



## ATTENDANCE POLICY

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## DEFINITIONS

The following terms shall have the following meanings for the purposes of this document: -

<b>the School</b>	means Clifton All Saints Academy
<b>DfE</b>	means Department for Education
<b>DSL</b>	means Deputy Safeguard Lead
<b>EHCP</b>	means Education Health and Care Plan
<b>SEND</b>	means Special Educational Needs and Disability
<b>SENDCo</b>	means Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator

## 1. AIMS

This policy aims to show the School's commitment to meeting its obligations with regards to school attendance, including those laid out in the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#), through our whole-school culture and ethos that values good attendance, including:

- Setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils
- Promoting good attendance and the benefits of good attendance
- Reducing absence, including persistent and severe absence
- Ensuring every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence
- Building strong relationships with families to make sure pupils have the support in place to attend school
- The School will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

## 2. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#) and [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). The guidance is based on the following pieces of legislation, which set out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- Part 6 of the [Education Act 1996](#)
- Part 3 of the [Education Act 2002](#)
- Part 7 of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006 \(and 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2016 amendments\)](#)
- [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

It also refers to:

- [School census guidance](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools](#)

### **3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **3.1 The Trustee Board**

The Trustee Board is responsible for:

- Setting high expectations of all school leaders, staff, pupils and parents.
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties, including:
  - Making sure the School records attendance accurately in the register and shares the required information with the DfE and local authority.
  - Making sure the School works effectively with local partners to help remove barriers to attendance, and keeps them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate
- Recognising and promoting the importance of school attendance across the School's policies and ethos.
- Making sure the School's attendance management processes are delivered effectively, and that consistent support is provided for pupils who need it most by prioritising staff and resources.
- Making sure the School has high aspirations for all pupils but adapts processes and support to pupils' individual needs.
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Working with school leaders to set goals or areas of focus for attendance and providing support and challenge.
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole School and repeatedly evaluating the effectiveness of the School's processes and improvement efforts to make sure they are meeting pupils needs.
- Where the School is struggling with attendance, working with school leaders to develop a comprehensive action plan to improve attendance.
- Making sure all staff receive adequate training on attendance as part of the regular continued professional development offer, so that staff understand:
  - The importance of good attendance
  - That absence is almost always a symptom of wider issues
  - The School's legal requirements for keeping registers
  - The School's strategies and procedures for tracking, following up on and improving attendance, including working with partners and keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate.
- Making sure dedicated training is provided to staff with a specific attendance function in their role, including in interpreting and analysing attendance data.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.
- The link Trustee for attendance will regularly meet with the attendance lead to review attendance data, progress against national standards, approaches to approving attendance for families and children when required.
- When appropriate but at least once a year, the Trustee responsible for safeguarding will also attend an attendance trustee monitoring visit to monitor the safeguarding processes in place for children who do not attend school.

#### **3.2 The Headteacher**

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- The implementation of this policy at the School
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to Trustees
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies

- Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary, and/or authorising Assistant Headteacher and Office Manager to be able to do so
- Working with the parents of pupils with SEND to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with SEND, including where school transport is regularly being missed, and where pupils with SEND face in-school barriers
- Communicating with the local authority when a pupil with an EHCP plan has falling attendance, or where there are barriers to attendance that relate to the pupil's needs
- Communicating the School's high expectations for attendance and punctuality regularly to pupils and parents through all available channels.

### **3.3 The designated Senior Leader responsible for attendance**

The designated senior leader (also known as the 'senior attendance champion') is responsible for:

- Leading, championing and improving attendance across the School
- Setting a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Having a strong grasp of absence data and oversight of absence data analysis
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating progress in attendance
- Establishing and maintaining effective systems for tackling absence, and making sure they are followed by all staff
- Liaising with pupils, parents/carers and external agencies, where needed
- Building close and productive relationships with parents to discuss and tackle attendance issues
- Creating intervention or reintegration plans in partnership with pupils and their parents/carers
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families.

The designated senior leader responsible for attendance is Sam Pepper and can be contacted via [spepper@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk](mailto:spepper@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk).

