
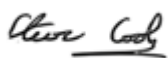




# Attendance Policy and procedures

Approved by		
<b>Name:</b>	Clem Coady	Steve Cook
<b>Position:</b>	Head Teacher	Chair of Governors
<b>Signed:</b>		
<b>Date:</b>	13 June 2024	
<b>Proposed review date:</b>	September 2027	

*'Living and learning together to care for each other and our world.'*



## REVIEW SHEET

Each entry in the table below summarises the changes to this Policy and procedures made since the last review (if any).

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
1	Original	September 2022
1	Minor changes to reflect introduction of new Unitary Authorities. Only updated as above and with links to the new KAHub <a href="http://www.kymallanhub.co.uk">www.kymallanhub.co.uk</a>	April 2023 September 2023
	Checked against existing school policy. Updated to encompass latest recommendations and personalised.	13/06/2024

## KEY ROLES

Relevant roles held and by whom (correct at the time of publishing)	
Safeguarding/Attendance Link Governor(s):	Phil Askew

## CONTENTS

<b>POLICY STATEMENT</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Definitions</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Aims and objectives</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. Communication and Review</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PROCEDURES</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1. Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Governors	7
1.2 Head teacher and other members of the Senior Leadership Team	8
1.3 Staff taking registration	8
1.4 Administrative staff	9
1.5 Local Authority Access and Inclusion Officer	9
<b>2. Attendance Expectations</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 What to expect from school	9
2.2 What school expects from parents and carers	10
2.3 What school expects from pupils	10
<b>3. Registration Procedures</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4. Absence Procedures and Intervention</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1 Procedure if a child is absent	11
4.2 Requests for leave of absence for a child	11
4.3 Long-term absence	11
4.4 Repeated unauthorised absences	12
<b>5. Attendance Monitoring and Review</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6. Late Procedures</b>	<b>13</b>
6.1 Late Arrivals	13
6.2 Persistent Lateness	13
<b>7. Medical or dental appointments</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>8. Children Missing Education and school roll procedures</b>	<b>14</b>
8.1 Updating the School Roll	14
8.2 What happens when a school thinks a child is missing education	15
8.3 Admission of children from overseas	15
<b>9. Leaves of absence during term time</b>	<b>16</b>
Table 1 - <a href="#">Scholar Pack Register Codes</a>	
Flowchart 1 - <a href="#">Attendance Escalation of Intervention – ABSENCES</a>	
Flowchart 2 - <a href="#">Attendance Escalation of Intervention - LATENESS</a>	

## POLICY STATEMENT

### 1. Definitions

For the purpose of this Policy and procedures, the following definitions apply:

**Parent** – (from Section 576 of the Education Act 1996) includes all natural parents (whether they are married or not), any person who has parental responsibility for a child or young person, and any person who has care of a child or young person (i.e. lives with and looks after the child).

**Compulsory school age** – A child is of compulsory school age from the term commencing on or after their fifth birthday until the last Friday of June in the school year that they reach sixteen and applies to the parents of all children all who are registered at any state provided educational setting including academies.

**Absence** – arrival at school after the register has closed or not attending school for any reason.

**Authorised absence** – An absence from school that only the Head teacher can authorise where parents have explained that their child is unable to attend school for an agreed and/or exceptional reason, for example:

- Their child is too unwell to attend, and the school has granted leave.
- Medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall during school time, for which the school has granted leave.
- Religious or cultural observances for which the school has granted leave.
- A family emergency.

When periods of illness are regular or repeated, the school will request medical evidence before authorising absences.

#### **Definition of 'authorised absence':**

- an absence is classified as authorised when the school has ascertained that a child has been away from school for a legitimate reason and the school has received notification from a parent or guardian. For example, if a child has been unwell, the parent writes a note or telephones the school to explain the absence. Exceptional cases of religious observances or particular family circumstances may also result in an authorised absence being granted by the school.
- only the school can make an absence authorised. Parents and carers do not have this authority. Consequently, not all absences supported by parents and carers will be classified as authorised. For example, if a parent takes a child out of school to go shopping during school hours, or allows a child to stay away from school to celebrate a family birthday or go on a family outing, this will not mean it is an authorised absence.

