



BURY ATTENDANCE PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO IMPROVING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE 2025 – 2027



**Our Aspiration is that all Children and Young People
in Bury reach their potential, are happy, and safe
and are therefore able to make the best use of their
skills to lead independent and successful lives**



BEE NETWORK





FOREWORD

Our Partnership: Let's do it for Children

Our Attendance Partnership Approach for children and young people in Bury has been prepared in collaboration with our children, young people, our workforce and our partners.

The plan is ambitious reflecting our collective passion and determination to secure the best possible outcomes for children, young people and our communities here in Bury. The plan links to the Bury "Let's Do It" Strategy which sets out our vision for the children of the borough with 4 key outcomes:

1. Improved quality of life
2. Improved early years development
3. Improved educational attainment
4. Increased adult skills levels and employability

This Partnership is also driven by the Local Authority's Education and Inclusion Strategy 2025.

We recognise that attendance is 'Everyone's Responsibility' and that embedding transformation will require a strategic approach, working with partners and local communities, with the voice of children and young people informing and influencing the way we work together to achieve our shared priorities.

Our Partnership provides the foundations of our priorities and how these will be delivered.

Our aspiration is that all children and young people in Bury reach their potential, are happy, healthy and safe and are therefore able to make the best use of their skills to lead independent and successful lives



INTRODUCTION

The Partnership has been developed in collaboration with:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport for Greater Manchester Partnerships• Bury School Attendance Team• Bury Markets• Bury Child Licensing• CAMHS• Bury Children's Safeguarding Partnership• Bury Children's Social Care Services• Local councillors• Bury Complex Safeguarding Team• Connexions• Early Help Teams | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education Psychology Service• NHS / Health Partners• Homelessness & Housing Services• Millgate Shopping Centre• Bury SEN Team• GM Police• Bury Primary Schools• Bury Refuge Services and Parks• Bury Virtual School• Bury Youth Justice Service• Bury Youth Service |
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BACKGROUND

Bury is made up of 8 children's centres, 1 nursery school, 70 primary schools, 3 independent schools, 2 special schools, 14 secondary schools, 2 free schools and 2 sixth form colleges. Many of the education establishments in Bury have a 'good' Ofsted rating.

We want to ensure that all our children receive high quality teaching which will enrich their lives and provide them with good outcomes and a bright future.

Working together with our young people and creating links with the wider community, we will continue to build on self-esteem, health, education and an appreciation of their rights and values.

KEY ISSUES

These are some of the areas of concern which have lowered school attendance in Bury. This information was collated in the spring term of 2025 from student voice and raw data:



- Unauthorised leave during term time
- Increase in school penalty notices
- Since the national pandemic, an increase in students overcoming mental health difficulties.
- Some families do not value education
- A decline in some families applying for nursery places and reception school places for summer born children
- An increase in electively home educated families
- An increase of children missing in education
- Children's physical illness / low self-esteem
- Concerns about leaving parents / young carers
- Bullying
- Friendship issues / relationship issues
- Avoiding sanctions / behaviour
- Menstrual issues / period poverty
- Struggling with subjects / studies

Our children and young people told us that they value education and that they feel safe in our schools. We have listened to our children and young people and understand the areas that are important to them :

- Continuing to promote children and young people's rights and ensuring that their voices are heard
- Ensuring that school is an inclusive place to learn which promotes equality and challenges discrimination
- Provide young people with skills for life
- Ensuring that support is available with transitions at all phases of children's education journey
- Providing support with mental and physical health
- Promoting safe and independent travel across the borough
- Providing good quality careers advice, access to employment and work experience
- To live satisfying lives
- To be healthy and happy
- To live in a place where people feel safe and have a sense of belonging



WHAT WE KNOW

- Our children want to do well academically
- Our young people feel cared about in school
- Young people have opportunities to further themselves in education
- Young people enjoy the social side of education
- Young people enjoy achieving success.

OUR OFFER

Throughout their education, we want our children and young people to thrive and develop and to have opportunities to :

- Attend sporting events
- Visit Bury Town Centre
- Visit a farm, feed animals
- Visit a library, museum and art gallery
- Learn how to swim
- Visit places of natural beauty such as The Rake, Peel Tower, Burrs Country Park, Prestwich Park, Harcles Hill
- Experience different places of worship
- Enter competitions
- Take part in and / or experience a performance
- Volunteer in the local community / contribute to environment and engage in social change
- Learn how to stay safe and have positive relationships
- Experience independent travel
- Use advanced technology
- Meet inspiring people
- Raise money for charity
- Visit college or university
- Plan for the future



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Bury is committed to securing good attendance for all our children and young people. We understand that to achieve this goal, we must work together with a range of stakeholders and agencies to address school attendance issues.

