



LEARNING ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE IN TERM TIME POLICY

Policy Reference No	AC001
Review Frequency	Annual
Reviewed	Summer 2026
Next Review Date	Summer 2027
Approved by	TLT

Change Log

Date	Changes to Policy
July 2026	Section1: Added a clear definition of regular attendance as attending every day the school is open unless absence is unavoidable. Section 4: Added explicit reference to daily submission of attendance data to the Department for Education, in line with statutory requirements. Section 7: Removed 'termly' from Health Checks Section 7 and Annex 4: Annex 4 Attendance Evaluation will be completed annually by all schools. For schools where attendance for ALL pupils is below the National Average, or where the school's Persistent Absentee rate for ALL pupils is above the National Average, this will be completed Half Termly. Section 8: Section 8: Strengthened wording on collaborative working, including data sharing and joint working with other schools, academy trusts, local authorities and partners. Section 9: Clarified notification to Local Authority regarding Part Time Timetables. New Section 6e: Clarified when legal intervention may be considered, including thresholds for unauthorised absence, repeated patterns and failure to engage with support.
July 2025	Section 3: Greater clarity of Headteachers role in fully enacting policy and importance of high-quality teaching Section 4: Greater clarity of expectations on parents within Graduated Response stages. Section 6: new section on Graduated response, replaces previous 'Attendance Meeting Stages and Formalised support' Section 7: Clarified expectation of recording on Monitoring reports and added at least termly meetings for Headteachers with DI regrading cases of very low attendance or those with an EHCP. Section 9: Clarified that Graduated Response to be used with all pupils but flexibility needed regarding those with SEND and importance if SEND provision being clear. Annex 5 to 7: added with letter templates and meeting documentation. Accessibility and Language Support added.
July 2024	Updates to reflect new Statutory Guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance' Working together to improve school attendance (applies from 19 August 2024) (publishing.service.gov.uk) Includes reference to National Research through Impact Education https://www.evaluation.impactgroup.uk/research-and-resources/understanding-attendance Section 5: Absence coding significantly updated with new coding detail. Policy structure updated as Trust policy with the following Annexes: Annex added: Annex 1: Parent Guide: School Attendance Information (per school) Annex 2: Parent Guide: Accessing your child's attendance information from MCAS Annex 3: Calendar of Actions and Roles regarding Attendance Annex 4a: Quality Assurance for Senior Attendance Champions (to be completed half termly, termly and annually) Annex 4b: Example of Quality Assurance for Senior Attendance Champions (to be completed half termly, termly and annually)
August 2023	Section 3 Updated in line with KCSIE 23: "to state that 'children missing education or those with patterns of absence, can be a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues: neglect, sexual abuse and child and sexual exploitation and therefore will always be robust in our approach towards good attendance."
August 2022	Updated in line with 'Working together to improve attendance' DfE 2022 More info on Introduction and purpose with more clarity from DfE More clarity of roles of school and those with responsibility in school Clearer process re: attendance follow up, including exact times of day/ registers. More detail on monitoring and evaluations, including MAT expectations of best practice and oversight (Trust Director oversight and reports) More detail in how we will encourage good attendance. More info on how we will support those with barriers. More detail on PA and sever PA. More detail on Vulnerable Pupils More detail on expectation of sharing of info with local schools, agencies and LA
Autumn 2021	Addendum – Recording attendance in relation to Covid during 21-22

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Accessibility and Language Support

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1. Rationale

The Learning Academy Partnership is an inclusive Schools Trust, committed to enabling 'Flourishing Futures' for all in the communities which our schools serve. We believe that if pupils are to benefit from education, pupil's attendance is part of improving the pupil's overall welfare and therefore, their flourishing. As such, we prioritise attendance through a wide range of strategies, including but not limited to, inclusion, SEND, behaviour, safeguarding, supporting all pupils and our Pupil Premium Strategy. This work is underpinned by our shared core belief of Sense of Belonging, in all schools, for all pupils and families which sets out to support all to feel safe, cared for and valued by our schools. From this, our work on attendance is based on research (such as Impact Ed report <https://www.evaluation.impactgroup.uk/research-and-resources/understanding-attendance>) and principles of best practice so systems and processes, underpinned by culture, all enable pupils to attend well and flourish.

DfE Guidance 'Working together to improve attendance.' 2024 states:

Attendance is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment. At KS2, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard. Moreover, the overall absence rate of pupils not meeting the expected standard was higher than among those meeting the higher standard (4.7% compared to 2.7%).

DFE Attendance research 2025 shows that:

At primary school, children who attend school nearly every day in Year 6 (95-100% attendance) are 30% more likely to reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to similar pupils who attend 90-95% of the time.

We are committed to providing an education of the highest quality for all our pupils and endeavour to provide an environment where all pupils and families feel safe, valued and that they belong. All pupils have the right to access the education to which they're entitled. Everyone plays a part in this: Parents, pupils, school staff and other agencies, including the Local Authority. In short, Parents, pupils, school staff and other agencies, share the responsibility for supporting and promoting excellent school attendance and punctuality for all.

We recognise that some pupils may find it harder to feel that they belong within a school and there may be some, barriers to good attendance and punctuality. We strive to work to create a culture of belonging in all that we do in schools and build strong and trusting relationships with pupils and their families. From this, we strive to listen and understand the barriers to attendance, in a timely way to support early intervention wherever possible. In doing so, we aim to work jointly to remove these barriers to support pupils to attend well, supporting their wider wellbeing.

Attendance is everyone's business; pupils, all staff and leaders, parents and the Local Authorities in which schools are located. Every opportunity will be used to support to pupils and their parents or carers to understand the importance of regular and punctual attendance, supported by all staff. Regular attendance means attending every day the school is open unless absence is unavoidable.

For our children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered it is vital all children are at the academy, on time, every day the academy is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. The routines children develop around attendance and punctuality at the school are the same as the expectations of any future employer in the world of work. High attainment, confidence with peers and staff, and future aspirations depend on good attendance.

This DFE model sets out our Graduated Response to supporting pupils to attend well, set out in Section 6.

Expect

Aspire to high standards of attendance from all pupils and parents and build a culture where all can, and want to, be in school and ready to learn by prioritising attendance improvement across the school.

Monitor

Rigorously use attendance data to identify patterns of poor attendance (at individual and cohort level) as soon as possible so all parties can work together to resolve them before they become entrenched.

Listen and understand

When a pattern is spotted, discuss with pupils and parents to listen to and understand barriers to attendance and agree how all partners can work together to resolve them.

Facilitate support

Remove barriers in school and help pupils and parents to access the support they need to overcome the barriers outside of school. This might include an early help or whole family plan where absence is a symptom of wider issues.

Formalise support

Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, partners should work together to explain the consequences clearly and ensure support is also in place to enable families to respond. Depending on the circumstances this may include formalising support through an attendance contract or education supervision order.

Enforce

Where all other avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or not being engaged with, enforce attendance through statutory intervention: a penalty notice in line with the National Framework or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education.

2. Purpose of our Policy

We recognise that whole school culture, underpins all work on attendance and this is supported by clear expectations, procedures and responsibilities. This Attendance Policy sets the core approach to attendance, to ensure clarity of role and expectations for all: leaders, staff, pupils and parents understand these expectations.

In line with DFE policy, this Trust Attendance Policy details:

- The attendance and punctuality expectations of pupils and parents, including start and close of the day, register times and the processes for requesting leaves of absence and informing the school of the reason for an unexpected absence. (See School Attendance Information - Annex 1 for individual schools and close of day and register closing time).
- The name and contact details of the school's Senior Attendance Champion. (See School Annex 1 for individual school's Champion)
- Information and contact details of the school staff who pupils and parents should contact about attendance on a day-to-day basis (administrators or class teacher) and for more detailed support on attendance (such Family Support, SENDCO the Senior Attendance Champion, or other senior leaders. (See School Annex 1 for individual school's more detailed support.)
- The school's day to day processes for managing attendance, for example first day calling and processes to follow up on unexplained absence.
- How the school is expecting and supporting good attendance and punctuality (See School Annex 1 for individual school's additional approaches, which go further than Trust approaches.)
- The school's strategy for using data to target attendance improvement efforts to the pupils or pupil cohorts who need it most.
- The school's strategy for reducing persistent and severe absence, including how access to wider support services will be provided to remove the barriers to attendance and when support will be formalised in conjunction with the local authority.
- Details of the Formal Support, including Enforcement through the National Framework for Penalty Notices and when Notices to Improve, penalty notices or other legal interventions will be sought if support is not appropriate (e.g. for a holiday in term time), not successful, or not engaged with.
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3. Rights, Responsibilities and Roles

Schools

1. Headteachers have overall responsibility for fully enacting this policy and therefore improving attendance and are accountable for such.
2. School culture and sense of belonging underpins good attendance, along with clearly set out roles and responsibilities in school, therefore school leadership is central to managing and improving attendance.
3. Headteacher may delegate to a designated Senior Attendance Champions with oversight to championing and improving attendance. Senior Attendance Champions will be supported in schools by others, including administrators, SENDCOs and Designated Safeguarding Leads and any Family Support members of staff.
4. Leaders ensure they use Trust wide systems to tracking attendance, including of groups currently and previously with low attendance. In doing so, they continually consider the effectiveness of the school's strategies and processes.
5. Leaders ensure that they monitor the efficacy of attendance approaches, as per 'Section 8 Monitoring', as a minimum.
6. School staff will be supported, through professional development, to understand the drivers of attendance, and how they can support good attendance within their roles. This includes understanding the importance of continually supporting the culture of belonging for all pupils and parents, alongside specific attendance approaches in school.
7. Staff working within Attendance Teams will be able to use Trust Attendance Report packages to support their evaluations.
8. Schools will work in partnership with parents on attendance in easy-to-understand formats.
This will include:
 - What is expected of attendance both a day-to-day basis and overall good attendance.
 - Clarity on short and long-term consequences of poor attendance e.g. how many sessions/ lessons missed can impact.
 - Expectations of good attendance is communicated regularly through all available channels: social media, newsletters, face to face conversations and parents' meetings.
 - Communicate to parents their child's attendance across the school year, typically at Parent Consultations/ End of Year Report.
 - Regular information on whole school and class attendance e.g. through school newsletters or class newsletters etc.
9. Make attendance everyone's priority with high visibility given, through assemblies, posters, celebration events, certificates etc. Schools recognise that this needs to be done sensitively so that these praises and rewards improvements or good attendance but does not shy away from this as attendance is so vital for pupils to have 'flourishing futures'.
10. Staff will ensure that registers are completed in accordance with this policy.
All registers will be completed accurately at the beginning of each morning and afternoon session through the School Management System.
11. Schools have clear procedures to identify and follow up all absence and lateness allocating individual staff roles and responsibilities.
12. Schools will ensure there is supported to improve attendance, including working with families, conduct home visits, referring to other agencies and support, as well as working in partnership with the Local Authority.
13. Schools understands the importance of high-quality adaptive teaching in supporting good attendance. There is a relentless focus on continuing to support vulnerable pupils, including supporting pupils with medical conditions or disabilities, safeguarding, mental health or wellbeing and support for otherwise disadvantaged or vulnerable pupils, to feel safe, secure and that they belong in schools.
14. Schools understand that children missing education or those with patterns of absence, can be a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues: neglect, sexual abuse and child and sexual exploitation and therefore will always be robust in our approach towards good attendance.
15. Schools recognise that attendance is never 'solved' and will regularly (at least annually) review processes, procedures and strategies, including the sharing of best practice across our Trust.

