

ECC Report October 2023

Good school attendance can support your Child's future.



Your child may be experiencing emotions that make him or her feel nervous about attending school. Worries about friendships, learning difficulties, bullying, schoolwork and exams are common. It's important to know you're not alone.

It's not too late to turn things around! Once you've recognised the importance of good attendance and the link between achieving their best grades, you can make changes to improve their attendance and achieve their goals.

Benefits of attending school

By maximising school's attendance, they are more likely to benefit from:

- better social skills
- higher grades
- stronger friendships
- enhanced life skills

There are many reasons attendance may be dropping, whether it's missing a couple of hours a term or arriving late to lessons, it all adds up. Even being five minutes late every day can equate to a chunk of time that is being missed in the classroom and in the long term this can impact on their grades.

Did you know missing 17 school days in a year equals to 85 hours of lost learning? This could reduce GCSE results by an entire grade. Don't let a slipping attendance determine their future.

Available support

There is a range of support available depending on needs. By addressing any worries at an early stage, your child will feel more resilient and better able to cope with the demands of being in school.

If you or someone you know is being bullied you can get support from [ChildLine](#). Being bullied is never your child's fault, there is support on various types of bullying, whether it is something happening in school or cyber bullying online. ChildLine have a [series of threads](#) where students share their fears and feelings and offer each other advice.

Struggling with school and address those issues.

For support with mental health, there is an online mental wellbeing community through [Kooth](#). The website offers free, safe and anonymous support for young people.

It's important to recognise you're not alone if you're struggling with mental health. [Young Minds](#) provide practical tips and advice from young people, as well as information on getting the support that is needed.

For any form of stress, Mind provide information and [tips for managing stress](#) and looking after your child's wellbeing.

RAAC in schools - Updated list as of 29 September 2023

Below is the updated list of the affected schools in Essex.

This is a definitive list and it precedes any other information that is in the public domain:

Maintained:

School Name	Status	Situation
Baynards Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Beehive Lane Community Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Bentfield Primary School and Nursery	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Broomfield Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Eversley Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Great Leigh Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Great Tey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.

Anglo European School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Barnes Farm Junior School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Buckhurst Hill Community Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Buttsbury Junior School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Cann Hall Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Cherry Tree Academy Colchester	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Chipping Ongar Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Clacton County High School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Elm Hall Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Elmstead Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Harlowbury Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Harwich and Dovercourt High School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Hatfield Heath Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Hillhouse C of E Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Hockley Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Jerounds Primary Academy	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Joyce Franklin Academy Newport	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Katherine Semar Infant School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Katherine Semar Junior School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Katherines Primary Academy and Nursery	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Lambourne Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Lubbins Park Primary Academy	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Manningtree High School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Merrylands	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Mistley Norman Church of England Primary School	Closed	All pupils in face-to-face learning in a different setting
Ravens Academy	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Roding Valley High School	Open	Mix of remote and face-to-face learning.
Southview School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
St Helena School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Steeple Bumpstead Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
Tendring Technology College	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
The Appleton School	Open	Mix of remote learning and face-to-face learning.
The Billericay School	Open	Mix of remote learning and face-to-face learning.
The Bromfords School	Open	Mix of remote learning and face-to-face learning.
The FitzWimarc School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
The Gilbert School	Open	Mix of remote learning and face-to-face learning.
The Honywood Community Science School	Open	Mix of remote learning and face-to-face learning.
The Ramsey Academy	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning.
The Thomas Lord Audley	Open	Mix of remote learning and face-to-face learning.

School Name	Status	Situation
Thurstable School Sports College and Sixth Form College	Open	Mix of remote learning and face-to-face learning.
Water Lane Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning
Wells Park School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning
White Hall Academy and Nursery	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning
Winter Gardens Academy	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning
Woodville Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning
Wyburns Primary School	Open	All pupils in face-to-face learning

Councillor Tony Ball, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability, said: “Essex is a large county and, collectively, we have responsibility for educating circa 220,000 school aged children and young people, across an estate of circa 550 schools.

“54 schools are currently identified as having known RAAC within Essex, requiring immediate action as a result of the change in Department of Education (DfE) policy made on Thursday 31 August 2023. Up until that date, for schools for which Essex County Council is the responsible body, we had been working with the DfE to manage RAAC in these settings.

“We have been working over a number of years to understand the extent of RAAC across the maintained school education estate and take action when it has been identified.

“Of the 54 schools on the list, 15 are local authority-maintained schools. 14 of these schools are able to open next week due to mitigation measures having been put in place.

“Unfortunately, one maintained school will need to close temporarily due to the severity of the RAAC across the school building. Parents have been communicated to around arrangements for the start of the school term. We are working tirelessly with the school to find an appropriate solution as quickly as possible.

