

Welfare checks

Sometimes known as Safe and Well checks, are a supportive way that schools make sure children are safe and well when they are **unexpectedly absent** and the school has **not been able to contact home**.

National guidance, including **Working Together to Improve School Attendance** and **Keeping Children Safe in Education**, explains that schools have a responsibility to follow up absences quickly because sometimes a child not being in school can be linked to illness, family difficulties, or other worries rather than a simple attendance issue.

A welfare check might be a **phone call, a visit to the home, or contact through another professional** (social care or police), and its purpose is always to check that **your child is safe** and to see if the school can offer help or support. These checks are not about blame or punishment; they are about care, safeguarding, and working in partnership with families to make sure children are supported back into school as soon as they are able.

Keeping Children Safe in Education states that schools have a **duty to act early** when concerns arise. This may be a phone call or a home visit. Failure to gain a response from the pupil or family would result in the situation being escalated.