The Trust Board

Improving attendance requires constant focus, and effective whole school approaches require regular ongoing support, guidance, and challenge. Therefore, we ensure that our Trust Board, supported by Ethos and Advisory Committees:

- Recognise the importance of school attendance and promote it across the school's ethos and policies.
- Ensure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties.
- Regularly review attendance data, discuss, and challenge trends, and help school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Ensure school staff receive adequate professional development on attendance.

4. Expect and Monitor: Attending School Every Day

Parents/Carers Lateness

1. **Parents/Carers have a legal responsibility to ensure their child regularly attends the academy at which they are registered. Failure to fulfil this duty may result in the Local Authority taking legal action in accordance with s444 Education Act 1996.**
2. Parents/Carers are responsible for ensuring that their child has good attendance and punctuality and, as far as possible is 'ready' for the school day.
3. Parents/Carers are responsible for immediately informing the academy of any absence by phone call, or where possible, in person on the first morning of any absence and thereafter- see First Day reporting and School Annex 1.
4. Parents should not arrange family absences, visits away or holidays in term time.
5. Parents should try to make medical appointments outside of school hours.
6. Parents/Carers can expect the school to keep them fully informed of their child's attendance/punctuality record (parents can at any time access their child's attendance information on the schools MCAS- see Annex 2.
7. Parents/Carers should not take their child on holiday in term time and are to be made aware of the potential consequences of this.
8. If parents have concerns relating to their child's attendance, they should contact in the first instance talk to their child's teacher. If further support is required, see School Annex 1 for individual school information.
9. Parents should work in partnership with the school where their child's attendance falls and attend, when requested, attendance meetings with the school. They should engage in the support offered and understand the potential for Enforcement, if their child's attendance is of significant concern.

Good attendance is essential for pupils, and they are expected to attend school every day. Schools have effective daily procedures and systems to track and follow up any absence and poor punctuality.

These daily procedures are standard across schools (see School Annex 1 for individual timings for each school):

- School gates open and pupils should arrive at school.
- Registers 'open', class teachers monitor which pupils are physically in school on the register.
- School gates close and learning starts at the same time each day.
- Pupils arriving after this will need to enter via the school office and will be marked as 'L' Late.
- Registers 'close' at a set time every day (30 minutes after they open).
- Any pupil arriving after registers close but before the end of the session (morning or afternoon) will be marked as 'U' and will count as an ABSENCE.

Arriving after the register has closed (See School Annex 1 for individual school information), has a negative impact on the welfare of pupils; that of the pupil who is late, as well as their classmates. A pupil is marked as 'L' for late, if they arrive after the school gates have closed and have to enter via the school office. Registers are formally 'open for 30 minutes and any pupils arriving after this time (See Annex 1 for individual school) will be marked as 'U'. The pupil will be marked as physically present on site (for fire purposes etc) and will be welcomed into class, but for your child's attendance data, as per DFE guidance, this will be counted as an unauthorised absence (code U). There may be some rare circumstances where a pupil attends a medical appointment at the very start of the session- see Medical/ dental appointments for information on this coding.

Schools monitor pupils arriving late (both L and U codes) due to the significant impact this can have on a pupil and class. Where these 'U' lates accumulate and is having impact on their learning, the school will send a letter to the parents/carers of the pupil in question to discuss any support needs and ways of accessing support.

There are clear systems and approaches to supporting pupils who have low attendance or punctuality, it is vital that all parents understand the importance of being on time at school.

- **Parents must contact school before the start of the school day, if their child is not going to attend school that day- see section 6.**
- The school admin team monitor who is not physically in school and contact parents of any pupils not in school without explanation.
- The school monitor any pupil who arrives or leaves during the school day e.g. for a dental appointment.
- There is an afternoon registration after lunch which monitors pupils who are physically in school.

Pupils' attendance is monitored by the statutory school registers which are taken electronically at the start of the morning session and the start of the afternoon session, every day. Schools will ensure that daily attendance data is submitted to the Department for Education in line with statutory requirements.

These monitor which pupils are PHYSICALLY in school and code any pupil not in school according to the Statutory codes. The coding of pupil attendance and absence has been significantly updated, see Chapter 7 of the DFE Guidance https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024_.pdf are under the broad headings of:

- Leave of absence (authorised absence such as illness or medical appointment)
- Absent (unauthorised absence such as term time holiday)
- Not a possible attendance.

Training supports school staff with this update, and this is also communicated to parents.

5. Absence (not physically in school) coding

Pupils are expected to attend school every day and this is key for children's education as well as their mental health. All absences must be explained by a parent/carer see section below on First Day Reporting. Registers monitor all pupils who are physically in school and for any who are not, there are **Codes** that all schools must use to categorise the reason. The use of each code is specific, standardised and statutory across ALL schools in England, the full list of codes is outlined in Chapter 8 of the DFE Guidance.

For the purpose of our schools, the main codes likely to be used for pupils who are not physically in school, are set out below. See the DFE guidance for specific terms and use of every code.

Attending a place other than the school

Code B*: Attending any other approved educational activity, arranged by the school and ensured safeguarding checks e.g. (Alternative Provision). Schools must record reasons for this.

Code D**: Dual registered at another school (such as attending another school as part as Offsite Direction), used where pupils are not due to attend, as they are due at the other school.

Code K*: Attending education provision arranged by the local authority (such as in Alternative Provision, or Section 19 Medical Tuition Service). Schools must record reasons for this.

Code V*: Attending an educational visit or trip (arranged by, attended by and safeguarded by school staff, including residential)

*For statistical purposes, the above codes are classified as '**attending an approved educational activity**'.

** *For statistical purposes, the above code is classified as '**not a possible attendance to avoid double counting**'.

Absent - leave of absence.

Code C***: Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance (See detail below on Exceptional Circumstances)

Code C1***: Leave of absence – participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad.

Code C2***: Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a **part-time timetable** (arranged for temporary basis to meet individual needs in line with statutory processes) for exceptional circumstances.

Code E***: Suspended or Permanently excluded (before 'Day 6' provision by the LA has been put in place)

Code M***: Leave of absence for the purpose of attending a medical or dental appointment (See detail below on Medical or Dental Appointment)

Code X*: non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school e.g. transition at the very start of the school year. Nursery and Reception pupils who are due to be attending a session, should be coded as per all other pupils using the wider codes.

***For statistical purposes, the above codes are classified as '**authorised absence**'.

* not included in statistics, as not due to attend.

Absent - other authorised reasons

Code T***: For a 'Mobile' pupil, who has no fixed abode **and** whose parent is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as to require them to travel from place to place.

Code R***: Religious observance (such as the Muslim celebration at Eid), if the religious observance set by a religious body is only for 1 day, then only 1 day can be coded as R.

Code I***: Illness – both physical and mental health related (not medical or dental appointment), (see detail below on Illness).

***For statistical purposes, the above codes are classified as '**authorised absence**'.

Absent- unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause****.

Code Q: Lack of transport which was legally due to be provided by local authority

Code Y1: Unable to attend due to transport failure, provided by the local authority.

Code Y2: Pupils (but not **whole school**) unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel (such as a red weather warning deeming 'risk to life').

Code Y3: Unable to attend to part of the school premises being shut and pupils cannot be accommodated in part that remains open.

Code Y4: Unable to attend due to **whole school** being unexpectedly closed (such as adverse weather)

Code Y5: Unable to attend due police detention.

Code Y6: Unable to attend in accordance with public health law (such as when following guidance or legislation)

Code Y7: Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause (such as an emergency affecting the **pupil**). Schools would need to record reason for this.

****For statistical purposes, the above codes are classified as '**not a possible attendance**'.

Absent- unauthorised absence*****

Code G: Holiday not granted by the school, note that leave of absence cannot be granted retrospectively.

Code N: 'Holding code', reason for absence not known at time of registers being taken (every effort should be made to identify correct code, the correct code should then be entered, within 5 school days. If the reason is not established, Code O should be used.

Code O: Absent in other or unknown circumstances (including where the school is not satisfied that the reason given would be recorded using one classified as authorised)

Code U: Arrived late at school, after register has closed. (See School Annex 1 for specific register opening/ closing time for individual schools.)

*****For statistical purposes, the above codes are classified as '**unauthorised absence**'.

Administrative Codes*****.

Code Z: Prospective pupil not on admission register (to enable schools to set up registers in advance of a pupil starting). It must be noted that the 'Expected First Day of School' (Section 7 of the DFE guidance) protocol is statutory and for the first day that a child is due to attend, the wider register code should be used.

Code #: Planned school closure (such as school holidays)

***** For statistical purposes, the above codes are not collected.

The above codes set out if, in line with the DFE statutory guidance, absence will be authorised or not.

Code M: Medical/Dental appointments.

All routine (non-emergency) appointments should be made, whenever possible, outside of academy hours, as set out by the Royal Collages of GPs. Should a child need to have an appointment during school hours, the pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

Code C: Exceptional Circumstances:

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. **Generally, a need, desire and therefore request for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation, would not constitute an exceptional circumstance, as per DFE statutory guidance.**

Code R: Religious Observance

This code supports pupils who are absent on a day that is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body the parent(s) belong to (not the parents themselves). As a general rule, 'a day exclusively set apart for religious observance' is a day when the pupil's parents would be expected by the religious body to which they belong to stay away from their employment in order to mark the occasion. If their doubt, schools should seek advice from the parent's religious body about whether it has set the day apart for religious observance. If a religious body sets apart a single day for a religious observance and the parent applies for more than one day, the school may only record one day using this code; the rest of the time would need a leave of absence, and this is granted at the school's discretion as set out under Code C.