**Unauthorised absence** – Any absence that is not agreed and/or where the reason given is not exceptional and which can carry the risk of prosecution under Section 44 or 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, for example:

- Parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily or without reason.
- Truancy before or during the school day.
- Absences which have never been properly explained.
- Arrival at school after the register has closed.
- Shopping, looking after other children or birthdays.
- Day trips and holidays in term-time which have not been agreed.
- Leaving school for no reason during the day.

### **Definition of 'unauthorised absence':**

- an absence is classified as unauthorised when a child is away from school without the permission of both the school and a parent.
- therefore, the absence is unauthorised if a child is away from school without good reason, even with the support of a parent.

**Persistent absenteeism** – Missing 10% or more of schooling across the year for any reason. This means that persistent absence is equal to 38 sessions (19 days) absence from school in any one academic year.

## **2. Introduction**

- We expect all children on roll to attend every day, when the school is in session, as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so. We do all we can to encourage the children to attend, and to put in place appropriate procedures. We believe that the most important factor in promoting good attendance is the development of positive attitudes towards school. To this end, we strive to make our school a happy and rewarding experience for all children. We will also make the best provision we can for those children who, for whatever reason, are prevented from coming to school.
- Once a child is enrolled at school, parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends every day, unless prevented from doing so by illness or other exceptional circumstances for which absence is authorised by the school.
- Under the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, the governing body are responsible for making sure the school keeps an attendance register that records which pupils are present at the start of the morning session and during the afternoon session. This register will also indicate whether an absence was 'authorised' or 'unauthorised'.

Section 7 of the [Education Act 1996 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk) states that:

*"The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him/her to receive efficient full time education suitable:-*

*(a) to age, ability, and aptitude and*

*(b) to any special educational needs he/she may have,*

*either by regular attendance at school or otherwise."*

This means that it is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by *regular* attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school.

DfE guidance [Working together to improve school attendance](#) aimed at schools and local authorities (LA) provides clear evidence linking regular attendance at school to improvements in a child's attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances as well as reducing their exposure to harms like crime or violence (see p7 footnotes as linked above).

### **The statistics tell us that children who attend school regularly are more likely to:**

- Build a firm and secure knowledge and understanding across all curriculum subjects.
- Ensure they consistently meet and build upon expectations for their age or developmental stage.
- Develop good habits and important life skills.
- Maintain friendships.
- Gain better qualifications.
- Have access to a wider range of opportunities when they leave school.

This school understands that improving attendance is everyone's business; that barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school gates; and that they are often specific to individual pupils and families.

Some pupils find it harder than others to attend school so at all stages of improving attendance, we are committed to working with pupils and parents to remove any barriers by building strong and trusting relationships and working together to put the right support in place. This Policy seeks to explain how, and it has due regard for relevant legislation, and statutory and non-statutory guidance including, but not limited to:

- The [Education Act 1996](#)
- The [Education Act 2002](#)
- The [Equality Act 2010](#) and the [Human Rights Act 1998](#) (HRA) which sets out the fundamental right and freedoms that everyone is entitled to, and the [UN Convention on the rights of the child](#)
- The [Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006 \(As amended\)](#)
- Statutory guidance on [School behaviour and attendance: parental responsibility measures](#)
- Statutory guidance [Keeping children safe in education](#)
- Non-statutory guidance [Behaviour in schools: advice for Head teachers and school staff](#)
- Non-statutory guidance [Working together to improve school attendance](#)
- Non statutory guidance [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#)
- LA Attendance Policy <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-attendance-and-exclusion/school-attendance>

This Policy and procedures should be read alongside other school Policies and procedures as follows:

- Child Protection Policy and associated Policies and procedures
- Behaviour Policy and procedures
- Single Equality Scheme/Objectives
- Special Educational Needs Policy/Information Report
- Admissions Arrangements

### 3. Aims and objectives

Our aims and objectives in relation to pupils' attendance are to:

