

Children's Services
(ACE) Attendance (statutory), Child employment and entertainment, Elective home education and children missing education

Children in Entertainment Overview

1) Introduction

1.1 A performance licence issued by a local authority is required for children of any age up to 16 years. The licence allows the child to perform either in: theatre, filming, modelling, voice over, commercials etc. There are a number of different legislations that apply to entertainment performances. They include:

- Children and Young Persons Act 1933
- Children and Young Persons Act 1963;
- The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014

1.2 A child will need a licence before they can accept perform;

1.3 The purpose of the licence is to ensure that all children are adequately safeguarded and supported.

2) Guidance

2.1 The Attendance (statutory), Child employment and entertainment, Elective home education and children missing education service (ACE) will consider a number of standards that the licence holder must meet before a licence can be issued.

2.2 Where a child will be absent from school to perform, the Head or Deputy Headteacher at the child's school must consent to the absence and provide a letter to the licensing authority. The school is consenting to authorising the child's absence for the agreed period for which the licence cover. Under the regulations, such absence must be recorded in the school register as authorised using registration code: C

2.3 The licensing authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied that the child's education will not suffer. Where a school declines to consent to a child's absence, they must be able to prove to the LA that the child's education will suffer as a result of being absent to engage in a performance. The school may demonstrate this by for example, missing homework, slipping grades, inability to catch up on work, missing additional days due to tiredness or unexplained absences etc. If this is the case the Children in Entertainment Officer will refuse the application.

Where a school has raised concerns with the LA's school support officer regarding frequency of absence to attend performances and auditions the Officer may make contact with the agency / applicant to request that future appointments are offered outside school time.

2.4 Any school absence due to an unlicensed performance will be recorded as an unauthorised absence on the child's attendance record.

2.5 A tutor must be supplied, where appropriate, on longer productions. The tutor must be registered with a licensing authority and hold valid Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks. It is the responsibility of the licence holder to negotiate educational arrangements/support with the headteacher prior to the licence application.