Code I: Illness

If a pupil is unable to attend due to illness (both physical and mental health related), parents must notify school on the first day the child is unable to attend due to illness. Parents will not be routinely requested to provide medical evidence to support illness absences but may do so in cases where they need clarification to accurately record absence in the attendance register – i.e. making a decision that code I is the absence code that accurately describes the reason the pupil is not in

school for the session in question. In the majority of cases a parent's notification that their child is too ill to attend school will be that evidence and can be accepted without question or concern. Only where the school has genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity of the illness should medical evidence be requested to support the absence. Where medical evidence is deemed necessary, school should not be rigid about the form of evidence requested and should speak to the family about what evidence is available. Schools should be mindful that requesting additional medical evidence unnecessarily places pressure on health professionals, their staff and their appointment system, particularly if the illness is one that does not require treatment by a health professional. Where a parent cannot provide evidence in the form requested but can provide other evidence, schools should take this into account. Where a parent cannot provide any written evidence the school should have a conversation with the parent the pupil, if appropriate, which may in itself serve as the necessary evidence to record the absence.

6. Graduated Response to support good attendance:

The following sets out the response from schools, as a minimum requirement, as per DfE guidance

Schools will always seek to communicate with parents informally through face-to-face discussions, phones calls etc before or alongside any formal communication to ensure partnership working and building a greater understanding of the barriers to attendance.

It is recognised that there is crossover between the stages and schools will need to consider their range of duties in regard to SEND and Safeguarding, in tandem with their Attendance duties when using these stages.

6a Expect and Monitor: 'day to day processes'

- 1) Parents should notify the school of any pupil absences:
 - This should be done **before the start of the school day** (See School Annex 1 for individual contact details).
 - The reason for absence should be given and an indication of the likely period of absence.
- 2) Administration staff keep a log (using the school's Management Information System) of absence calls and reasons received each day.
- 3) Schools will track attendance and follow up any absences anywhere an explanation has not been given by contacting parents on the first day of absences.
- 4) Schools will effectively communicate to class teacher and any other relevant staff (such as SEND/ DSL) where necessary so that they ensure effective safeguarding, as a minimum, this would be recorded on CPOMS.
- 5) Schools will also contact foster carers, social workers, and safeguarding teams where a child and or family, has a Social Worker or is Looked After **
- 6) The school will always seek to have more than one contact detail for each pupil e.g. family members/ parents, work, etc., and will seek to contact these if they are unable to contact the parents. If there is no reply from parents, a message will be sent from the schools Management System – BROMCOM (MCAS)
- 7) If any member of staff is concerned about an absence, they will liaise with the administration staff to clarify any reasons or knowledge for the absence. If still concerned they should relay their concern to the Headteacher, DSL or member of SLT.
- 8) **If there are still concerns re the pupil's absence, a home visit may be conducted that day by school staff and / or the police may be contacted for a welfare check. The school will always be led by its duties to safeguard pupils, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education.**
- 9) If a child remains absent for three days without any notification, a member of staff will seek to visit, the home address or sooner, if necessary, as well as continuing to make daily contact. Again, the school will continue to have due regards for its safeguarding duties in tandem with this, which may include contacting the Police to request a welfare check.
- 10) Where absence is recorded as unexplained, the correct code should be input as soon as the reason established and no more than 5 school days after the session.
**** If the child has a Social Worker or if the academy has particular safeguarding concerns and feels the child is at risk of immediate harm, the academy will immediately notify social worker or the Local Authority Safeguarding Hub, without delay.**

DfE's guidance on [Children Missing Education](#) sets out the expectations for schools and local authorities in respect of making reasonable efforts to find out a pupil's location and circumstances.

6b. Listen and Understand: supporting good attendance

Supporting pupils to attend school well is fundamental to pupil's wellbeing and is central to the school's vision and culture. Leaders work to ensure that, underpinned by the Trust vision of 'Flourishing Futures' all pupils and their families feel that they belong, within the school community, as set out in the Protect phase of the Positive Behaviour Policy. In addition to this, school staff have training and support to families to feel safe, valued and that they belong. This includes specific training on attendance so that staff understand the factors involved in attendance and have clarity on how they can, in their role, play a part in supporting good attendance at school.

As part of our duty set out in Section 3: rights, roles and responsibility, our processes include (but are not limited to):

- Expect good attendance and regularly informing parents about their child attendance in ways which support parents understanding e.g. number of lessons missed or impact on pupils, not just percentages and data.
- Listen and understand barriers by talking with pupils and parents.
- Facilitate support at an early stage.
- Formalise support including making referrals and working with other agencies in timely ways.
- Support pupils back from lengthy or unavoidable absence and provide support to build confidence.
- Make the necessary statutory returns to the local authority and Secretary of State

Our Trust good practice, to support all pupils, to attend well.

This comes from National, regional and local research. *This includes but is not limited to learning from: Impact Ed, 'Listening to and learning from parents, after a crisis, The Good childhood Report, learning from the Southwest Attendance Network, Peer enquiry (across 3 Trusts), Pupil conferencing, Headteacher and staff feedback.*

- Culture, led by leaders, where all families are welcomed and supported to feel that they belong.
- Sense of belonging through Trauma Informed approach of Protect, Relate, Regulate and Repair (see Positive Behaviour Policy.)
- Highest aspirations for all pupils.
- Curriculum in their widest sense to support, engage and inspire all pupils.
- Honest, authentic and compassionate supportive partnership working with pupils and their families.
- Professional development and ongoing support for all staff to understand and play their role in attendance.
- Robust and accurate monitoring and analysis of pupil attendance.
- Approaches which are family centred and bespoke but strategically planned and well communicated so that there is a joined-up approach in schools.
- Led by leaders, regular evaluation of approaches and quality assurance of provision to support attendance.
- Timely and robust working with the Local Authority and other agencies.
- Clear end of term and start of term strategies which support pupils across such transition points.
- Approaches, set by leaders, to supporting pupils return after an absence, centred on respect and compassion.

Schools may have both intrinsic and extrinsic ways to incentive and reward good and/ or improving attendance.

These will also be underpinned by the school's vision and that of listening, compassion and understanding.

These **may** include:

- Classes with the highest attendance each week, may be shared with all staff and celebrated throughout the academy, including in whole academy Worship. These will also be shared with parents via social media.
- Parents may have their child's class attendance shared on a weekly basis, via Class Newsletters and / or access their child's individual attendance via the schools Management information system (see Annex 2).
- Pupils in the class with the highest attendance after each Half Term invited to a Celebration Breakfast on the final day of each half term. This is free and supported with both hot and cold options, facilitated by our catering team and Family Support.
- Children who have struggled with attendance will have their own sticker charts and certificates awarded by the Family Support or Admin Team when their attendance improves.
- Certificates are awarded on a termly basis for those with high levels of attendance.
- Pupils with 100% attendance at the end of each term and year are celebrated with specific rewards.
- Specific and tailored support will be put in place for pupils with barriers to attendance, such as a daily/ regular check in with attachment adult in the academy, daily call to family home to support with morning routine, home visit, breakfast support, an extra transition supportive approach to the start of day, such as starting in The Nurture Room, entering via a different gate/entrance.
- In addition to the above parents can access their child's attendance using MCAS

See Annex 1 for individual School Attendance Information

6b Specific actions at the Listen and Understand stage

Listen and Understand to provide Early Intervention	
Identification	Pupil's attendance slips below 96%
Impact on pupil	Risk of both underachievement academically and missed opportunities for personal and social development
School response	Letter 1 sent, sharing information and expectations. Teacher, (within a week of letter 1 being sent), reach out to: • Identifying any patterns re absences and impact on educational e.g. every Monday, later after register missing phonics etc • Build relationship with the pupil to listen and understand any barriers. • Approach parents to listen and understand any barriers. • Offer advice/ strategies e.g. bedtime, routines etc. • Agree targeted support /reward e.g. change of seating, job first thing, buddy up, greater adaptations in class, sticker chart. • Offer of wider in school Early Help e.g. clubs, uniform, parenting support. • Offer of further facilitated support e.g. other agency referrals and signpost to those in school who lead on this.
Communication/ recording	• Agreed 'in school' actions to be shared with others regularly working with the pupil to ensure consistency of response. • Recorded on fortnightly attendance monitoring as '<u>Teacher led response</u>' • Teacher record details on Cpoms under '<u>Teacher Led attendance Early Intervention</u>'.
Monitored	• Impact of actions evaluated at next fortnightly Attendance meeting. • Continue to monitor fortnightly until attendance is rising towards above 96% • Monitor with parents on a half termly basis
Next steps	Progress to 'Facilitate and Formalize Targeted Support', if no improvement within agreed timeframe (likely to be no longer than half a term). Where engagement in support is proving challenging, schools should hold more formal conversations with parents (and the pupil where appropriate).

6c Specific actions at the Facilitate and Formalise Stage

Facilitate and Formalize Targeted Support	
Identification	Pupil's attendance slips below 90%: Persistently Absent
Impact on pupil	If continued, missing 10% or more of their education. High risk of both underachievement academically and missed opportunities for personal and social development
School response	Letter 2 sent Member of Attendance Team (within a week of letter 1 being sent), to be identified as Lead Professional for pupil. - Letter 2 requests parents attend an 'Attendance Support Meeting'. - Within this meeting, school, parent (and pupil where, deemed appropriate) agree an Attendance Targeted Support Plan (ATSP) - Teacher join Attendance Support Meeting, wherever possible. - This meeting should clearly explain the consequences of PA and SPA and potential need for 'Enforcement' (legal intervention) in the future. - This meeting sets out the help that is available to avoid those potential consequences. - Offer of wider in school Early Help e.g. clubs, uniform, parenting support should be made and decision making captured on ATSP. - Offer of referrals to other agencies MUST be considered and decision making captured on ATSP. - Formal Early Help referrals MUST be considered to bring together other agencies- decision making captured on ATSP. - Where a parent has not been part of the Attendance Support Meeting, a further request to be part of this, in person or on the phone online, should be made. - If the parent is still not part of this, the school should draft an Attendance Targeted Support Plan with the offer of In School Early Help, referrals to other agencies/ or Early Help referral, and share this with parents.
Communication/ recording	- Recorded on fortnightly attendance monitoring as 'Attendance Support Meeting'. - Attendance Targeted Support Plan MUST be shared with teacher and should be shared with those working regular with the pupil. - The Attendance Targeted Support Plan must be captured on Cpoms under 'Attendance Support Meeting'. - Chronology of support offered should be captured on 'Chronology of Support Offered'
Monitored	- Impact of actions evaluated at fortnightly Attendance meeting and on Termly Annex 4. - School to monitor outcomes of referrals to outside agencies and update on the ATSP. - School Lead Professional to monitor with parents on a half termly basis.
Next steps	Progress to ' Formal Support and Enforce ' if no improvement within 2-4 weeks and / or lack of engagement.