“The remaining 39 schools are academies, for which the academy trust is the responsible body. We have been working closely with academy trusts and the DfE to understand the impact and provide support where necessary.

“The council has always been diligent in ensuring that we have surveyed schools and ensured that when RAAC issues have been identified we have taken necessary action. We are confident that there are no additional maintained schools that have RAAC. In light of changing guidance and the latest information, like many other Local Authorities we will be reviewing our data and undertaking further surveys if necessary to ensure all RAAC is identified and then addressed. We expect academy trusts will do the same.

“I would like to acknowledge that for pupils, parents, school staff and education colleagues at the council this isn’t the start to the Autumn term you expected or will have wanted. I can reassure you that across the council we are doing all we can to support schools to manage the situation and get affected children safely into schools and learning as quickly as possible.”

Background

On 31 August 2023, the Department for Education published [new guidance](#) regarding reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in schools.

This guidance outlines that urgent action must be taken at any schools with known RAAC, unless a structural mitigation is already in place.

If mitigations are not already in place, then buildings affected must not be used until the RAAC has been secured through a structural intervention. Surveys will also need to take place to ensure ongoing safety.

We have communicated to all Essex schools and have been working quickly to support the minority of schools affected by this new guidance to minimise disruption to pupils and families.

I am a parent/carer, what should I do?

Unless informed otherwise by your child’s school, parents should ensure their child attends school as normal when the new term begins.

Parents and carers of children at affected schools will be communicated to directly by their child's school with information and updates.

Where can I read the new guidance?

Read the [new guidance](#).

[Further useful information](#) for parents is available at the Department for Education website.

Essex Year of Numbers officially launched.



A countywide initiative that aims to help people of all ages to thrive in numeracy has launched in Essex.

The Essex Year of Numbers will give children, young people, parents and carers opportunities, tools and knowledge to improve numeracy skills. It also aims to develop a love of numbers through fun and exciting events and activities.

The Essex Year of Numbers follows the success of the [Essex Year of Reading](#).

It is being launched in response to evidence produced by the charity National Numeracy that shows a link between low numeracy skills and debt, unemployment, and even poor health.

It also aims to close the grade gap for disadvantaged children in Essex.

As part of the Essex Year of Numbers, a range of exciting opportunities are launching, including:

- Lego Education workshops in Essex Libraries using Lego to build STEM skills.
- Lab in the Library; a series of engaging maths and science-based sessions for children.
- A Ministry of Defence STEM project that will give 26 schools a coding success package.
- A Cricket4Maths programme that will reach more than 215 junior schools.
- Promotion of the Multiply programme which provides free maths courses for adults.

More exciting projects will launch throughout the year.

Teachers, industry partners and organisations in Essex can also propose ideas via [email](#).

Read more about the [Essex Year of Numbers](#).

The Lord Lieutenant has launched a competition across schools in Essex.



The Lord Lieutenant has launched a competition to kick-off the Essex Year of Numbers. We're inviting children and young people to create a 2D/3D display (maximum size 1m2 or 1m3), with a short video presentation creatively showing the many ways numbers are used in everyday life.

Entries can include number patterns, diagrams, calculations, explanations, photographs and models. The competition offers students the chance to think creatively about maths and its everyday use.

Jennifer Tolhurst, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Essex explains the competition in more detail.

[Jennifer Tolhurst, Essex Year of Numbers Competition - Essex County Council](#)

What an entry might look like

Numbers are everywhere. They are used in sport for league tables, race times and distances; in music with rhythms and frequencies; in art and photography with the golden ratio and in cooking with weights and costs. Entries can draw on examples of maths any everyday situations.

For more information contact essex.yearofnumbers@essex.gov.uk

Essex Year of Numbers competition terms and conditions

These standard terms and conditions are subject to any other terms and conditions provided to you or to which you are referred at the time of entering the competition.

1. This competition is organised by Essex County Council (ECC), County Hall, Market Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH.
2. ECC reserves the right to void, suspend, cancel or amend the competition at any time without prior notice. Any changes will be posted on essex.gov.uk
3. In the event of any dispute regarding the competition, the final decision of ECC shall be binding and no correspondence or discussion shall be entered into. Terms and conditions shall be governed by English law and the parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.
4. This competition is separate to any other Essex Year of Numbers competition and people can choose to take part in all, any or none.
5. By submitting an entry to this competition, you are agreeing to the terms and conditions as set out, and you warrant that you have the legal capacity to enter into and agree to be bound by the same.