- maximise attendance so that all pupils can gain full access to our curriculum and be enabled to reach their full academic potential and achieve a high level of personal and social well-being;
- ensure that pupils are safe and that their whereabouts are known;
- eliminate unauthorised absence;
- discourage families from arranging holidays during school terms;
- ensure that parents and carers understand clearly when it is appropriate to keep their children off school and when this constitutes unauthorised absence;
- ensure that school staff and parents and carers are familiar with and adhere to our procedures for registering pupils' attendance, and reporting, recording and following up a pupil's absence or lateness;
- ensure that pupils and their parents and carers understand the importance of regular and consistent attendance;
- make clear to parents and carers the consequences of failing to ensure that their children attend school;
- ensure that children enjoy coming to school and are highly motivated to attend regularly and consistently.

By writing and implementing this Policy and the procedures that support it, we aim to:

- Ensure the safeguarding, child protection and welfare of all pupils.
- Improve pupils' achievement by ensuring high levels of attendance and punctuality.
- Achieve an attendance for all pupils, that is in line with the National Average apart from those with chronic health issues.
- Create an ethos in which good attendance and punctuality are recognised as the norm and seen to be valued by the school.
- Raise awareness among parents, carers, and pupils of the importance of uninterrupted attendance and punctuality at every stage of a child's education.
- Work in partnership with pupils, parents, staff, local secondary schools and the Local Authority so that all pupils realise their potential, unhindered by unnecessary absence.
- Promote a positive and welcoming atmosphere in which pupils feel safe, secure, and valued, and encourage in pupils a sense of their own responsibility.
- Establish a pattern of monitoring attendance and ensure consistency in recognising achievement and dealing with difficulties.
- Recognise the key role of all staff, but especially class teachers, in promoting good attendance.
- Provide effective strategies for early intervention to ensure pupils are not deprived of educational opportunities through non-attendance or lateness.

#### **4. Communication and Review**

Communicating the school Policy and procedures to all members of the community is an important way of building and maintaining trust and our school's culture. It helps make expectations transparent to all pupils, parents, and staff, and provides reassurance that expectations on attendance, and responses to issues are consistent, fair, proportionate, and predictable aimed at removing any barriers.

We will provide a copy of the Attendance Policy and procedures to a family when their child becomes a pupil at our school, and we will remind parents about it annually at the beginning of the school year and whenever it is updated. We also publish our current Attendance Policy on our website.