6d Specific actions at the Formalise and Enforce Stage

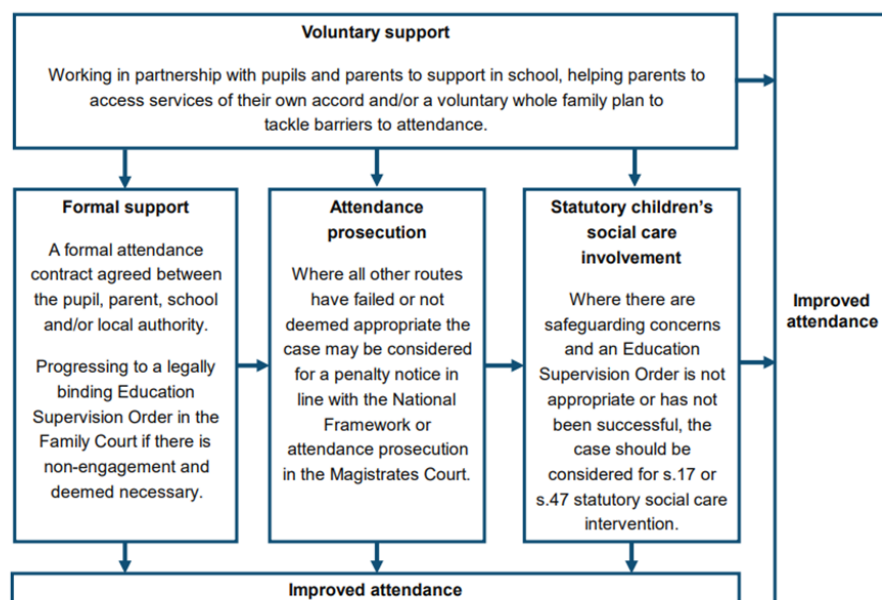
Formalize and Enforce Targeted Support	
DfE: "There is no obligation for schools to offer an Attendance Contract and it may not be appropriate in every instance but always be explored before moving to an Education Supervision Order or Prosecution (except in	

the cases of unauthorized term time holidays, where such plans are not needed before prosecution if the threshold has been met)."	
Identification	Pupil's attendance slips below 50%: Severely Persistently Absent or is below 90% and is declining.
Impact on pupil	If continued, missing significant amounts education. Severely high risk of both underachievement academically and missed opportunities for personal and social development . Risk of social isolation and significant learning gaps potentially impacting mental health.
School response	Letter 3 sent Member of Attendance Team (within a week of letter 1 being sent), to be identified as Lead Professional for pupil. • Letter 3 requests parents attend an '<u>Attendance Contract Meeting</u>'. • Where voluntary support at the previous stages has not been effective or engaged with, schools should request the Local Authority work in partnership. • Local Authority Attendance Teams should be requested to attend the Attendance Contract meeting. • Within this meeting, school, parent (and pupil where, deemed appropriate) agree an <u>Attendance Contract</u>- as per DFE guidance paragraphs 140 -152 • Pupil's teacher should join Attendance Contract Meeting, where possible. • This meeting should clearly explain the consequences of PA and SPA and potential need for 'Enforcement' (legal intervention) in the future should formal support not be effective. • Offer of wider in school Early Help e.g. clubs, uniform, parenting support should be made. • Offer of referrals to other agencies MUST be considered. • Formal Early Help referrals MUST be considered to bring together other agencies • Decision making and rationale for the above referrals, MUST be captured on the Attendance Contract. • Schools must take care to ensure that any provision offered can be reasonably enacted by the school. • The Attendance Contract must set out agreed regular communication with the parents and set clear formal review points (atleast 4-6 weekly). • Parents cannot be compelled to enter an Attendance Contract and this cannot be agreed in the parent's absence but the school should communicate it concerns to the parent and continue to request permission for an Ealy Help referrals. • Schools should consider a referral to Children's Services under Educational Neglect and document their decision making with regards to this.
Communication/ recording	• Recorded on fortnightly attendance monitoring as '<u>Attendance Contract Meeting</u>'. • Attendance Contract MUST be shared with teacher and should be shared with those working regular with the pupil. • The <u>Attendance Contract</u> must be captured on Cpoms under '<u>Attendance Contract Meeting</u>'. • Chronology of support offered should be captured on '<u>Chronology of Support Offered</u>'
Monitored	• Impact of actions evaluated at fortnightly Attendance meeting and on Termly Annex 4. • School to monitor outcomes of referrals to outside agencies and capture on Attendance Contract • Identified school Lead Professional must oversee the enactment of the Attendance Contract and review with the parents/ pupil atleast 4-6 weekly.

	• Headteachers MUST ensure they are proactive in their leadership oversight of pupils who are PA or SPA. • Headteachers will have termly meetings with Director for Vulnerable Pupils and Inclusion to discuss provision, impact and next steps for pupils at this stage.
Next steps	Schools must work with Local Authorities in the next steps should there not be impact at the Formal Stage, this is likely to result in working towards <u>Enforcement</u> , as set out in the DFE guidance

This model sets the DFE expectations of supporting attendance:

Providing support first before attendance legal intervention



Particular focus should be given by all parties to pupils who are absent from the academy more than they are present (those missing 50% or more of school). These severely absent SPA pupils may find it more difficult to be in the school or face bigger barriers to their regular attendance and as such are likely to need more intensive support across a range of partners. Both persistent and severe absence should also be central to the school, Trust, and local authority level strategies for improving attendance.

Headteachers MUST ensure they are proactive in their leadership oversight of pupils who are PA or SPA.

If all avenues of support have been facilitated by schools, local authorities, and other partners, and the appropriate educational support or placements (e.g. an education, health and care plan) have been provided but severe absence for unauthorised reasons continues, it is likely to constitute Education Neglect, at least.

Schools and local authorities should be especially conscious of any potential safeguarding issues in these cases and where these remain, a referral to children's services SHOULD be considered and decision making documented.

See section 6 of DfE Guidance for more detail including Attendance Contracts, Education Supervision Orders, Attendance Prosecution and other legal interventions.

6e. When Legal Intervention Will Be Considered

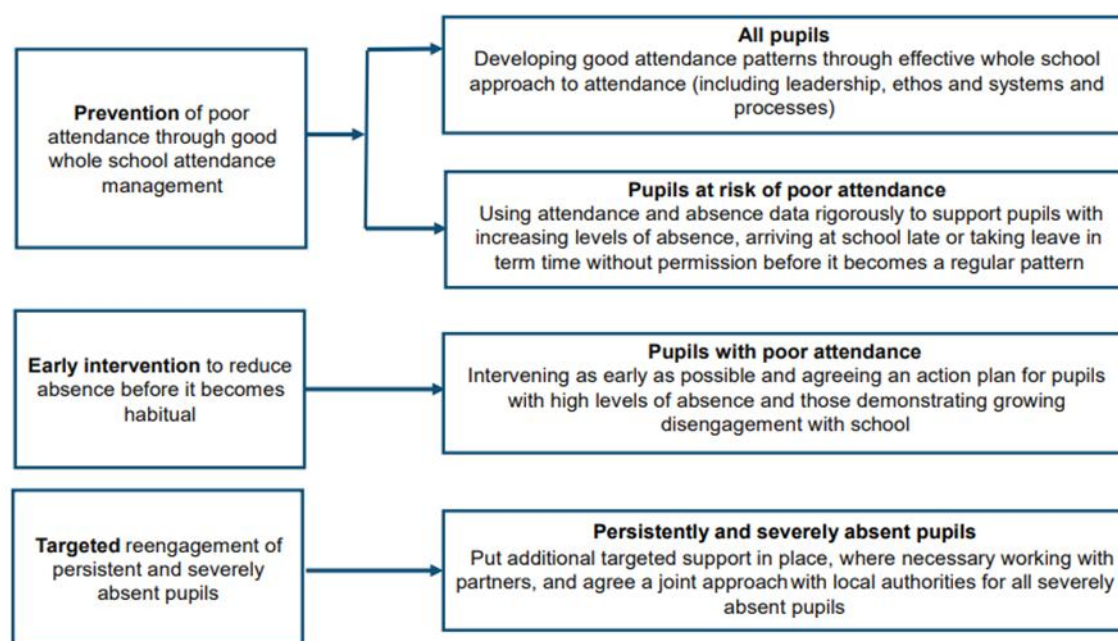
In line with statutory guidance, legal intervention may be considered where:

- a pupil has accrued **10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence** within a rolling period;
- there are **repeated patterns of unauthorised absence** following earlier intervention; and/or
- parents or carers **fail to engage** with attendance support offered by the school and/or local authority.

Legal intervention will always be considered as part of a wider support-first approach and only where it is proportionate and appropriate.

7. Monitoring Attendance

This diagram outlines the levels of support for effective improvement and management of attendance.



Good Attendance is habitual and so fundamental to supporting pupil's wellbeing as well as their education, therefore early identification of pupils needing support is essential. Regular data analysis supports identifying such pupils and/ or cohorts as well as looking at historic and emerging patterns across the school.

Schools will carry out the following monitoring, analysis and action:

- 1) Weekly monitor and analyse attendance patterns and trends, including individuals, classes, Year Groups, all boys, girls, PP EAL, SEND and EHCP. This is via BROMCOM analysis. This includes data on pupils who are or were previously Persistent or Severely Persistently Absent. These are Attendance Monitoring Analysis on BROMCOM
- 2) Use this analysis (at least fortnightly) to inform the formal Attendance Team Meetings and summary of agreed actions MUST be saved on the Attendance Monitoring Reports. The 'calendar of actions' and roles regarding attendance will be set out in a flow chart- see Annex 3
- 3) Annex 4 Attendance Evaluation will be completed annually by all schools. For schools where attendance for ALL pupils is below the National Average, or where the school's Persistent Absentee rate for ALL pupils is above the National Average, this will be completed Half Termly.
- 4) Led by the Attendance Champions and attended by other key members of the attendance team, at least the Headteacher and the Administrator, these meetings will enable individual level analysis to identify the pupils either with poor attendance or at risk of having poor attendance. This will enable preventative support and early intervention support as well as targeted support: as set out in the **Graduated Response Stages in Section 6**. This should not just focus on persistent and severe absence but look at all severities of absence to identify pupils who can be supported earlier before patterns become entrenched. The school always takes into account the individual needs of families and seeks to always work in partnership with parents, whilst ensuring pupils have good attendance. Any meetings should be set up as soon as is possible with parents to minimise any delay.