Qualifying entrants

6. Entrants must satisfy the following conditions to enter the competition:
7. Live, work or learn in Essex
8. Submit a display and corresponding video that is; their own work, not subject to copyright art or infringes copyright
9. The entry can be from an individual, pair or group.
10. Employees of ECC and their families are eligible to enter this competition.
11. Use of false name or address will result in disqualification.
12. ECC reserves the right to disqualify any entrant if it has reasonable grounds to believe the entrant has breached any of these terms and conditions.
13. ECC reserves the right to disqualify an entrant or work if their conduct or submitted entry does not fit with the entry criteria or is contrary to the spirit or intention of the competition.
14. ECC reserves the right to not publish entries it deems could cause offense to other readers
15. ECC will not accept competition entries that are automatically generated by computer; completed by third parties in bulk; illegible, altered, reconstructed, forged or tampered with; or incomplete.

Competition entries

16. The Essex Year of Numbers team is inviting entrants to submit a display that demonstrates how we use maths and numbers in every day life, and a supporting video that explains the entry and its connection to maths.
17. Entries can be submitted by individual pupils or groups. Please ensure full contact details (name of contributor, age, address, telephone number and email address) are submitted with the entry.
18. Entries can be submitted by email to essex.yearofnumbers@essex.gov.uk
19. Entry to the competition is free, however, all materials for the creation and submission of work must be provided by the entrant.
20. All work must be the original idea of the entrant and not infringe anyone else's copyright.
23. The closing date for the competition is 31st January 2024.
24. Entries received after the closing date are automatically disqualified.
25. ECC accepts one entry per individual, which can include more than one entrant per school.
27. Entries welcomed from schools, classes, individuals and community groups. Judging will be via a panel made up of Year on Numbers team, library and school colleagues plus the Lord Lieutenant and her deputies.
28. The overall winner in each age category will be chosen from the finalists by a member of the panel.
29. Certificates for those shortlisted and prizes for the winners will be sent to individuals by ECC.
30. Where space allows, will be displayed in libraries. Some entries will also be displayed on the council and/or library website and social media.
31. ECC cannot accept responsibility for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operation, communications line failure, theft, destruction, alteration of, or unauthorised access to entries, quadrants or entries lost or delayed whether or not arising during operation as a result of server functions, virus, bugs or other causes outside its control.
32. ECC accepts no responsibility for entries not received for whatever reason or for missing contact details submitted with each entry.
33. By entering this competition, the entrant or the parent/carer on behalf of an entrant is indicating their agreement to be bound by these terms and conditions.

Prizes

34. All shortlisted entries will receive a certificate and have their work published on the Essex Year of Numbers App.
35. The overall winner will also receive an additional prize of a £100 book token.
36. These prizes are - non-transferable and no cash alternatives to the prizes will be offered.
37. By entering the competition, the winner(s) agree(s) to take part in publicity e.g. media, social media and featuring on the [ECC website](#).

Liability

38. ECC cannot accept any responsibility for any damage, loss, injury or disappointment suffered by any entrant entering the competition or as a result of accepting any prize. ECC is not responsible for any problems or technical malfunction of any computer on-line systems, servers or providers, computer equipment, software failure of any email or entry to be

received on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the internet, including any injury or damage to entrant's or any other person's computer relating to or resulting from participation or downloading any materials in the competition.

Data protection and publicity

39. ECC handles information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation and is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 2018 ([ECC privacy notice](<https://www.essex.gov.uk/your-privacy>)). The personal information provided by you when entering into the competition will be used to administer the competition and will not be shared with anyone unless the law allows us to do so. Essex County Council will hold your name, age, email and postal address to announce the winner of the competition.

40. By providing your name, age, email and postal address to ECC you consent to ECC processing your personal data for the purpose of running this competition and to provide you with information about this competition.

41. If you would like to see any personal information held on you by us please [contact Transparency Team](#) (TT): Essex County Council, PO Box 11, Chelmsford CM1 1LX, 01245 431851.

Highways preparations begin for autumn.



Essex Highways is urging landowners to clear ditches and trim back hedges this autumn. This helps keep roads and pavements safe for residents.

The wetter weather over the autumn and winter brings more incidents relating to flooding. Local floods are preventable if landowners keep on top of ditch and hedge maintenance.