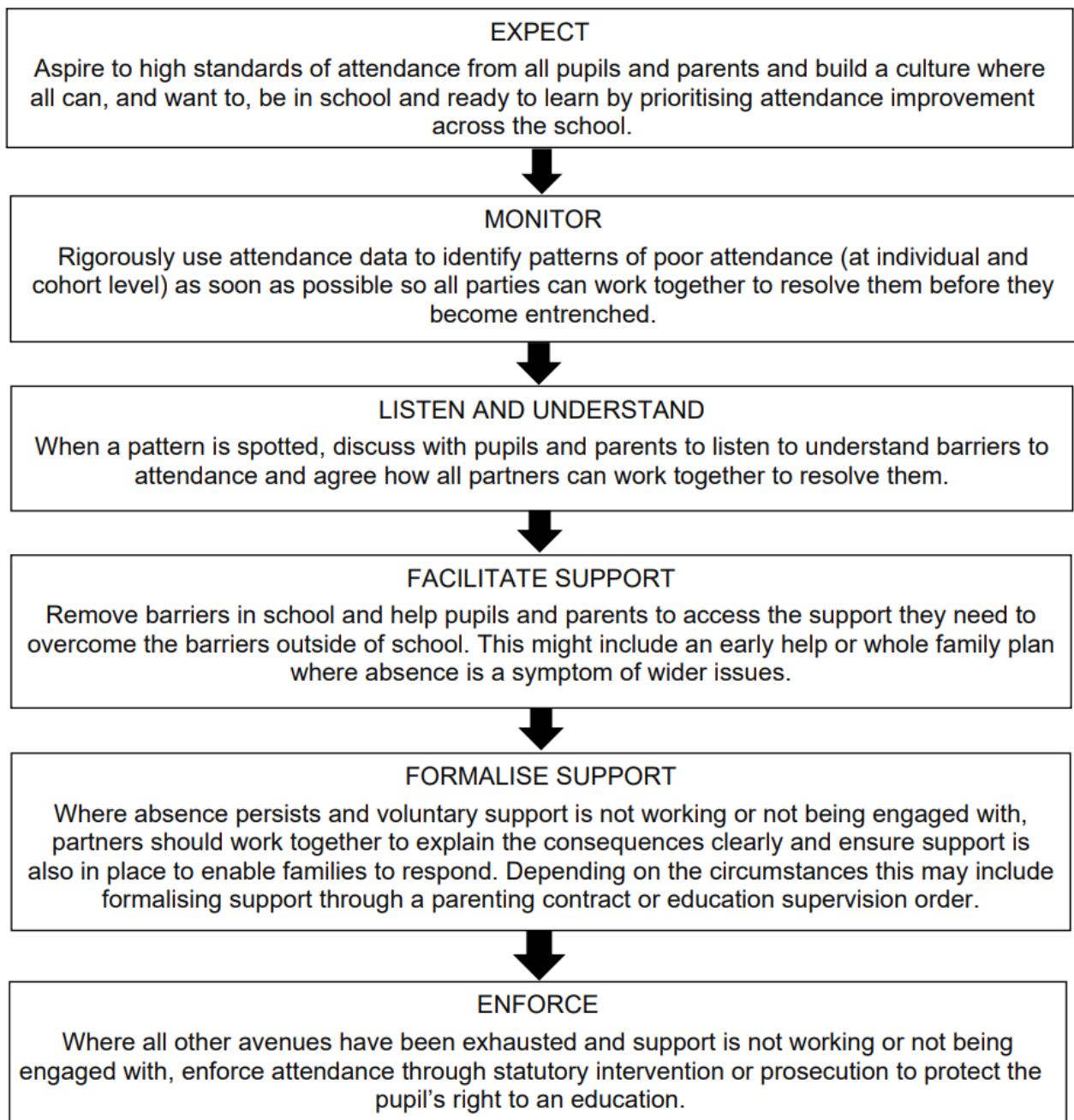
As the barriers to attendance can evolve quickly, we will review and update our Attendance Policy and procedures as necessary, and we will seek the views of pupils and parents when we make significant changes.



## PROCEDURES

### 1. Roles and Responsibilities

Successfully treating the root causes of absence and removing barriers to attendance, at home, in school or more broadly requires schools and local partners to work collaboratively with, not against families. This means that we all need to work together to:



An effective whole school culture of high attendance is underpinned by clear expectations, procedures, and responsibilities. To ensure all leaders, staff, volunteers, pupils, parents, and carers understand these expectations, we have developed this Policy and procedures.

#### 1.1 Governors

Our Governors are responsible for:

- Recognising the importance of school attendance and promoting it across our school's ethos, Policies, and procedures ensuring that they also help us meet our Equality Objectives and do not discriminate.
- Ensuring school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties.
- Evaluating our effectiveness on attendance by regularly reviewing attendance data, discussing, and challenging trends, and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Ensuring school staff receive adequate training on attendance.
- Nominating a Governor responsible for the monitoring of attendance (see Policy front page).
- Dealing with representation by parents or carers if their application for an authorised absence is refused and handling complaints regarding this Policy as outlined in our Complaints procedure

## 1.2 Head teacher and other members of the Senior Leadership Team

Our Head teacher and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for:

- Ensuring that effective systems are in place to accurately reflect individual pupil, group, and whole school attendance and punctuality patterns.
- Providing Governors with information to enable them to evaluate the success of this Policy and practice.
- The day-to-day implementation and management of the school Attendance Policy and procedures.
- Having effective systems and procedures for encouraging regular school attendance and investigating the underlying causes of poor attendance.
- Ensuring that all staff, including teachers, support staff and volunteers, understand their responsibilities for following the Attendance Policy, modelling good attendance behaviour, and ensuring pupils follow the Policy as well and that it is implemented fairly and consistently.
- Making parents and carers aware of the school Attendance Policy and procedures by making them available on the school website, on request from the school office.
- Monitoring individual pupil, group and whole school attendance and punctuality.
- Contact and work with parents or carers regarding concerns about their child's attendance.
- Arranging meetings with parents or carers to discuss support and set targets for those experiencing attendance difficulties.
- Supporting admin staff in offering initial challenge and support when pupils are late or absent and working with key partners if attendance and/or punctuality becomes an issue.
- Providing attendance "watch" lists to school administrators for daily monitoring.
- Coordinating daily punctuality checks with late pupils.
- Processing all legal documentation regarding attendance monitoring including penalty notices to the LA.