### **3.4 The Attendance Officer**

The School attendance officer is responsible for:

- Monitoring and analysing attendance data (see section 7)
- Benchmarking attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Providing regular attendance reports to School staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the designated senior leader responsible for attendance, and the Headteacher
- Working with education welfare officers to tackle persistent absence
- Advising the Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher and Officer Manager (authorised by the Headteacher) when to issue fixed-penalty notices

The attendance officer is Clare Francis and can be contacted via [cfrancis@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk](mailto:cfrancis@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk)

### **3.5 Class Teachers**

Class teachers are responsible for recording attendance for both morning and afternoon sessions on a daily basis, using the correct codes (see Appendix 1), and submitting this information to the School office.

Registration:

AM: 8.50am -9am

PM: 1.00pm – 1.05pm

### **3.6 School Office Staff**

School office staff will:

- Take calls from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record the reason for absence on the School MIS system
- Use ParentMail, ClassDojo and the School email to monitor messages from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record the reason for absence on the School's MIS system.
- Transfer calls from parents/carers to the class teacher or senior leaders where appropriate, in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance.
- Alert the Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher of pupils who are absent and of whom the senior leadership team or DSL have concerns for no later than 9.15am
- Maintain the register with the correct codes so that there are no 'N' codes.
- Follow up with parents if no reason for absence is provided.

### **3.7 Parents**

Where this policy refers to a parent, it refers to the adult the School and/or local authority decides is most appropriate to work with, including:

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not
- All those who have parental responsibility for a child or young person
- Those who have day-to-day responsibility for the child (i.e. lives with and looks after them)

Parents are expected to:

- Make sure their child attends every day on time
- Call the School to report their child's absence before 8.45am on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence, and advise when they are expected to return
- Provide the School with more than 1 emergency contact number for their child
- Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day
- Keep to any attendance contracts that they make with the School and/or local authority
- Seek support, where necessary, for maintaining good attendance, by contacting the School office who can be contacted via 01462 628444 or [school@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk](mailto:school@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk)

### **3.8 Pupils**

Pupils are expected to:

- Attend school every day, on time
- Come to school with the right equipment for the day
- Come to school in the right uniform

## **4. RECORDING ATTENDANCE**

### **4.1 Attendance register**

The School will keep an electronic attendance register and place all pupils onto this register. The School will take its attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session. It will mark, using the appropriate national attendance and absence codes from the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, whether every pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances
- Any amendment to the attendance register will include:
  - The original entry
  - The amended entry

- The reason for the amendment
- The date on which the amendment was made
- The name and position of the person who made the amendment

See Appendix 1 for the DfE attendance codes.

The School will also record:

- [For pupils of compulsory school age] Whether the absence is authorised or not
- The nature of the activity, where a pupil is attending an approved educational activity
- The nature of circumstances, where a pupil is unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

The School will keep every entry on the attendance register for 6 years after the date on which the entry was made.

The School day starts at 8.50am and ends at 3.15pm for Reception children and 3.20pm for Years 1 to 6.

Pupils must arrive in school by 8.50am on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 9.00am and will be kept open until 9.30am. The register for the second session will be taken at 1.00pm and will be kept open until 1.05pm.

#### ***4.2 Unplanned absence***

The pupil's parent must notify the School of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 8.45am or as soon as practically possible.

#### ***Parents can notify the School of absence via:***

- ParentMail absence reporting
- ClassDojo Messaging (Office Staff only)
- School Email – [school@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk](mailto:school@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk)
- School Voicemail: 01462 628444 (Option 1)

The School will mark absence due to physical or mental illness as authorised, unless the School has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.

Where the absence is longer than 5 days, or there are doubts about the authenticity of the illness, the School will ask for medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. The School will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily.

If the School is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and parents will be notified of this in advance.

#### ***4.3 Planned absence***

Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent notifies the School in advance of the appointment. Parents should notify the School in writing via the School office email or via Class Dojo of any appointments and should attach appointment cards or letters to the email as proof appointment.

However, The School encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

The pupil's parent must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence. Go to section 5 to find out which term-time absences the School can authorise.

#### **4.4 Lateness and punctuality**

A pupil who arrives late:

- Before the register has closed will be marked as late, using the appropriate code
- After the register has closed will be marked as absent, using the appropriate code

The School will work with families to address on-going punctuality concerns. This will involve a punctuality support meeting to ensure the School understands the barriers for children attending school on time. At this meeting, the School will explore individual and bespoke support for each family and child to ensure barriers to attendance are addressed. Progress meetings will be held half termly to celebrate successes or address further punctuality concerns.