The Director for Inclusion will carry out the following wider monitoring, analysis and action:

- Half termly, termly and annual attendance analysis of all pupils, year groups and pupil groups (as above) will form Trust Vulnerable Pupil Dashboard to identify patterns and trends.
- This data will be benchmarked against Local Authority data and National data and identify areas of improvement and shared with Trustees through Education Inclusion Committee. Schools are offered both support and challenge to ensure pupils have the highest levels of attendance.
- This evaluation is part of the School Health Checks where School level analysis should include analysis of pupils and cohorts and identifying patterns in uses of certain codes, days of poor attendance and where

appropriate, subjects which have low lesson attendance. In this monitoring of the data, leaders will evaluate the impact of school wide attendance efforts, including any specific strategies implemented. The findings should then be used to evaluate the school approaches as well as inform future strategies.

- Schools are supported by the Trust to devise specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data. This may, for example, include pupils in a year group with higher-than-average absence or for pupils eligible for free school meals if their attendance falls behind that of their more advantaged peers.
- Schools are supported through half termly Trust Attendance Forums as well as shared Trust Attendance Resources.
- Headteachers may meet at least termly with the Director for Inclusion to discuss the Graduated Response for those pupils who are PA or SPA, as well as the attendance of pupils with an EHCP.

8. Working in Partnership with others when absence is becoming persistent or severe.

We understand the value in collaborating with others locally and seek to work in a proactive way with other local schools, secondaries and agencies to ensure the very best for all pupils in our locality. In doing so, we meet the expectations of the DFE as set out below:

Schools of all types, local authorities and other local partners are expected to work collaboratively and share information where this is in the best interests of the pupil, including on individual cases (for example with health services where medical conditions are present, or with the police where there are concerns relating to extra-familial harm).

Local authorities and schools are expected to hold regular **Targeting Support Meetings** to identify pupils at risk of persistent or severe absence and agree appropriate support. To facilitate timely and effective partnership working, all schools are legally required to share information from their admission and attendance registers with the local authority.

The Trust will work collaboratively with other schools, academy trusts and local partners to share information, identify emerging attendance patterns and support pupils at risk of persistent or severe absence

As a minimum this includes:

- New Pupil and Deletion returns notifying the local authority when a pupil's name is added to or deleted from the school admission register outside of standard transition times. For full details see paragraphs 199 and 205 of DFE Guidance.
- Attendance returns providing the local authority with the names and addresses of all pupils of compulsory school age who fail to attend school regularly or have been absent for a continuous period of ten school days where their absence has been recorded with one or more of the codes statistically classified as unauthorised (G, N, O, and/or U). Local authorities must agree the frequency that attendance returns are to be provided with all schools in their area. This should be no less frequently than once per calendar month.
- Sickness returns: providing the local authority with the full name and address of all pupils of compulsory school age who have been recorded with code I (illness) and who the school has reasonable grounds to believe will miss 15 days consecutively or cumulatively because of sickness. Only one sickness return is required for a continuous period of sickness in a school year. This is to help the school and local authority to agree any provision needed to ensure continuity of education for pupils who cannot attend because of health needs, in line with the statutory guidance on education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

In our schools, we will work to support this data gathering and evaluation by the Local Authorities. We will also regularly engage with any further training or guidance provided by Local Authority attendance teams and the Director for Inclusion through the Trust Attendance Forum.

9. Supporting pupils who may be absent due to mental or physical ill health or their SEND needs.

Our attendance work is underpinned by our Trust Vision of Flourishing Futures for **all** pupils. We recognise the DFE guidance on supporting **all** pupils as set out below:

Many children will experience normal but difficult emotions that make them nervous about attending school, such as worries about friendships, schoolwork, examinations or variable moods. It is important to note that these pupils are still expected to attend school regularly - in many instances, attendance at school may serve to help with the underlying issue as being away from school might exacerbate it, and a prolonged period of absence may heighten anxious feelings about attending in future.

School staff play a critical role in communicating this expectation to parents. They should also work alongside families to ensure that such circumstances do not act as a barrier to regular attendance by mitigating anxious feelings in school as much as possible. Our schools seek to provide all pupils with a safe, nurturing and caring environment where pupils feel heard and valued. Our Positive Behaviour Policy sets out the ways in which schools create this through our Trauma Informed approach: the 'Protect, Relate, Regulate and Repair'.

We recognise that some pupils face more complex barriers to attendance. This can include pupils who have long term physical or mental health conditions or who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Their right to an education is the same as any other pupil and therefore the attendance ambition for these pupils should be the same as it is for any other pupil, but additional support may need to be provided.

In developing this support, the usual processes relevant to any attendance case apply:

- Understanding the individual needs of the pupil and family
- Working in partnership with the pupil and family to put in-school support in place and working with other the local authority and other agencies where external support is needed (and available)
- Regularly reviewing and updating the support approach to make sure it continues to meet individual needs.
- In cases of both long term physical or mental ill health, school staff are not expected to diagnose or treat physical or mental health conditions, but they are expected to work together with families and other agencies with the aim of ensuring regular attendance for every pupil. They should:
 - Facilitate any relevant pastoral support with the clear aim of improving attendance as much as possible whilst supporting the underlying health issue.
 - Consider adjustments to practice and policies to help meet the needs of pupils who are struggling to attend school, as well as making formal reasonable adjustments under section 20 of the Equality Act 2010 where a pupil has a disability. Any adjustments should be agreed by, and regularly reviewed with the pupil and their parents.
 - Ensure joined up pastoral support is in place where needed and consider whether a time-limited phased return to school would be appropriate, for example for those affected by anxious feelings about school attendance.
 - Make a sickness return to the local authority if a pupil is recorded in the attendance register as absent using code I (unable to attend because of sickness) and there are reasonable grounds to believe the pupil will have to miss 15 consecutive school days or more for illness or the pupil's total number of school days missed during the current school year because of illness (whether consecutive or cumulative) will reach or exceed 15 school days. (See paragraph 52)

For pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, schools are expected to:

- Work in partnership parents to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, including, where applicable, ensuring the provision outlined in the pupil's education, health and care plan is accessed.
- Work in partnership families to help support routines where school transport is regularly being missed and work with other partners to encourage the scheduling of additional support interventions or medical appointments outside of the main school day.
- Establish strategies for removing the in-school barriers these pupils face, including considering support or reasonable adjustments for uniform, transport, routines, access to support in school and lunchtime arrangements.
- Consider adjustments to practice and policies to help meet the needs of pupils who are struggling to attend school, as well as making formal reasonable adjustments under section 20 of the Equality Act 2010 where a pupil has a disability. Any adjustments should be agreed by, and regularly reviewed with the pupil and their parents.
- Ensure joined up pastoral care is in place where needed and consider whether a time-limited phased return to school would be appropriate.
- The Graduated Response stages should be used for all pupils and there will need to be a detailed understanding of the root causes and clear ways to support documented on these. There may be a need to have some flexibility in applying the Graduated Response and schools will need to their best endeavours to ensure their SEND provision is impactful.

Attendance is everyone's business so in many of these cases school will not be able to fully support a pupil without the assistance of a range of other agencies, as set out in the Graduated Response stages.

If the child has an education health and care plan, school staff should:

- Communicate with the local authority where a pupil's attendance falls, or they become aware of barriers to attendance that relate to the pupil's needs.
- Where possible agree adjustments to its policies and practices that are consistent with the special educational provision set out in the education health and care plan in collaboration with parents.
- Where needed work with the local authority to review and amend the education health and care plan to incorporate the additional or different attendance support identified.

Medical evidence for recording absences should only be needed in a minority of cases (see code I). Where a pupil's health need means they need reasonable adjustments support because it is complex or long term, schools can seek medical evidence to better understand the needs of the pupil and identify the most suitable provision in line with the statutory guidance in supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.

As a Trust, we will ensure data is regularly monitored for pupils with long term illnesses and or special educational needs or disabilities at Hub Ethos and Advisory Committees, Education Inclusion Standards Committee and a Trust Board meeting. Schools will ensure this data is monitored in Targeting Support Meetings with the local authority so that additional support from other partners is accessed where necessary.

Part-time timetables

All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. In some circumstances their education may be provided partially at school and partially at another educational setting or through education otherwise than at a school in line with section 19 of the Education Act 1996 or section 42 or 61 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Time away from school to receive education in other ways must be recorded in the attendance register using the appropriate codes (see chapter 8).

In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a school to provide a pupil of compulsory school age with less than full-time education through a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs. For example, where a medical condition prevents a pupil from attending school or another setting full-time, and a part-time timetable is used to help the pupil access as much education as possible. A part-time timetable should not be used to manage a pupil's behaviour.

A part-time timetable should:

- Have the agreement of both the school and the parent the pupil normally lives with.
- Have a clear ambition and be part of the pupil's wider support, health care or reintegration plan.
- Have regular review dates which include the pupil and their parents to ensure it is only in place for the shortest time necessary.
- Have a proposed end date that takes into account the circumstances of the pupil, after which the pupil is expected to attend full-time, either at school or alternative provision. It can, however, be extended as part of the regular review process. In some limited cases, a pupil with a long-term health condition may require a part-time timetable for a prolonged period.

The school will notify the Local Authority at the start and end of any Part Time Timetable.

Where the pupil has a social worker, the school is expected to keep them informed and involved in the process.

If the pupil has an education health and care plan, the school should discuss the part-time timetable with the local authority so that any support package that is in place can be reviewed as swiftly as possible.

In agreeing to a part-time timetable, a school has agreed to a pupil being absent from school for part of the week or day and therefore must record the absence accordingly (normally using code C2).

10. Conclusion

It is the policy of the academy to celebrate achievement. Attendance is a critical factor a pupil's wellbeing as well as wider development; it is also vital in safeguarding pupils. Our Trust will actively promote and encourage string attendance for all our pupils.

Across our Trust, partnership will give a high priority to conveying to parents and pupils the importance of regular and punctual attendance. We recognise that parents have a vital role to play and that there is a need to establish strong home academy links and communication systems that can be utilised whenever there is concern about attendance.

