

CHILD EMPLOYMENT AND ENTERTAINMENT – A GUIDE FOR HEADTEACHERS (Frequently asked questions)

Are school age children allowed to work?

Yes: children from the age of 13 years old are allowed to have a part-time job but they must have a permit issued by the Local Authority (LA). There are specific regulations which govern the type and the amount of work they can do.

No pupil should miss school or be late for school because of their employment and it should not interfere in any way with their school work.

What are the laws around children taking part in entertainment and sports?

Children in your school may be involved in paid sporting activities, modelling, television work and theatre. There are regulations around this **The Children and Young Persons Act 1933, 1963. The Children (Performance and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014. The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 1995.** Legislation sets out that a LA licence must be obtained before a child can take part in a performance.

Headteacher authorisation

DFE guidance is that where the license specifies the dates that a child is to be away from school to perform on specific dates, then the head teacher should authorise those days. However Sheffield LA will always take into consideration the headteacher's view on the appropriateness of issuing a license to a child for each performance **before** issuing the licence. The LA will issue a form via the child's parents asking them to obtain authorisation for the absence and asking the Headteacher if there are any objections.

We would ask that head teachers are sympathetic to absence requests for performance as long as they are satisfied that this will not have a negative effect on a child's education.

Can requests for Licences be refused?

Yes- a Licence may be refused where it is felt that a child's education will suffer. Refusal to issue a licence may be challenged in a court of law; therefore the LA has to have good reason for the refusal. The headteacher's view that the child should not be absent from school can only be on the grounds that the child's education will suffer and cannot be on any other grounds [**Children and Young Persons Act 1963 Section 37(4).**]

As a school do we need to provide work for the pupil when they are taking part in an event?

There is no specific requirement for school work to be provided by the school during a child's absence under the authority of an entertainment licence. However, it is good practice for schools to set work for children who are frequently absent due to participation in performances or modelling/sporting assignments. Extended periods away from school may result in the local authority requesting the applicant to provide a private tutor.

How do we code these agreed absences in the register?

When time off school has been granted under a licence the absence should be marked in the school attendance register as an authorised absence.

As a school we are putting on a performance for parents; does this mean each child needs an entertainment licence?

No- there is an exemption to the legislation which means that performances arranged by a school do not need a licence.

What do we do if we have any concerns?

In the first instance address your concerns with the young person and their parent.

Where concerns or questions remain contact the Children Entertainment & Employment Team (CIEE)

Is there anything else I should do?

Please look at the relevant pages on the internet so that you fully understand what is involved <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/education/information-for-parentscarers/care-support/children-in-entertainment.html>

The National Network for Child Employment and Entertainment has a national website which you may wish to visit for further information. <http://www.nncee.org.uk/>

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