing / law and order
- ✓ Philanthropy
- ✓ Supporting children
- ✓ Parental and state responsibilities
- ✓ Changing role and independence of schools

Care or Control

- The school board man
- Ex-police officers
- Children's Care Committees
- Education Welfare Officers and Education Social Workers
- Prosecution
- The Education Welfare Service (the ideal?)
- Unified childrens services

Education Welfare Service Guide

EO/DO/329

A message to all parents from the Education Officer

Dear Parent,

This leaflet is about the Education Welfare Service, the advice you can get and the help with expenses which you may be able to have, while your child is at school.

The Education Welfare Service has a staff who are Education Welfare Officers and School Care Workers who act as a link between schools and a child's home. They want to help all parents to understand any difficulties their children may be having at school and the schools to understand any problems you may be having at home, which could affect your child's progress.

My staff work closely with other welfare services and can give you guidance and advice about your problems or can often put you in touch with someone else who can help you.

If you are worried about your child in any way they can help you or advise you where to go. They will visit you about any school attendance problems and can tell you the rules on children working.

You can also have help with the cost of school dinners, school clothing, school journeys and fares. Grants are also available for pupils who want to stay on at school for further education. Most of these benefits depend on your family income and your living in Inner London and some are only made to children at certain ages. On page 3 there are a few more details about this sort of help.

I hope you will feel that you can always seek advice from both the school and the Education Welfare Service. Education Welfare Officers and School Care Workers will be willing to help with any worries you may have and can arrange to visit you at home or see you at one of our local offices, whichever you would like.

The addresses of the local Divisional Education Offices are on the back of this letter; please do not be afraid to seek their help if you need it.

Yours sincerely,

P. A. Newsam

P. A. NEWSAM
Education Officer

June 1978

ilea



The numbers

- 2018 absence rate in English Schools was 4.8% (6.5% in 2019)
- 1 in 9 pupils is persistently absent (over 10% absence)
- 121,000 pupils miss more than 25 days a year (out of 190 days) the majority for 'health' related reasons
- 49,000 pupils were missing education (not in a school) (16/17)
- 7,900 pupils were permanently excluded from school (17/18)
- 61,000 pupils (years 10-11) were removed from school rolls (2017)
- 60,000 pupils being home educated (explosion)
- 261,000 penalty notices issued to parents in 2017 due to absence

The Law

- Compulsory school age
- Parent
- Suitable education
- Authorising absence
- Fixed Penalty Notice
- Sections 444 Education Act
- Parenting Orders
- School Attendance Orders
- Education Supervision Orders
- The school roll

Invisible Children



Dispatches

blakeway north

As the numbers leaving mainstream education in favour of home education double, Dispatches asks Children's Commissioner for England Anne Longfield to investigate the reasons behind this playground exodus and the impact it is having on the young people now learning at home in the UK.

Skipping School: Britain's Invisible Kids

Monday 4th February at 10:15pm on Channel 4

Executive Producer
FRAN BAKER

Commissioning Editor
ALEXANDER GARDINER

Assistant Producer
MARIKA CRONNOLLY

Researcher
EOIN CORBETT

Children's Commissioner for England
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ALISON LEWIS

Production Manager
LOUISA RYDER

Production Co-Ordinator
DANIELLE SHEARD

<https://www.facebook.com/DispatchesC4/videos/238948290373272/?v=238948290373272>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdtVwxow61E>

Home Ed Looks Like This - WordPress.com

DISPATCHES- SKIPPING SCHOOL; BRITAINS INVISIBLE KIDS – Home ...

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Cruel and discriminatory: research on prosecuting parents for school absence

Article by Margaret Doyle of the UK Administrative Justice Institute January 2019

- Cruel and inhumane to prosecute: hardship / discriminatory / unjust
- High proportion of pupils with special educational needs (twice the rate of persistent absence)
- Mental health problems: unsupported
- School refusal: why? Understanding.
- 16,000 parents were prosecuted for not ensuring education of their children (2017) 71% were women
- The missing voice of those subjected? Parents and children.

Fixation on term time holidays

School holidays

This article is more than 2 years old

Supreme court upholds ban on term-time holidays

Justices at UK's highest court uphold fine imposed on Jon Platt for taking his daughter out of school for unauthorised break

Owen Bowcott *Legal affairs correspondent*

@owenbowcott

Thu 6 Apr 2017 10.35 BST



880

6,484



▲ Term-time holiday father accuses state of removing parents' rights

The supreme court has upheld the ban on parents taking their children out of school for family holidays during term time.

Ideal framework? Fit for purpose: not really!

Yes we have more children attending school than ever before, but

- ✓ Legal Framework is fine (just about): maybe over emphasis on penalty notice?
- ✓ Policy is problematic and creates difficulties and is not integrated?
- ✓ Dependent on interpretation and commitment of schools and local authorities?
- ✓ Care and control balance is not right?
- ✓ Needs of children (and families) are often not responded to?
- ✓ Support services are fragmented and reducing?
- ✓ Children at risk: state and services sanctioning them being out of education?
- ✓ Not sufficiently child centred?
- ✓ The need for a coherent and supportive policy framework: join up the dots?
- ✓ Lack of research?