#### **4.5 Following up unexplained absence**

Where any pupil the School expects to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, without reason, the School will:

- Call the pupil's parent on the morning of the first day of unexplained absence to ascertain the reason. If the School cannot reach any of the pupil's emergency contacts, the School will conduct a home visit. Where there are further concerns the School may contact children's services or the police.
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not.
- Identify the correct attendance code to use and input it as soon as the reason for absence is ascertained – this will be no later than 5 working days after the session(s) for which the pupil was absent.
- Call the parent on each day that the absence continues without explanation, to make sure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, the School will consider involving an education welfare officer.
- Where relevant, report the unexplained absence to the pupil's youth offending team officer.
- Where appropriate, offer support to the pupil and/or their parents to improve attendance.
- Identify whether the pupil needs support from wider partners, as quickly as possible, and make the necessary referrals.
- Where support is not appropriate, not successful, or not engaged with issue a notice to improve, penalty notice or other legal intervention (see section 5.2 below), as appropriate.

#### **4.6 Reporting to parents**

The School will regularly inform parents (see definition of 'parent', as used in this policy, in section 3.7 above) about their child's attendance and absence levels via half-termly attendance reports. These reports will include the child's overall attendance figure, and the register for the half term.

## **5. AUTHORISED AND UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE**

### **5.1 Approval for term-time absence**

The Headteacher will allow pupils to be absent from the School site for certain educational activities, or to attend other schools or settings.

The Headteacher will only grant a **leave of absence** to a pupil during term time if the request meets the specific circumstances set out in the [2024 school attendance regulations](#). These circumstances are:

- Taking part in a regulated performance, or regulated employment abroad
- Attending an interview

- Study leave
- A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable
- Exceptional circumstances
- 

A leave of absence is granted at the Headteacher’s discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for. As a leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.

Exceptional Circumstances which school ‘ <i>may</i> ’ grant a leave of absence include:	Circumstances under which absence will <i>not be</i> authorised include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Immediate family bereavement, crisis or serious illness</li> <li>● Funeral of immediate family member</li> <li>● Religious observance</li> <li>● One day’s absence for the wedding of an immediate family member, where the invitation has been provided as evidence</li> <li>● One-off sporting events/performing arts competitions, if the Student is participating and is at County standard or above, and a letter has been provided from the performing arts/sports regional governing body as evidence</li> <li>● One day’s absence for an immediate family member’s graduation ceremony/passing out parade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Family holidays</li> <li>● Weddings abroad – regardless of whether it is for immediate family members</li> <li>● Family anniversaries</li> <li>● Caring for other family members</li> <li>● Birthdays</li> <li>● Interpreting for other family members</li> <li>● Lack of school uniform/shoes</li> <li>● Bullying</li> <li>● Friendship problems</li> <li>● Head lice</li> <li>● Learning difficulties</li> <li>● Death of a pet</li> <li>● Travel problems (Unless the fault of the LA)</li> <li>● School refusal, except where corroborated by appropriate health professional</li> </ul>

Leave of absence will not be granted for a pupil to take part in protest activity during school hours.

The School considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, at least two weeks before the absence, and in accordance with any leave of absence request form, accessible via the School office. The Headteacher may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

Other valid reasons for **authorised absence** include (but are not limited to):

- Illness (including mental-health illness) and medical/dental appointments (see sections 4.2 and 4.3 for more detail).
- Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil’s parent(s) belong(s). If necessary, the School will seek advice from the parent’s religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart
- Parent(s) travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh gypsies, Irish and Scottish travellers, showmen (fairground people) and circus people, bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and new travellers. Absence may be authorised only when a traveller family is known to be travelling for occupational purposes and has agreed this with the School, but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision.
- If the pupil is currently suspended or excluded from school (and no alternative provision has been made).

Other reasons the School may allow a pupil to be absent from the School site, which are not classified as absences, include (but are not limited to):

- Attending an offsite approved educational activity, sporting activity or visit or trip arranged by the School.
- Attending another school at which the pupil is also registered (dual registration)
- Attending provision arranged by the local authority.
- Attending work experience
- If there is any other unavoidable cause for the pupil not to attend school, such as disruption to travel caused by an emergency, a lack of access arrangements, or because the School premises are closed.

## **5.2 Sanctions**

The School will make use of the full range of potential sanctions – including, but not limited to, those listed below – to tackle poor attendance. Decisions will be made on an individual, case-by-case basis.

### **Penalty notices**

The Headteacher (or someone authorised by them), local authority or the police can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age, by issuing a penalty notice.

