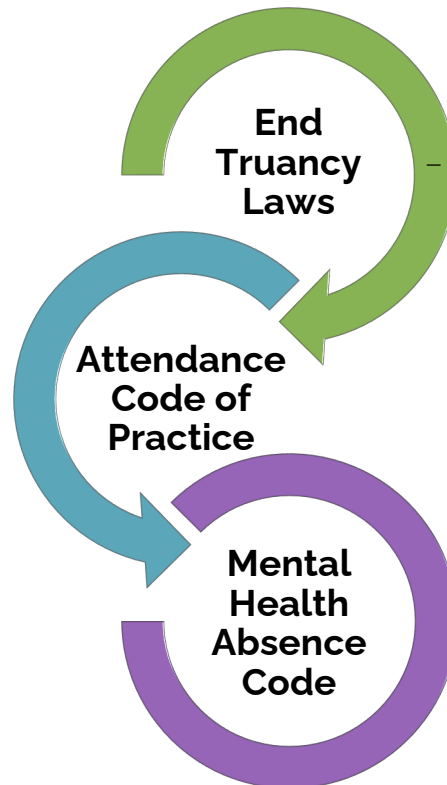


3 Asks

Our response to the Schools Bill (2022) & our proposed remedies to effectively address school absence



- Criminalising parents has not improved outcomes or reduced persistent absence.
- Existing policies, practices & systems fail to support parental efforts to resolve attendance problems. Therefore, it is ineffective & inappropriate to continue to enforce legal duties which are largely unachievable in the current context.
- Our existing truancy laws must be replaced with a compassion & welfare-based response.
- Co-produced with experts-by-experience, 3rd sector organisations, & education, welfare & healthcare practitioners.
- A CoP would ensure robust consultation, objectivity & regulation, with Parliamentary oversight of drafting & implementation. Any future changes to the COP would go through Parliamentary process.
- For stakeholders a CoP will secure input & offer clarity & transparency.
- To give schools agency to authorise absence for mental ill health ensuring parity of esteem with physical illness.
- To identify the numbers of children struggling with mental ill health or wellbeing decline, & the impact of this on children's access to education.
- To allow schools & local authorities to quickly identify children & families needing informal or formal support.

We can do better, together