Landowners are responsible for maintaining trees, hedges, shrubs and ditches on their land. This applies even if they are close or next to a road or pavement. They

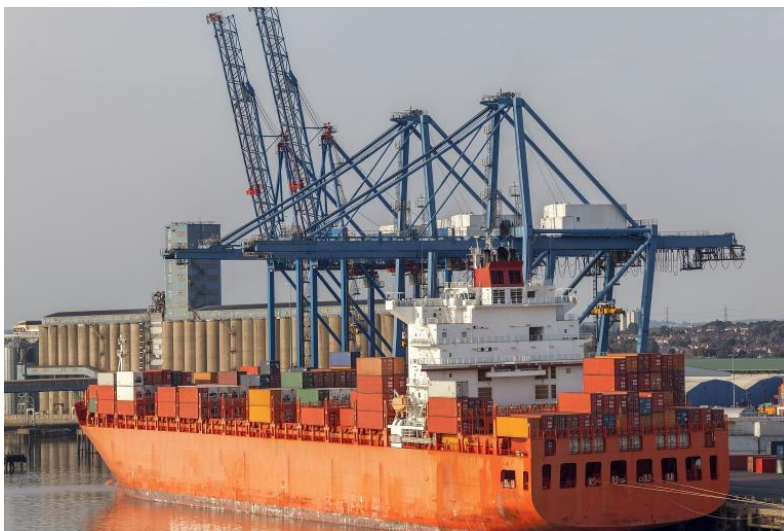
have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent, or reduce, the risk of injury or damage.

Most trees and hedges by roads are on land owned by private landowners. This includes district councils, city council, parish councils, housing associations and homeowners.

Landowners should:

- cut back overhanging branches, which reduce the width of or block the view of the road
- cut back overhanging branches that reduce the height or clearance of the road for tall vehicles
- remove or trim a damaged or diseased tree that is in danger of falling onto the road or pavement
- trim overgrown hedges obscuring road signs or streetlights
- clear ditches located on private land to avoid flooding during heavy rain

Level 2 devolution deal in development



Essex, Southend-on -Sea and Thurrock make up Greater Essex. The Government has confirmed that Greater Essex will work towards a Level 2 devolution deal.

Under the Level 2 deal, there would be a new Greater Essex Combined Authority. This would mean the three authorities make collective decisions about the power and budget given to them by the Government.

Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council will not merge under the deal. Each authority would remain independent.

The Greater Essex Combined Authority would include the former role of the Local Enterprise Partnership. This follows the Government's previous decision to disband them. City, district and borough councils in Essex would also have a voice under the Combined Authority.

The deal would not establish a directly elected mayor for Greater Essex.

It will mean greater focus on improving local skills, transport planning and potentially additional funding for specific capital projects.

Councillor Kevin Bentley, Leader of Essex County Council, said:

"This is a game-changer for Greater Essex, which will serve to further strengthen the Essex economy and improve public services for the benefit of residents and businesses across Essex, Southend and Thurrock.

"There is a way to go before the deal is finalised and we will be working hard over the coming weeks to ensure we achieve the best possible outcome for Greater Essex ahead of the Autumn Budget Statement. We will be pushing for the best deal possible for Greater Essex."

The three authorities will finalise the deal ahead of the Autumn Budget Statement on 22 November. Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Councils will then undertake full public consultations on it.

[Read more about devolution in England.](#)

Apply now for your child's secondary school place.



Applications are now open for secondary school places for September 2024. Parents and carers of Year 6 pupils can apply until Tuesday 31 October.

This is the national deadline. Applying late could reduce the chance of a child securing a place at their preferred school. This is because applications made after the closing date will be considered once all on-time applications are decided.

Parents should visit their preferred school. They should consider the admissions criteria and how their child will get to school. They are also encouraged to use all six preferences on their application.

Find out more about [schools' admissions criteria and how to submit your application](#).

Sign up to renewable electricity and fix your tariff as the Essex Energy Switch returns.



[The Essex Energy Switch](#) is back, helping local communities come together to take the hassle out of searching for a better energy rate.

The Essex Energy Switch is a group buying scheme for gas and electricity. It is free to register and there is no obligation to accept an offer. The more people that register, the greater the collective buying power of the group.

All Energy Switch suppliers must provide 100% renewable electricity. This will help to reduce carbon emissions in the county.

Registering for the Energy Switch is quick and easy. Taking part helps you avoid searching for the best deals as all the hard work is done for you.

The amount of money saved varies depending on factors such as the current tariff, payment method and consumption. Savings, or where there are no savings, are displayed in the personal offer received.

While there is no guarantee that an offer will be the cheapest, the model aims to ensure most people are offered lower annual energy bills than they are currently paying or are available at the time of the offer.

Registration for the Essex Energy Switch is free and only takes five minutes. Pre-approved energy companies will bid at an auction to see who can offer the lowest energy tariff. Those registered will receive an offer once the winning bidder is chosen. There's no obligation to switch. For customers who decided to proceed, the process is taken care of by the winning supplier.

[Register online](#) or by calling the Big Community Switch registration line on 0800 048 8439 to register and receive correspondence by post. Lines are open Monday

to Friday, 8am to 5.30pm. Those looking to sign up should have a recent energy bill to hand.