There are certain links that have been established between *Childhood and Truancy*. Some of the links are:

- Low social class
- Boredom
- Poverty
- Deprivation
- One parent families
- Adverse home conditions
- Free school meals
- Unfulfilled needs
- Disruptive behaviour
- Bullying
- Education failure
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Pupil victimization
- Ignorance
- Disaffection from school
- Personality disorders
- Delinquency
- Maladjustment
- Juvenile crime
- Young offenders
- Underachievement
- Illiteracy
- Reading difficulties
- Numeracy problems
- Low levels of general self-esteem
- Low academic self-concepts
- Low long-term career aspirations
- Group and gang activities, outside of school
- Vandalism
- Inner city schools
- Rural areas
- Truancy syndrome (mother/father, grandparents who were truants).

There are also links between *Adults and Truancy*. They are:

- Frequent job change
- Marital disharmony and marital breakdowns (divorce, separation, etc)
- Low social class
- Psychiatric problems
- State dependency
• Poverty
• Fecklessness
• Overcrowding in the home
• Failure/underachievement
• Adult illiteracy
• Reading difficulties
• Prison
• Adult criminality
• Low self concept
• Poor self-esteem
• Poor parenting skills
• Alcoholism
• Negative attitudes towards education and schooling
• Low tolerance thresholds
• 'unsatisfactory lifestyles'
• Loneliness
• Homelessness

Some warning signs that potential truants may be experiencing/displaying

• Been severely punished recently
• Been excluded
• Been unduly moody or tearful
• Been changed form or set
• Gone up or down a year
• Joined a school mid way through the year
• Have parents who have just separated or divorced
• Been fostered
• Have siblings (brother or sister) who has started truanting
• Quarreled [sic] seriously with a teacher
• Experienced a dip in their school attainment
• Become withdrawn
• Fallen out with peers
• Started to look disheveled
• Become a loner
• Overreacted to teasing or to other classroom situations
• Been statemented for SEN
• Spent a long time over seas (especially children with Asian parents
• Been under pressure from examinations
• Been bullied
• Had parents in the local news (criminal convictions, bankruptcy cases, etc)
There are certain characteristics that truants may display:

- Prefer fewer and different subjects to high-ability pupils
- Prefer fewer and different subjects to pupils from similar socioeconomic background that are regular attenders
- Prefer a curriculum based on core subject (English, maths)
- Tend to dislike learning a language, science (and often girls, PE and religious education)
- Are underachieving or perform badly in a range of subjects
- Have constraining views to other pupils on school rules, regulations and internal processes (e.g. attendance regulations, school uniform)
- Enjoy school life less
- Experience more problems when in school
- Require more pastoral care help
- Vary on the personnel in school they would visit if and when they had problems in school
- Are given less homework
- Fail to undertake their homework when it is given
- Prefer fewer teachers in the schools
- Have a power relationship with form tutors
- Tend to have fewer friends in school
- Also tend to have fewer friends with their form groups
- Have less parental interest in academic school progress
- Have fewer parental visits to school (e.g. parents evenings)
- Make allowances for problems that occur at home but not those that occur within the schools
- Have lower long-term career aspirations
- Have higher levels of anxiety when in school and over school work
- Suffer from psychosomatic illness
- Are prone to periods of time off school due to ill health

Personalities of Truants

- Lower self concepts
- Lower general levels of self-esteem
- Greater patterns of alienation from school over certain issues

They feel

- More confused
- Less part of the school community
- Unable to influence decision making
- Some schools are too large
- Generally helpless at school
Higher levels of neuroticism
Higher levels of anti social behaviour

They

- Tend to be absent from school for trivial reasons
- Are not liked much by other children
- Often appear miserable, unhappy, tearful or distressed
- Have poor co-ordination or short attention span
- Often tell lies
- Are often disobedient
- Have things stolen on more than one occasions

Reed, Ken “Tackling Truancy In Schools A Practical Manual For Primary and Secondary Schools” Routledge, London 2000. Pages 6 -8