Annex 1: School Attendance Information- see your child's School Website.

[Attendance - All Saints Marsh C of E Academy \(allsaintsmarsh-lap.co.uk\)](http://allsaintsmarsh-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance – Bovey Tracey \(boveytracey-lap.co.uk\)](http://boveytracey-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - Charleton C of E Academy \(charleton-lap.co.uk\)](http://charleton-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance – Dartington Church of England Academy \(dartington-lap.co.uk\)](http://dartington-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - Dunsford Community Academy \(dunsford-lap.co.uk\)](http://dunsford-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - Ellacombe C of E Academy \(ellacombe-lap.co.uk\)](http://ellacombe-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - Gulworthy Academy \(gulworthy-lap.co.uk\)](http://gulworthy-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - Ilsham C of E Academy \(ilsham-lap.co.uk\)](http://ilsham-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - Jacobstow Community Academy \(jacobstow-lap.co.uk\)](http://jacobstow-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - Lamerton C of E Academy \(lamerton-lap.co.uk\)](http://lamerton-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - Lifton Community Academy \(lifton-lap.co.uk\)](http://lifton-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - Marhamchurch C of E Academy \(marhamchurch-lap.co.uk\)](http://marhamchurch-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance – St Andrew's C of E Academy \(standrews-lap.co.uk\)](http://standrews-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - St Mark's C of E Academy \(stmarks-lap.co.uk\)](http://stmarks-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - St Michael's C of E Academy \(stmichaels-lap.co.uk\)](http://stmichaels-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - All Saints Thurlestone C of E Academy \(thurlestone-lap.co.uk\)](http://thurlestone-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - Warberry C of E Academy \(warberry-lap.co.uk\)](http://warberry-lap.co.uk)

[Attendance - West Alvington C of E Academy \(westalvington-lap.co.uk\)](http://westalvington-lap.co.uk)

Annex 2: Accessing your child's attendance information using MyChildAtSchool

How to view Attendance in MCAS

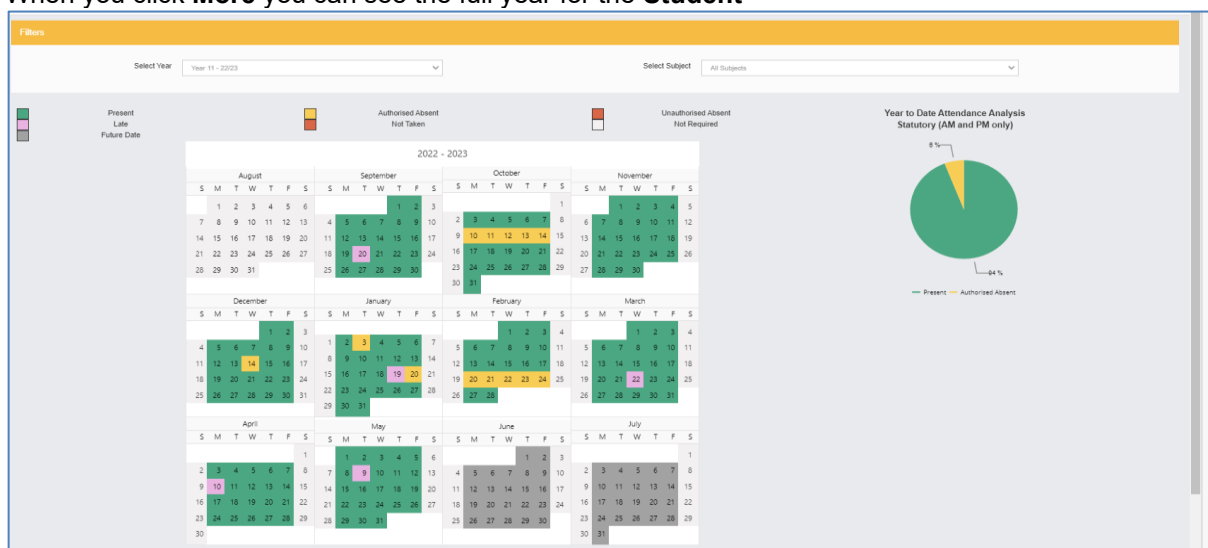
From the **Dashboard** either click on **Attendance** in the left-hand menu or click **More** on the **Attendance Widget**. In this example the **Attendance Widget** has been named **Attendance in School**

The screenshot shows the MyChildAtSchool dashboard for a user named Elizabeth. The left-hand menu has 'Attendance in School' highlighted. The main dashboard area contains several widgets: 'On Report', 'Student Reports', 'Timetable', and 'Attendance in School'. The 'Attendance in School' widget is highlighted with a red box and contains a table of attendance data for the student Eleanor.

Period	Subject	Class	Teacher	Time
AM	Tutor Group	11B	Mrs J Bishop	08:44
1	Mathematics	MA11/A1	Mr R Lewis	09:04
2	Geography	GE11/O3	Dr W Harris	10:20
3	Geography	GE11/O3	Dr W Harris	11:20
PM	Tutor Group	11B	Mrs J Bishop	12:59
4	English	EN11/A1	Ms M Aylward	13:11
5	Science	Sc11/A1	Dr W Harris	14:11

Menu Bar and Widget

When you click **More** you can see the full year for the **Student**

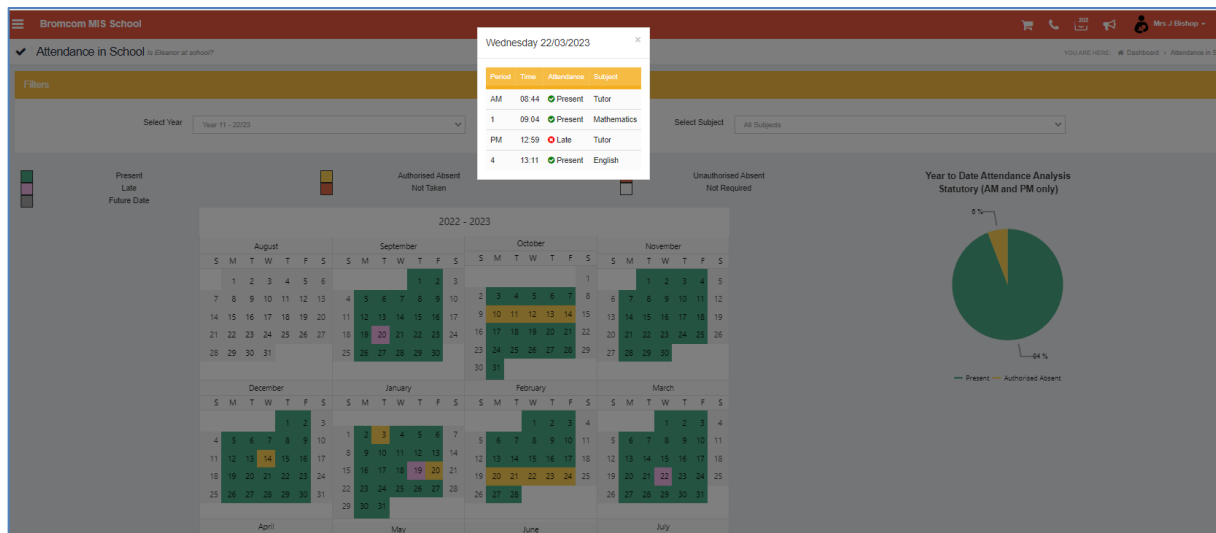


Attendance full view

Use the **Select Year** and **Select Subject** dropdowns to further filter the view.

Hover on the **pie chart** to see **Attendance Percentages**

Click on a **specific date** to see more detail.



Annex 3: Calendar of Actions and Roles regarding Attendance

Roles

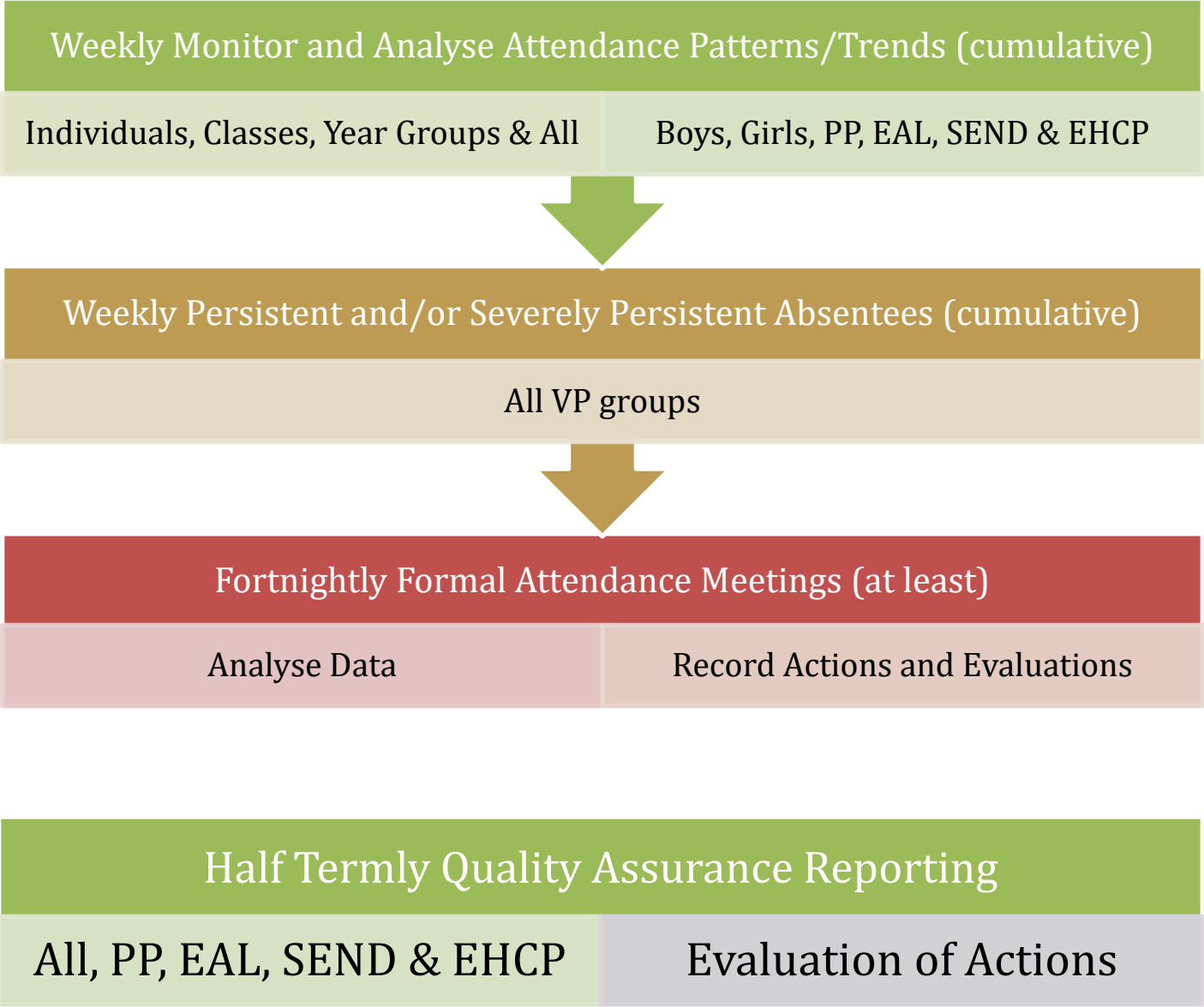
Head Teacher

Senior Attendance Champion

Supported by

Not limited to: Administrators/SENDCos/DSL/Family Support

Monitoring Attendance



Annex 4a: Quality Assurance for Senior Attendance Champion

Annex 4 Attendance Evaluation will be completed annually by all schools. For schools where attendance for ALL pupils is below the National Average, or where the school's Persistent Absentee rate for ALL pupils is above the National Average, this will be completed Half Termly.

