



Raising School Attendance Levels with E-Registration

In 2001 the Department for Education & Skills secured £11.25m Capital Modernisation Funding to provide electronic registration systems in secondary schools facing difficulties with unauthorised absence. In January 2002 schools that had an unauthorised rate of 1% or more above the national average rate, including those with declining unauthorised absence rates in the years 1999-2001 were selected to participate in the project. The Department for Education & Skills are keen to promote use of electronic registration in schools because of its benefits in efficiently monitoring pupils' attendance and the speedy retrieval and analysis of data. This helps to inform policy formulation and planning at a local and national level.

We know from an independent study that e-registration, when used to its full potential, can significantly reduce levels of truancy within the first two years of implementation, for example through its capacity for lesson-by-lesson registration. We want more schools to benefit from this technology and use it effectively

Every school has problems with internal truancy, where pupils register their attendance at school but fail to show up for lessons. The introduction of e-registration for each lesson tackles the problem of internal truancy head on.

From our experience, attendance administrators welcome e-registration on a lesson by lesson basis. The introduction of e-registration enables staff to notify parents more quickly and gives the school a more professional image, and also allows more opportunity to improve parental support in the area of pupil attendance.

Increasing pupil awareness about school attendance is another positive effect seen upon the introduction of an e-registration system, the data is available instantly so enabling your school EWO or attendance officer the ability to contact parents immediately or take other appropriate action. E-registration will compliment your efforts to develop a positive school environment and attitude to learning.