## 1.3 Staff taking registration

Teachers and other staff who take the register in the morning or afternoon are required to:

- Provide an accurate record of the attendance of each pupil in their class. On each occasion they must record whether every pupil is present, attending an approved educational activity, absent, or unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances. Details of codes to be used are provided at Table 1 below.
- Respond promptly to any issue raised in the weekly analysis of registers by admin staff.
- Arrange for appropriate work and resources to be sent home to pupils who have missed lessons and who are expected to be absent for an extended period of time.
- Record the reasons for absence given to them on the appropriate record.

- Raise any attendance or punctuality concerns with the Head Teacher.

## 1.4 Administrative staff

Our administrative staff are responsible for:

- Recording pupils arriving late or leaving early on a daily basis.
- Preparing, managing, and coordinating use of the ScholarPack.
- Monitoring and tracking attendance patterns for all pupils and preparing relevant attendance reports when necessary, using attendance register coding, which may include statutory reporting to the DfE in consultation with the Senior Lead.
- Contacting any parent who has not told us why their child is absent on the first day of their absence.
- Using the Short Messaging Service (SMS) system to request the reason for an absence from parents.
- Ensuring that a satisfactory reason for every absence has been established for each pupil by the end of each week.

## 1.5 Local Authority Access and Inclusion Officer

Our LA provides us with an Access and Inclusion Officer, whose job it is to:

- Enforce the law regarding school attendance.
- Support our whole school response to attendance through regular meetings, monitoring of individual pupil's attendance, and support with specific attendance, access, or inclusion issues as they arise.

# 2. Attendance Expectations

## 2.1 What to expect from school

This school will:

- Develop and maintain a whole school culture that promotes the benefits of high attendance, attainment and wider wellbeing.
- Have a clear school Attendance Policy which all leaders, staff, pupils, and parents understand.
- Accurately complete admission and attendance registers to include relevant detail of any absences or lateness and have effective day to day processes in place to follow-up absence.
- Regularly analyse attendance and absence data to identify pupils or groups of pupils that need support with their attendance and put effective strategies in place.
- Build strong relationships with families, listen to and understand barriers to attendance and work with families to remove them. In doing so, we will take into consideration the sensitivity of some of the reasons for absence and understand the importance of school as a place of safety and support.
- Build strong relationships with foster carers, Social Workers and the Local Authority Virtual Head teacher in relation to looked-after children.
- Challenge parents' views where they have misconceptions about what 'good' attendance looks like.
- Ensure that where a pupil or family needs support with attendance, the best placed person in the school works with and supports the family and wherever possible, the person remains consistent.
- Support pupils and parents by working together to address any in-school barriers to attendance e.g. bullying or harassment. For more information on this refer to the School Behaviour Policy and procedures.
- Work with parents of pupils with medical conditions or special education needs and disabilities to ensure that the barriers to attendance these pupils face are minimised,

providing additional support where necessary, to help them access their full-time education.

- Share information and work collaboratively with other schools in our area, our local authority, and other partners when absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe. This includes referring Local Authority Access & Inclusion Officer, any pupil whose attendance causes concern and where parents or carers have not responded to school initiatives to improve. These actions will be regularly discussed and reviewed together with pupils and families.
- Report attendance statistics to the DfE where required.