If the School issues a penalty notice, it will check with the local authority before doing so and send it a copy of any penalty notice issued.

Before issuing a penalty notice, the School will consider the individual case, including:

- Whether the national threshold for considering a penalty notice has been met (10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks).
- Whether a penalty notice is the best available tool to improve attendance for that pupil.
- Whether further support, a notice to improve or another legal intervention would be a more appropriate solution.
- Whether any obligations that the School has under the Equality Act 2010 make issuing a penalty notice inappropriate.

A penalty notice may also be issued where parents allow their child to be present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification, during the first 5 days of a suspension or exclusion (where the School has notified the parents that the pupil must not be present in a public place on that day).

Each parent who is liable for the pupil's offence(s) can be issued with a penalty notice, but this will usually only be the parent/parents who allowed the absence.

The payment must be made directly to the local authority, regardless of who issues the notice. If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice.

If issued with a **first** penalty notice, the parent must pay £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days. If a **second** penalty notice is issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil, the parent must pay £160 if paid within 28 days.

A **third** penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the issue of the first penalty notice. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead.

### ***Notices to improve***

If the national threshold has been met and support is appropriate, but parents do not engage with offers of support, the School may offer a notice to improve to give parents a final chance to engage with support.

Notices to improve will be issued in line with processes set out in the local code of conduct for the local authority area in which the pupil attends school.

They will include:

- Details of the pupil's attendance record and of the offences
- The benefits of regular attendance and the duty of parents under [section 7 of the Education Act 1996](#)
- Details of the support provided so far
- Opportunities for further support, or to access previously provided support that was not engaged with.
- A clear warning that a penalty notice may be issued if attendance doesn't improve within the improvement period, along with details of what sufficient improvement looks like, which will be decided on a case-by-case basis.
- A clear timeframe of between 3 and 6 weeks for the improvement period.
- The grounds on which a penalty notice may be issued before the end of the improvement period.

## **6. STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING ATTENDANCE**

The School actively promotes good attendance through:

- Regular communication with parents/carers via letters and the School's newsletter.
- Assemblies with the children that share the reasons for good attendance and how this supports learning and social development.
- Knowing families to support them individually.

## **7. SUPPORTING PUPILS WHO ARE ABSENT OR RETURNING TO SCHOOL**

### ***7.1 Pupils absent due to complex barriers to attendance***

The School supports children with complex barriers to attend school by assigning a member of staff to the child and family for support and to become their attendance champion. This staff member will be the first port call for the child and family. A support plan will be put in place for the child to support them back into school. This plan will outline any strategies that are to be used in school and will be shared with the class teacher, support staff and any other relevant staff. This plan may include referrals to outside agencies.

### ***7.2 Pupils absent due to mental or physical ill health or SEND***

Children absent from school for a prolonged period due to mental or physical ill health or SEND will be supported to return to school with a bespoke plan, tailored to consider their needs and that of any medical professional where appropriate.

Contact will be made with parents to establish the reason for absence and then a plan of support will be established for the child and family. Outreach services and in-school partners may be used to support re-integration to school.

Regular contact with parents will be maintained to ensure the plan is effective, working well and to consider any necessary adjustments that can be made for the benefit of the child.

The School has its own Psychotherapeutic Counsellor for children and young people and an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant to support children back into school. For all children with SEND the SENDCo will be actively involved in their re-integration into school.

Where a pupil has an EHCP and their attendance falls, or the School becomes aware of barriers to attendance that related to the pupil's needs, the School will inform the local authority.

### ***7.3 Pupils returning to school after a lengthy or unavoidable period of absence***

Pupils returning to school after a lengthy or prolonged unavoidable absence will be supported to return to school with a bespoke plan where appropriate.

Contact will be made with parents to establish the reason for absence and then a plan of support will be established for the child and family. Outreach services and in-school partners may be used to support reintegration to school.

## **8. ATTENDANCE MONITORING**

Attendance data is monitored weekly by the Office Manager using the School's MIS System. The Office Manager will track the attendance data of individual pupils and groups of pupils.

Where individual pupils are identified as being at risk of becoming a persistent absentee or have experienced high levels of absence, action will be taken to address this. Parents/Carers will receive one of two letters regarding their child's attendance (see appendices 2 and 3). The School will also offer parents, access to Early Help and any further outreach services at this stage where it is appropriate to do so.

