

Attending school is an excellent opportunity

Plan for improving schooling
and truancy procedures
in the city of Barcelona

Pupils' right to education

Both the national and international legal systems recognise that **every individual has the right to an education.**

(Article 27 of the Spanish Constitution of 1978)

Pupils are entitled to receive a comprehensive education geared to their full personal development, respecting the democratic principles of harmonious coexistence and fundamental rights and freedoms.

(Article 3 of Law 12/2009, of 10 July, on education)

Basic education is compulsory and free for everyone. Such education consists of 10 years of schooling, standardly between the ages of 6 and 16.

(Article 57 of Constitutional Law 2/2006, of 3 May, on education)

Basic education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 16



What does **the law** say with regard to parents and guardians?

Unemancipated children are deemed to be in the custody of their parents, who **must always exercise parental authority in their children's best interests, on the basis of each child's character.**

(Article 133 of Law 9/1998, of 15 July, on the Family Code)

Parents who have custody of their children must care for them, live with them, feed them and, in the broadest sense, provide them with a proper upbringing and a full education.

(Article 143.1 of Law 9/1998, of 15 July, on the Family Code)

Parents or legal guardians must ensure that the minors in their care attend school while they are of compulsory school age.

Failure to do so is an offence under article 59 of Law 8/1995, of 27 July, on care and protection for children and teenagers.

Failure to fulfil the care-related legal requirements inherent to parental custody, guardianship or fostering, or to provide such care as is stipulated by law, **is a punishable offence.**

(Article 226 of Constitutional Law 10/1995, of 23 November, on the Penal Code)

The law envisages penalties for parents/guardians who fail to ensure that their children attend school



How do **schools** deal with truancy?

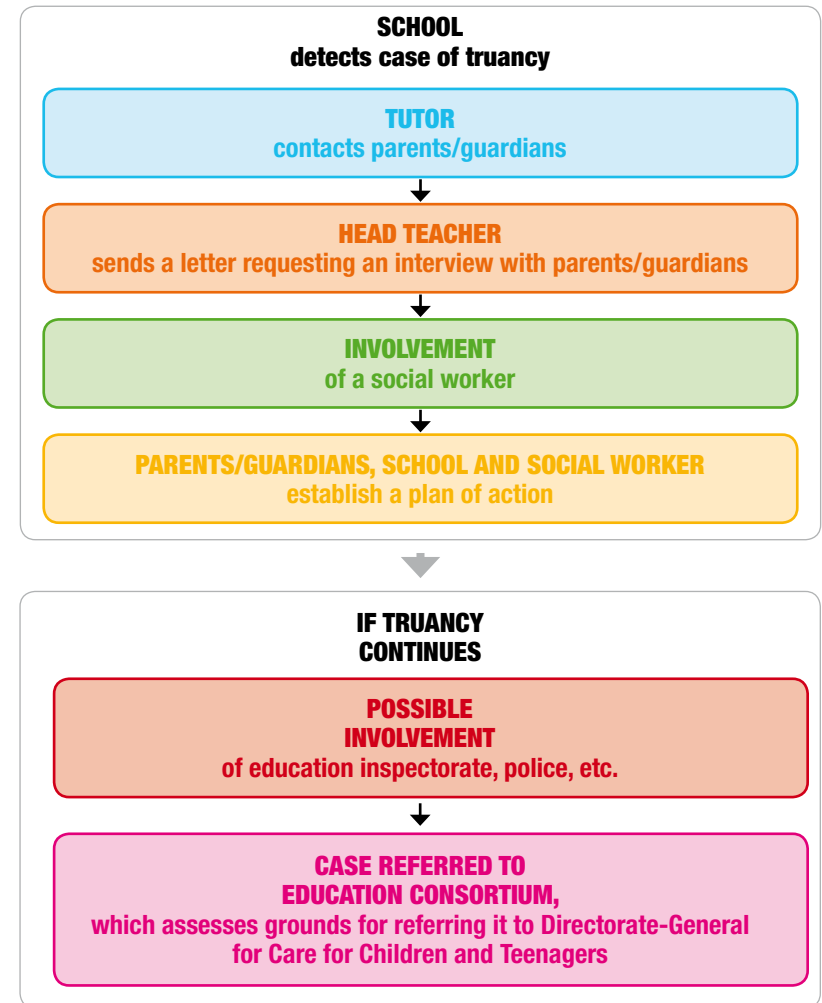
Truancy is the repeated non-attendance, without good reason, of a pupil of compulsory school age at the school at which they are enrolled.

The procedure that schools follow is vital to the prevention and early identification of truancy. If a case of truancy arises, the school will contact the pupil's parents/guardians to advise them of the situation and remind them that it is their duty to ensure that their child receives a proper schooling.

If a pupil's truancy continues despite the combined efforts of their parents/guardians, the school and any external services involved (social services, etc.), the school's head teacher will refer the case to the Barcelona Education Consortium's management, with a view to appropriate legal measures being taken to protect the minor.

Schools take appropriate measures to ensure that pupils receive a proper schooling

Coordination circuit in cases of truancy



The **authorities** take measures to prevent truancy

The public authorities are legally required to assist families in the process of educating minors and to take measures to prevent truancy.

The authorities involved in improving schooling in the city of Barcelona have jointly drawn up a **comprehensive plan for improving compulsory schooling and truancy procedures**. The plan is aimed at ensuring a complete schooling for all children aged between 3 and 16.

The authorities in question are the **Barcelona Education Consortium, the Government of Catalonia's Ministry of Education, Ministry for Social Action and Citizens and Ministry of Justice, the Public Prosecutor's Office for Minors, Barcelona Regional Council and Barcelona City Council**. In each of the city's districts, teachers, head teachers, social workers, public authority employees, education inspectorate staff and the police work together to prevent truancy and improve schooling.

In every district, teachers, head teachers, social workers, public authority employees, education inspectorate staff and the police work together to improve schooling



Education is the key... to opportunities

- For personal development and a fuller life
- For each individual to find their place in society
- For helping to overcome inequality
- For guaranteeing social and cultural cohesion
- For aiding social progress and nurturing greater sophistication and open-mindedness

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