LAP QUALITY ASSURANCE REPORTING

Date:	End of XXX Term Year	Academy	
Purpose	Attendance QA		
QA Focus	Overall Effectiveness		Leadership and Management
	TLA		Personal Dev, Behaviour and Welfare
Description of Activity	Half Termly Analysis of Attendance actions, including an update on 'at risk PA' and whole school actions		
Summary of Findings	Last year overall attendance= % PP attendance = % SEND attendance = % EHCP attendance = % EAL attendance = % Last year's PA = % PP PA = % SEND PA = % EHCP PA = % EAL PA = % <u>In year attendance comparison to previous year (end of last whole term to last year).</u> Autumn Term overall = % PP attendance % SEND attendance = % EHCP attendance= % EAL attendance = % DFE dashboard shows primary attendance was % across autumn term. Evaluation shows overall attendance increased / decreased (End Autumn compared to last academic year) by % for all . Decreased by % for PP Decreased % for SEND Decreased % for EHCP Decreased % for EAL <u>In year attendance analysis</u> <u>Term</u>		

	Overview evaluation of Attendance during (insert table) Week by Week evaluation of Attendance duringTerm (insert table) <u>Optional updated attendance within the Half Term, to compare to Half Term Point.</u> Current Cumulative Attendance (as of) then All % (down % on autumn term) % PP % (down % on autumn term) % SEND % (down % on autumn term) % EHCP % (up % from autumn term) % EAL % (down % from autumn term) % <u>Evaluation of children with attendance concerns (and letters sent)</u> pupils had attendance letters sent (to) IMPACT % improved attendance. ... teacher meetings ... formal meetings with Senior Attendance Champion & DSL Local Authority Attendance Officer Meeting <u>Evaluation of the context of PA pupils 23/24</u> pupils = % PP = Context of any pupils absence through: Holidays Part time timetables Suspensions etc
Planned Follow Up: actions, date and who	• • •
Staff involved in the QA	Headteacher/ Senior Attendance Champion/ DSL/SEND Lead (1 person) Admin/ DDSL

Annex 5: Graduated Response Letter 1

<<Contact flagged for correspondence>>
<<Label format address for those flagged for correspondence>>



May 16, 2025

Dear <<Salutation of those flagged for correspondence>>,

Re: Low Attendance Letter 1

<<Legal Full Name>>, <<Tutor Group>>

We hope you are well. We understand the importance of working together to support attendance in school. The first stage of our approach to attendance is helping you to understand your own child's missed sessions. Therefore, would like to kindly bring to your attention that, according to our records, <<Preferred First Name>>'s attendance for this academic year currently stands at <<Present%>>%. This reflects a total of <<Absence Count>> missed sessions since the start of the Academic Year.

All attendance, whatever the reason, is coded. We understand that these absences may be due to illness, lates or other authorised reasons, and every family will be different. Every moment in school counts and days missed add up quickly. As families, you want the very best opportunities for your child and so do we. Being in school daily is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and social development. Every session makes a difference and we want to help you to make every session count for your child so they can flourish in all that they do and realise their potential. For your reference, we've included a table below that highlights the learning hours that can be missed when children are absent from school.

To help us to correctly identify absences, please notify the school each day that <<Preferred First Name>> is unable to attend. Where children are unwell, we advise parents to follow the advice provided by the NHS, available here [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#).

We are here to listen and understand your family context. If there is anything that we can do to support you in this, your child's class teacher would be happy to meet with you to discuss it further. Also, our Family Support Worker, XXX, is available on the gate every morning for an informal chat, or you can book an appointment with her through the school office, if you think this would be useful.

You can view the full details of <<Preferred First Name>>'s attendance via the MCAS app. If you feel there may be any discrepancies in this record, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Pugh, and we'll be happy to discuss this with you.

Working together, we can support <<Preferred First Name>> to feel happy attending school daily and seek support where necessary to overcome any barriers to attendance.

Please feel free to reach out if there's any support we can offer. We are always here to help.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher signature and name

Percentage	Days in School	Days off School	Weeks off School	Learning Hours Lost
100	190	0	0	0
96%	182	8	1.5	40
95%	180	10	2	50
90%	170	20	4	100
85%	160	30	6	150
80%	150	40	8	200

Annex 6a: Graduated Response Letter 2

<<Contact Flagged for Correspondence>>

<<Label format address for contact flagged for correspondence>>

16 May 2025



Dear <<Salutation of those flagged for correspondence>>

<<Legal Full Name>>, <<Tutor Group>>

Re: Low Attendance Letter 2

We understand the importance of working together to support <<preferred first name>>'s attendance. Following our last communication, we have noticed that <<preferred first name>>'s attendance continues to be low. The current attendance has dropped to <<present attendance>>%. This means that they have now missed a total of <<absence count>> sessions this academic year.

Whilst we understand that some absences may be due to illness or other authorised circumstances, we wanted to highlight to you the growing number of sessions missed so far this academic year which can impact on the progress, attainment and social wellbeing of children.

For full details of <<preferred first name>>'s recorded attendance codes, please see your MCAS app; should you not agree with this record of <<preferred first name>>'s attendance, please contact the Mrs XXX in the office to discuss this further.

We would like to offer some time meet with you as a family and listen to understand any barriers that may be in place for your child attending school. From this we will work together on an Attendance Targeted Support Plan.

For your ease, we have made an appointment for << meeting date>> at << Meeting Time>>. However, we are happy to facilitate an online call if this is easier for you. Please telephone the school office to let us know if you can attend or to arrange a different, mutually agreeable time.

Please also be advised that we will be unable to authorise any further absence due to illness unless you can provide evidence of contact with a medical professional, this can be an appointment card, text or email, a prescription or sight of the medication prescribed.

Below, you will find the statutory information following the new National framework. This is included to support families to understand next steps that may be taken in the future when attendance is avoidable or is not improving. Please be assured that there is no further action at this time.

For your information, under the new National framework, all schools are required to consider a Penalty Notice when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.

From August 2024, if a Penalty Notice is issued, it carries a penalty of £80 if paid in full within 21 days, or £160 if paid in full after this time but within 28 days. They will be issued for each parent/carer for each child where a child accumulates 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absences (one school day is made up of two sessions) within a rolling 10 school week period.

If the same child accumulates another 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absences within a subsequent rolling 10 school week period and also within a rolling 3-year period of the first penalty notice, it will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower rate of £80. It must be paid within 28 days. Only two Penalty Notices will be issued in a rolling three-year period. This means that if the two Penalty Notices are paid, and the child has a further period of 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within the three years following the date of the first penalty notice, this will result in the parent/carer receiving a summons or Single Justice Procedure Notice for Court for an offence contrary to s444 Education Act.

There is no legal right to appeal the Penalty Notice once it has been issued. If a Penalty Notice goes unpaid, this is likely to result in Court proceedings being instigated for an offence of failing to ensure regular school attendance contrary to section 444 Education Act 1996. Upon conviction of such an offence the maximum fine of £2500, or a maximum 3 months imprisonment, can be imposed.

If you have any questions, please contact us through the office or catching one of us on the gate.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher name and signature

Annex 6b: Attendance Targeted Support Plan

Child's Name and Year Group	
School	
Date of joining the school e.g. in Reception, or date joined.	
Date of Targeted Attendance Meeting	
Present at the Meeting	
Apologies	
Current Attendance % If Part Time, outline current timetable and start date.	Attendance: Authorised absence: Unauthorised absence : Lates (L code) Lates after registration:
SEND Status	
Barrier to Attending School: School's views	
Barrier to Attending School: Parent's/ Child's views	
Agreed Action	
Review date/ time	
Signed: Parent School Child is appropriate	

Annex 7a: Graduated Response Letter 3

<<Contact Flagged for Correspondence>>

<<Label format address for contact flagged for correspondence>>

16 May 2025

Dear <<Salutation of those flagged for correspondence>>

<<Legal Full Name>>, <<Tutor Group>>



Low Attendance Letter 3

We understand the importance of working together to support <<preferred first name>>'s attendance. Following our last communication, we have noticed that <<preferred first name>>'s attendance has shown no improvement and they continue to miss a high number of school sessions. Their current attendance has dropped to <<present attendance>>%. This means that they have now missed a total of <<absence count>> sessions this academic year.

Every moment in school counts and days missed add up quickly. As families, you want the very best opportunities for your child and so do we. Being in school daily is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and social development. Every session makes a difference and we want to help you to make every session count for your child so they can flourish in all that they do and realise their potential.

At this point, we need to work together collectively to make a difference for <<preferred first name>>. We would like to invite you to contribute a meeting in school to further understand the challenges with attendance and agree how we as a school, yourself as parent and with XXX themselves, to improve their attendance.

Present at this meeting will be your child's class teacher, Miss XX (family support worker)/ XXX (SENDCO) / Mrs XXX (the School Attendance Champion) and myself XXX as headteacher and other staff such as one of the SEND team where necessary. In this meeting, we will all create a clear Attendance Contract to remove any barriers to support <<preferred first name>> to be in school daily.

We have made a team around your child appointment for you at <<Meeting Time>> on <<Meeting Date>> .