All of our professionals, partners and stakeholders will (continue to?) work together to be 'attendance curious' about our children and young people in a range of settings. Whilst we understand that some professionals' involvement will depend on the needs of the child and family, school attendance will be a focus of every child's plan.

ROLE OF PARTNERS

Working alongside the local authority, there are a number of partner agencies supporting schools, settings and colleges to improve outcomes. These include: local Dioceses, Bury Association of Secondary Head Teachers, Bury Association of Primary Head Teachers and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). It is important that in working in partnership with organisations and education leaders, we ensure training, development and support are available when key themes and gaps are identified and that our approach is joined across the Partnership/Local Area.

Bury Local Authority also includes the following:

- Networks for headteachers and leaders
- Support for head teachers including induction, mentoring and buddying
- Leadership conferences and residentials
- Governor training
- Subject leader networks
- Safeguarding forums
- Attendance Forums
- Exclusion Toolkits
- School Attendance support
- Educational Psychology Communities of Practice
- Inclusion Support
- Training and networks



- SEND networks
- SENCO network

OUR AMBITION

1. To ensure that all children access excellent early years education
2. To ensure that all children and young people access a choice of excellent local schools settings and colleges
3. To ensure that young people are equipped for adult lives, know the opportunities available to them and have access to an excellent post 16 education offer
4. To set out clear expectations of all our educators.

NEXT STEPS

HOW WE ARE GOING TO DO THIS

We will create a multi-agency partnership so that children and families get help from the right person or service at the right time. We will ensure that attendance is everyone's responsibility, not just a school issue.

We will continue to work closely, gathering students' voices and listening to their views about the barriers to school attendance.

1. We will create working groups across health and education to target the issues raised
2. We will continue to offer whole school training
3. We will organise training for wider agencies
4. We will ensure wider publicity and communications for parents / carers and agencies
5. We will organise multi-agency transition events and support to children and families
6. We will continue to develop our Graduated Approach Toolkit to provide information and resources for educational practitioners with advice and resources for early intervention, to ensure that children and families can get the help that they need, regardless of the setting they attend.



7. The Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Neglect Strategy has been updated to include 'educational neglect'; failure to provide a stimulating environment, support learning or ensure school attendance. This will support Education and Children's Services working in partnership to secure the best outcomes for children and families.
8. Each agency will sign a pledge which commits to 'School Attendance as everyone's responsibility'
9. Agencies will continue to attend the School Attendance Stakeholders group meetings and support the issues raised.

OUR EXPECTATIONS:

Within Bury, we have a good relationship with our schools, academies and colleges and we expect our providers to support our partnership for the children and young people by:

- Listening to their voices and learning from their experiences
- Celebrating the diversity and range of backgrounds of our children and young people and to value their heritage and experiences.
- Taking collective ownership for our children and young people to ensure that they are happy, safe and feel supported.
- Promoting good attendance
- Using school exclusions as a last resort
- Identifying and responding to early to children and young people's additional needs
- Ensuring that schools and colleges are poverty proof
- Recognising all types of achievement
- Promoting equality and diversity.

PLEDGE

Bury's Pledge to ask all organisations to:

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| • Work jointly to improve school attendance across Bury | • Champion the benefit of good school attendance in our work |
| • Support families to help the children develop and maintain good attendance habits in the early years and throughout their school life | • Celebrate good and improved attendance |



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to children and young people's experiences and how they affect their ability to engage in school life daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimize disruption to learning if children and young people are unable to attend school
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review how organisations can support all children and young people to have good school attendance in Bury	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain supporting children and young people to attend school as a clear strategic priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognise that poor school attendance can be the symptom of other issues in the family home and that early intervention can prevent issues becoming entrenched or worsened	

LET'S
do it!

Bury
Council

Our children and young people improvement journey

Our aspiration is that all children and young people in Bury reach their potential, are happy, healthy and safe and are therefore able to make the best use of their skills to lead independent and successful lives

