

## **EDUCATION SUPERVISION ORDER**

### **What is an Education Supervision Order?**

An Education Supervision Order is one legal option available to the Local Authority if a pupil is not attending school regularly. They are:

- part of the Children Act 1989
- heard in the Family Proceedings Court
- intended to support parents in fulfilling their legal responsibilities
- only suitable when there is co-operation from parents and pupil

Education Supervision Orders are not criminal proceedings. They are not designed to punish parents and pupils. They last for one year but can be extended for up to three years. If an Education Supervision Order is granted, the Local Authority will take on some parental responsibilities in connection with education. For example, parents would not be able to move their child to another school without the Local Authority's agreement.

The Order will cease when the child is no longer school age, or the parent/pupil makes an application to the court to end the Order.

### **What will happen?**

The Attendance Monitoring Service will discuss the appropriateness of an Education Supervision Order with the school/other agencies or at the School Attendance Panel.

If it is felt appropriate to apply for an ESO, the Attendance Officer/school will prepare a report on the situation. This will contain the pupil's details and record of attendance and a description of any support already offered to try and improve the attendance. Parents will be shown the reports and given the opportunity to record any disagreement. The parents and pupil will be required to attend the family proceedings court when magistrates will decide whether to grant the Order. The court must be satisfied that:

- A pupil of compulsory school age is not being properly educated
- Making an Order would be better than not making an Order.

If an ESO is granted the Local Authority will appoint a supervising officer who will normally be the attendance officer known to the parents and pupil. The parents and pupil must comply with the directions given within the Order.

## What happens if the Education Supervision Order fails?

- The matter can be referred back to the Family Proceedings Court
- Parents can be prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court if they have failed to follow directions where they can be fined up to £2500 and/or face imprisonment of up to 3 months.
- Children's Social Care must investigate the pupil's circumstances and consider whether they need to take any action.

Please address any queries to:

**Attendance Monitoring Service**  
**Floor 2, Core 1**  
**Civic Offices**  
**Portsmouth**  
**PO1 2EA**

**Telephone: 023 9284 1419**  
**Fax: 023 9284 1725**



**Portsmouth**  
CITY COUNCIL

## **Education Supervision Orders**

### **Information Leaflet**