Attendance data is reported to the Trustee Board termly. The data is provided for groups of children and for the whole school. Trustees hold school leaders to account for the data presented to them, ensuring that leaders take swift action to tackle poor attendance.

### ***8.1 Monitoring attendance***

The School will monitor attendance and absence data (including punctuality) half-termly, termly and yearly across the School and at an individual pupil, year group and cohort level.

Specific pupil information will be shared with the DfE on request. The School has granted the DfE access to its management information system so the data can be accessed regularly and securely. Data will be collected each term and published at national and local authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases. The underlying school-level absence data is published alongside the national statistics.

The School will benchmark its attendance data at whole school, year group and cohort level against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement and share this with the Trustee Board.

### ***8.2 Analysing attendance***

The School will:

- Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify pupils, groups or cohorts that need additional support with their attendance, and

- Identify pupils whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence.
- Conduct thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full-year data to identify patterns and trends.
- Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns.

### **8.3 Using data to improve attendance**

The School will:

- Develop targeted actions to address patterns of absence (of all severities) of individual pupils, groups or cohorts that it has identified via data analysis.
- Provide targeted support to the pupils it has identified whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence, and their families (see section 8.4 below).
- Provide regular attendance reports to class teachers to facilitate discussions with pupils and families, and to the Trustee Board and school leaders (including special educational needs co-ordinator, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium lead).
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies.
- Share information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, local authorities and other partners where a pupil's absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe, including keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate.

### **8.4 Reducing persistent and severe absence**

Persistent absence is where a pupil misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence is where a pupil misses 50% or more of school. Reducing persistent and severe absence is central to the School's strategy for improving attendance.

The School will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence.
- Consider potential safeguarding issues and, where suspected or present, address them in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- Hold regular meetings with the parents of pupils who the School (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable or at risk of persistent or severe absence, or who are persistently or severely absent, to:
  - Discuss attendance and engagement at school
  - Listen, and understand barriers to attendance
  - Explain the help that is available
  - Explain the potential consequences of, and sanctions for, persistent and severe absence
  - Review any existing actions or interventions
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance, in conjunction with the local authority, where relevant.
- Consider alternative support that could be put in place to remove any barriers to attendance and re-engage these pupils. In doing so, the School will sensitively consider some of the reasons for absence.
- Implement sanctions, where necessary (see section 5.2, above).
- In some cases of persistent absence the Headteacher, authorised by the Board of Trustees, is able to use their discretion in implementing supporting strategies that act in the best interest of the pupil. These strategies may be outside of those listed within this policy.

## **9 LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy

## 10. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority and/or DfE is updated, and as a minimum annually by the Attendance Lead. At every review, the policy will be approved by the full Trustee Board.

**Signed Headteacher:**  
**(Becky Byrne)**



**Signed Chair of Trustees:**  
**(Milton Guffogg)**



**Date Policy agreed: Summer Term 2025 - September 2025**

**Committee: Full Trustee Board**

**Review Date: Summer 2026 - September 2026**

## APPENDIX 1: ATTENDANCE CODES

The following codes are taken from the DfE's [guidance on school attendance](#).

Code	Definition	Scenario
/	Present (am)	Pupil is present at morning registration
\	Present (pm)	Pupil is present at afternoon registration
L	Late arrival	Pupil arrives late before register has closed
<b>Attending a place other than the School</b>		
K	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority	Pupil is attending a place other than a school at which they are registered, for educational provision arranged by the local authority
V	Attending an educational visit or trip	Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised or approved by the School
P	Participating in a sporting activity	Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the School
W	Attending work experience	Pupil is on an approved work experience placement
B	Attending any other approved educational activity	Pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is not a sporting activity or work experience
D	Dual registered	Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered
<b>Absent – leave of absence</b>		
C1	Participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad	Pupil is undertaking employment (paid or unpaid) during school hours, approved by the School
M	Medical/dental appointment	Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment
J1	Interview	Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment
S	Study leave	Pupil has been granted leave of absence to study for a public examination
X	Not required to be in school	Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend

<b>C2</b>	Part-time timetable	Pupil is not in school due to having a part-time timetable
<b>C</b>	Exceptional circumstances	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
<b>Absent – other authorised reasons</b>		
<b>T</b>	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	Pupil is a ‘mobile child’ who is travelling with their parent(s) who are travelling for occupational purposes
<b>R</b>	Religious observance	Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance
<b>I</b>	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	Pupil is unable to attend due to illness (either related to physical or mental health)
<b>E</b>	Suspended or excluded	Pupil has been suspended or excluded from school and no alternative provision has been made
<b>Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause</b>		
<b>Q</b>	Lack of access arrangements	Pupil is unable to attend school because the local authority has failed to make access arrangements to enable attendance at school
<b>Y1</b>	Transport not available	Pupil is unable to attend because school is not within walking distance of their home and the transport normally provided is not available
<b>Y2</b>	Widespread disruption to travel	Pupil is unable to attend because of widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national or international emergency
<b>Y3</b>	Part of school premises closed	Pupil is unable to attend because they cannot practicably be accommodated in the part of the premises that remains open
<b>Y4</b>	Whole school site unexpectedly closed	Every pupil absent as the School is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to adverse weather)
<b>Y5</b>	Criminal justice detention	Pupil is unable to attend as they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In police detention</li> <li>● Remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or</li> <li>● Detained under a sentence of detention</li> </ul>

<b>Y6</b>	Public health guidance or law	Pupil's travel to or attendance at the School would be prohibited under public health guidance or law
<b>Y7</b>	Any other unavoidable cause	To be used where an unavoidable cause is not covered by the other codes
<b>Absent – unauthorised absence</b>		
<b>G</b>	Holiday not granted by the School	Pupil is absent for the purpose of a holiday, not approved by the School
<b>N</b>	Reason for absence not yet established	Reason for absence has not been established before the register closes
<b>O</b>	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	No reason for absence has been established, or the School isn't satisfied that the reason given would be recorded using one of the codes for authorised absence
<b>U</b>	Arrived in school after registration closed	Pupil has arrived late, after the register has closed but before the end of session
<b>Administrative codes</b>		
<b>Z</b>	Prospective pupil not on admission register	Pupil has not joined school yet but has been registered
<b>#</b>	Planned whole-school closure	Whole-school closures that are known and planned in advance, including school holidays

**APPENDIX 2 - ATTENDANCE LETTER 1**

Private & Confidential  
For the Attention of PARENT / CARER  
ADDRESS

DATE

Dear PARENT / CARER  
Pupils Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
DOB: \*\*\*\*\*

I am writing to you with reference to the attendance of your daughter/son. The attendance register (copy enclosed) shows that his/her attendance currently stands at \*\*.\*\*%. I am concerned that this attendance level may seriously impact upon his/her ability to fully access the curriculum.

The School's minimum attendance target is 96% and we would appreciate your support in ensuring that your son/daughter's attendance improves to at least our minimum school target.

I am aware that the main reason for this decline in attendance is due to **(ADD REASON)**. If there is anything we can do to support you to help improve **CHILD'S NAME** school attendance or if you would like to discuss this matter please do contact me.

The Local Authority requests that schools ensure that parents are made aware of both the definition of who is a parent and also what the law says parents must do with regards to their child's education. Please click here to see our attendance policy.

Yours sincerely

Miss R Byrne  
Headteacher

Private & Confidential  
For the Attention of PARENT/CARER  
**ADDRESS**  
**DATE**

Dear PARENT / CARER  
Pupils Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
DOB: \*\*\*\*\*

I am writing to you with reference to the attendance of your daughter/son. The attendance register(copy enclosed) shows that his/her attendance currently stands at \*\*.\*\*% with no unauthorised absences. I am concerned that this attendance level may seriously impact upon his/her ability to fully access the curriculum.

The School's minimum attendance target is 96% and we would appreciate your support in ensuring that your daughter/son's attendance improves to at least our minimum school target. Unfortunately, we will be unable to authorise any further absences as illness from the date of this letter onwards unless satisfactory medical evidence is provided to support these absences. Medical evidence can take the form of copies of prescriptions, appointment cards or sight of medication. In certain cases, a letter from a GP or Consultant would be required so that extra support to help a child access their education because of a medical need can be arranged. <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

Should **CHILD'S NAME** level of attendance fail to improve or the School doesn't receive satisfactory evidence to support the absences, the School may need to consider requesting that you attend a joint meeting with the Headteacher and the Local Authority School Attendance Officer or may request a Penalty Notice is issued in line with Central Bedfordshire Council's Code of Conduct [https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/4/pupil\\_support/526/non-school\\_attendance](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/4/pupil_support/526/non-school_attendance)

Yours sincerely

Miss R Byrne  
Headteacher