

Children Not in School Update

Sarah Whitby

Head of Service Access to Education

March 2026

What is already in place?

- Early intervention for Elective Home Education
- Supporting a return to school where this is needed or is in line with family's wishes
- Support to schools to explore alternatives to exclusion
- Scrutiny of exclusions paperwork and appropriate questioning where required

Service developments

- Revised Rotherham Elective Home Education Policy agreed by Cabinet October 2025
- Appointment of 2 additional Elective Home Education Officers (Term Time only) and 0.5 Service Support Assistant
- School Attendance Team now embedded in Access to Education
- Appointment of 3 School Attendance Mentors as part of Families First programme
- Review of training offer for colleagues within the wider Access to Education Service to ensure that colleagues continue to be equipped to meet Children's unique needs

Partnership Working

- Locality working with Secondary Schools to support inclusion
- Children Not in School Governance Group providing multi agency oversight and planning
- Exclusions and Suspensions briefing shared with all schools (by phase) termly
- Participation in Inclusive Leadership Programme alongside two Rotherham Secondaries
- Work with Outreach and Engagement to support positive destinations for children who are leaving Elective Home Education at 16
- Key Stage 2 'step out' at Rotherham Aspire as a supportive intervention
- Exclusions working group, including Specialist Inclusion Team and Outreach team to inform both targeted and whole school support

Key Areas of Focus

- Further development of Rotherham's shared vision for inclusion and ongoing partnership working with schools to support them in achieving this
- Reducing exclusion and suspension of children with SEND and those in receipt of Free School Meals
- Supporting children to stay in school rather than becoming EHE in year 10 and 11, where this is more appropriate for them
- Working towards provision of KS3 'step out' placement at Rotherham Aspire to mirror KS2 offer