We ask for your full engagement to support the persistent ongoing absence so that we can listen, understand the barriers and work together to reduce them and impact positively on your child's access to education. Should your child's attendance fall further, we may need to move to the Enforce level of our policy which could result in a referral to the Local Authority for legal action to be taken. This means that a Penalty Notice may be issued to you, or you may receive a summons to Court. We are not yet at this stage but wish to inform you of the statutory information following the new National framework to support you to understand the next steps if your child's attendance does not improve. *Under the new National framework, all schools are required to consider a Penalty Notice when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.*

From August 2024, if a Penalty Notice is issued, it carries a penalty of £80 if paid in full within 21 days, or £160 if paid in full after this time but within 28 days. They will be issued for each parent/carer for each child where a child accumulates 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absences (one school day is made up of two sessions) within a rolling 10 school week period.

If the same child accumulates another 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absences within a subsequent rolling 10 school week period and also within a rolling 3-year period of the first penalty notice, it will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower rate of £80. It must be paid within 28 days. Only two Penalty Notices will be issued in a rolling three-year period. This means that if the two Penalty Notices are paid, and the child has a further period of 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within the three years following the date of the first penalty notice, this will result in the parent/carer receiving a summons or Single Justice Procedure Notice for Court for an offence contrary to s444 Education Act.

There is no legal right to appeal the Penalty Notice once it has been issued. If a Penalty Notice goes unpaid, this is likely to result in Court proceedings being instigated for an offence of failing to ensure regular school attendance contrary to section 444 Education Act 1996. Upon conviction of such an offence the maximum fine of £2500, or a maximum 3 months' imprisonment, can be imposed.

From the creation of the Attendance Contract for <<Preferred first name>>'s we will continue to review and update you to celebrate the progress and next steps to support your child's routine of being in school daily. We remain unable to authorise any further absences for illness unless evidence of contact with a medical professional is provided and ask that

you discuss any potential absences with us so that we can support where possible adapting your child’s tailored plan where necessary.

We look forward to working together with you to support <<Preferred fist name>>.

Yours sincerely,

Headteachers signature and name

Annex 7b: Attendance Contract

Attendance Contract

The DFE Statutory Guidance on Attendance ‘Working Together to Improve School Attendance’ provides clarity and expectations for schools, parents and Local Authorities with regards to children’s attendance.

These roles and responsibilities are summarised here: [Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#)

The DFE guidance, sets out the stages of **Attendance Actions** in full. This has specific detail for children who are experiencing Persistently Absenteeism (below 90%) or Severely Persistently Absenteeism (below 50%), in that the actions should be ‘**targeted**’.

This is set out as: “Put additional targeted support in place, where necessary working with partners, and agree a joint approach with local authorities for all severely absent pupils”.

This ‘Attendance Contract’ documents this ‘Formal Attendance Support’, at the ‘Targeted’ stage, as detailed in Paragraph 144 of the DFE Guidance. In completing with Attendance Contract, the school agrees to work in partnership with parents, through this offer this Formal Support. In completing and signing this, parents agree to work in partnership, as part of this formal offer.

It is important to note that the DFE guidance sets out the next stages, should this Formal Support not be able to be complied with.

Child’s Name and Year Group	
Child’s School and when they joined the school e.g. in Reception, or specific date (add in which year groups this was).	
Date Attendance Contract Started (add in meeting date if this is different to contract start date)	
Current Attendance % Include UAs & AAs, E codes Breakdown into authorised coding groups and unauthorised coding groups. If not currently in school, add when last in school/ contact with parents. If Part Time, outline current timetable and start date.	Attendance:

Previous Years' attendance since joining school	
SEND Status Wave 3, Wave 2, Wave 1 (Date when joined SEND register)	
Social Care Level TAF/CIN/CP/EH/Under assessment Please include historic support/ involvement	
Professionals Involved: (Role and Name) e.g. Name of school leader Local Authority Other agencies e.g. SENDIAS, Social Care	
Names of siblings and their current attendance %/name of school	
Barrier to Attending School: School's views	
Barrier to Attending School: Parent's views	
Barrier to Attending School: Child's views	

Name of intervention/support/ signposting/ offered: E.g. PT, expectations of attending meetings, referrals, adaptations, taking part / accessing wider agency support, signposting to other agencies, having a named lead in school to support	Details of interventions/support/ signpost and its intended impact on the child's attendance, levels of child and parental engagement.	Signed Professional/parent(s):
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Attendance Target: (how much of each week, as well as %)	
Timescale for improvement within this Attendance Contract: DFE guidance outlines that plans may last for 3 to 12 months	
Date/Venue of Review meeting: e.g. time, on the phone, who etc Set specific dates	
Any other business:	

I confirm that this Attendance Contract was agreed by all present.

As parent/carer(s) and professional(s) we agree to comply with delivering on the above actions and delivery of this plan.
Failure to engage in this Formal Support, will result in the school needing to consider the next stages, as set out within the DFE Attendance Statutory Guidance. This is likely to mean that Enforcement stages will start.

Print & Signed:

..... Parent/carers(s) Other
Agency(ies)/professional
..... School Representative Pupil

Date Attendance Plan Closed	
Reason For Attendance Plan Closure	

Annex 7c: Attendance Contract Example

Attendance Contract

The DFE Statutory Guidance on Attendance ‘Working Together to Improve School Attendance’ provides clarity and expectations for schools, parents and Local Authorities with regards to children’s attendance.

These roles and responsibilities are summarised here: [Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#)

The DFE guidance, sets out the stages of **Attendance Actions** in full. This has specific detail for children who are experiencing Persistently Absenteeism (below 90%) or Severely Persistently Absenteeism (below 50%), in that the actions should be ‘**targeted**’.

This is set out as: “Put additional targeted support in place, where necessary working with partners, and agree a joint approach with local authorities for all severely absent pupils”.

This ‘Attendance Contract’ documents this ‘Formal Attendance Support’, at the ‘Targeted’ stage, as detailed in Paragraph 144 of the DFE Guidance. In completing with Attendance Contract, the school agrees to work in partnership with parents, through this offer this Formal Support. In completing and signing this, parents agree to work in partnership, as part of this formal offer.

It is important to note that the DFE guidance sets out the next stages, should this Formal Support not be able to be complied with.

Child’s Name and Year group	Joe Blogs Y4
Child’s School and when they joined the school e.g. in Reception, or specific date (add in which year groups this was).	XXX School, joined in May 2023 (Y2)
Date Attendance Contract Started (add in meeting date if this is different to contract start date)	Monday 24 th February 2025 Meeting held Thursday 13 th February 2025

Current Attendance % Include UAs & AAs, E codes Breakdown into authorised coding groups and unauthorised coding groups. If not currently in school, add when last in school/ contact with parents. If Part Time, outline current timetable and start date.	Attended 92 sessions out of a possible 230 = 40% overall attendance 115 sessions are unauthorised absence = 50.43% 22 sessions are authorised absence = 9.57% 23 lates before registration closed & 30 lates after registration closed Joe Blogs has not been seen in school since Friday 24th January 2025, and the last contact by Mum by text was on Wednesday 29th January 2025. Home visit has been conducted child seen on Wednesday 5th February. MASH submitted following further nonattendance Monday 10th February 2025.
Previous Years' attendance since joining school	Y2: 85% Y3: 70%
SEND Status Wave 3, Wave 2, Wave 1 (Date when joined SEND register)	Joe Blogs is now Wave 2 (SEND support), however this is felt to be due to gaps/ lost learning. Added to SEND register December 2024.
Social Care Level TAF/CIN/CP/EH/Under assessment Please include historic support/ involvement	None currently. MASH- NFA Was CIN upon joining school but taken off in Y3, when Family Support Worker assessed levels of parenting as 'good enough'.
Professionals Involved: Role: name (Role and Name) e.g. Name of school leader Local Authority Other agencies e.g. SENDIAS, Social Care	Attendance Champion: Mrs Teacher
Names of siblings and their current attendance %	None
Barrier to Attending School: Child's views	Joe Blogs says he finds school too hard, he doesn't like going into the classroom. He likes PE and Art but finds English and Maths hard.
Barrier to Attending School: Parent's views	Mum finds it hard to get Joe into school, he wakes up late, is tired. He can shout, scream and hit mum when she mentions schools or tries to get him ready. Mum is not able to get him into school and he is happier when playing on his Switch which calms him down and he plays this at night.
Barrier to Attending School: School's views	Joe is being screened for Dyslexia, his reading levels have dropped on PIRA tests but this could be from missing school over past few years...

	He finds core subjects hard and is disengaged in learning. Mum finds mornings hard and struggles to set routines.
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Name of intervention/support offered: E.g. PT, expectations of attending meetings, referrals, adaptations, taking part / accessing wider agency support, signposting to other agencies, having a named lead in school to support	Details of interventions/support and its impact on the child's attendance, levels of child and parental engagement:	Signed Professional/parent(s):
PTT over next 8 weeks (to be discussed – pm starts with increases over period)	If no engagement/improvement, then this will lead to legal referral for a PN.	
Support Routines, boundaries and house rules by school	This is to support Joe in getting a routine, not gaming into late night, nature of games that is being played, parent alertness to his needs and boundaries in general.	
Family health need assessment to offered, consider Early Help.	School nursing to explore further approaches building on works that has been completed at universal support school nursing. Mainly around sleep, hyperactivity.	
Support with learning in class.	Agreed adaptive timetable to ease back into school: agreed with class teacher, including meet and greet from a friend when arriving, jobs of responsibility in the day to enable movement around school. Adaptive teaching in class with scaffolds, dyslexia friendly approaches and learning in small chunks. Sendco/ phase leader checking provision weekly. If no engagement /improvement is achieved, a multi-agency meeting could be proposed to make a decision about engagement with on higher level statutory basis. Attach timetable here: XXXX	
Attendance Target:	Attend each session of transition back on adapted timetable.	
Timescale for improvement:	8 weeks	
Date/Venue of Review meeting:	Daily sticker chart to be added to if in school(teacher led) , Weekly review with Attendance Champion and communication with Mum- at drop off on a Friday morning. Review Date Meeting set for 8 weeks	

Any other business:	NA at this stage	
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I confirm that this Attendance Contract was agreed by all present.

As parent/carer(s) and professional(s) we agree to comply with delivering on the above actions and delivery of this plan.

Failure to engage in this Formal Support, will result in the school needing to consider the next stages, as set out within the DFE Attendance Statutory Guidance. This is likely to mean that Enforcement stages will start.

Print & Signed:

..... Parent/carer(s) Other Agency(ies)/professional

..... School Representative Pupil