## 2.2 What school expects from parents and carers

Parental responsibilities for attendance include:

- Making sure their child of compulsory school age receives efficient full time education that is suitable to the child's age, ability, and aptitude and to any special educational needs the child may have (under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996). This can be by regular attendance at school or by education otherwise (including the parent choosing to educate their child at home).
- Ensuring their child attends school every day once enrolled unless there is a genuine reason for absence.
- Ensuring their child is not late for school.
- Contacting school by telephone, in person, by text, email or written note **before 8.45am on the first day of absence** and regularly if it is ongoing.
- Providing us with accurate and up to date contact details (including a minimum of 2 emergency contacts) and updating us as soon as possible if those details change.
- Trying to make health, doctor, dentist, hospital etc. appointments outside of school hours where possible or at the very beginning or end of the school day so that their child can attend as much of the school day as possible to minimise the amount of learning missed. Pupils should be absent from school only for as long as it takes to attend their appointment and they should not be absent for entire whole or half days unnecessarily.
- Telling a member of school staff about something that may affect their child's school attendance.
- Avoiding taking their child out of school for non-urgent matters.

## 2.3 What school expects from pupils

This school expects that all our pupils will:

- Attend school every day and strive for 100% school attendance. Every day counts!
- Arrive on time and be appropriately prepared for the day, see our Behaviour Policy for more information.
- Where age and stage appropriate, promptly tell their teacher, an administrator, or another suitable member of staff, about any problems that may affect their school attendance.

## 3. Registration Procedures

**Pupils are registered every morning and afternoon. Registers will be taken punctually each day at 9am and at 1pm.**

**The register closes at 9.05am and 1.15pm, but children who arrive later than 9.05am or 1pm respectively will receive a late mark which indicates how many minutes a child is late by.**

Pupils will be marked absent or late by teachers using our attendance system. Admin staff will record whether an absence is authorised or unauthorised (see Table 1 at the end of this document for current school registration codes).

Registers are legal records and we will preserve every entry in the attendance or admission register for 3 years from the date of entry. It will only ever be amended where the reason for absence cannot be established at the time it is taken and it becomes necessary to correct the entry. Where amendments are made, we will ensure the register shows the original entry, the amended entry, the reason for the amendment, the date on which the amendment was made, and the name and title of the person who made the amendment.

## **4. Absence Procedures and Intervention**

### **4.1 Procedure if a child is absent**

- When a child is absent unexpectedly, the class teacher will record the absence in the register, and will inform the school office staff, who will endeavour to contact a parent or carer.
- The school encourages parents to telephone the school to inform them of their child's absence through illness, on the first morning of absence. This prevents school office staff having to make numerous phone calls and provides reassurance of a child's safety in the event that parents cannot be contacted by telephone, for any reason. Parents should not use e-mail or text messaging to inform the school of a child's absence.
- When the child returns to school, a note should be brought from a parent or carer to explain the absence, and confirm its duration, even if the parent telephoned the school on the first day of absence.
- A note may be sent to the school prior to the day of absence, e.g. if a child has an unavoidable medical appointment.
- If there is any doubt about the whereabouts of a child, the class teacher should take immediate action by notifying the school office. The school will then be in contact straight away with the parent or guardian, in order to check on the safety of the child.

### **4.2 Requests for leave of absence for a child**

- We believe that children need to be in school for all sessions, so that they can make the most progress possible and do not miss out on crucial learning which may put them at an educational disadvantage. However, we do understand that there are exceptional circumstances in which a parent may legitimately request leave of absence for a child to attend, for example, a special religious or family event (such exceptional circumstances would not include normal events such as birthdays or regular religious ceremonies). We expect parents and carers to contact the school to obtain authorisation at least a week in advance. Normally such exceptional requests will be granted.
- Parents and carers have no statutory right to withdraw their children from school for a family holiday. Children are required to attend school for 190 days in a school year, leaving 175 days of weekends and school holidays. Parents and carers should always endeavour to arrange family holidays when their children are not required to be in school.
- Our school considers pupils' continuous attendance at school to be so essential for their academic achievement that it is not our policy to routinely authorise an allocation of term time holiday days to families. Only where exceptional circumstances have resulted in a family being unable to take an annual holiday during the school holidays, will such requests be considered. Such exceptional requests for longer periods of absence should be made at least two weeks in advance. Each case will be considered individually by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Chair of the Governing Body.

### **4.3 Long-term absence**

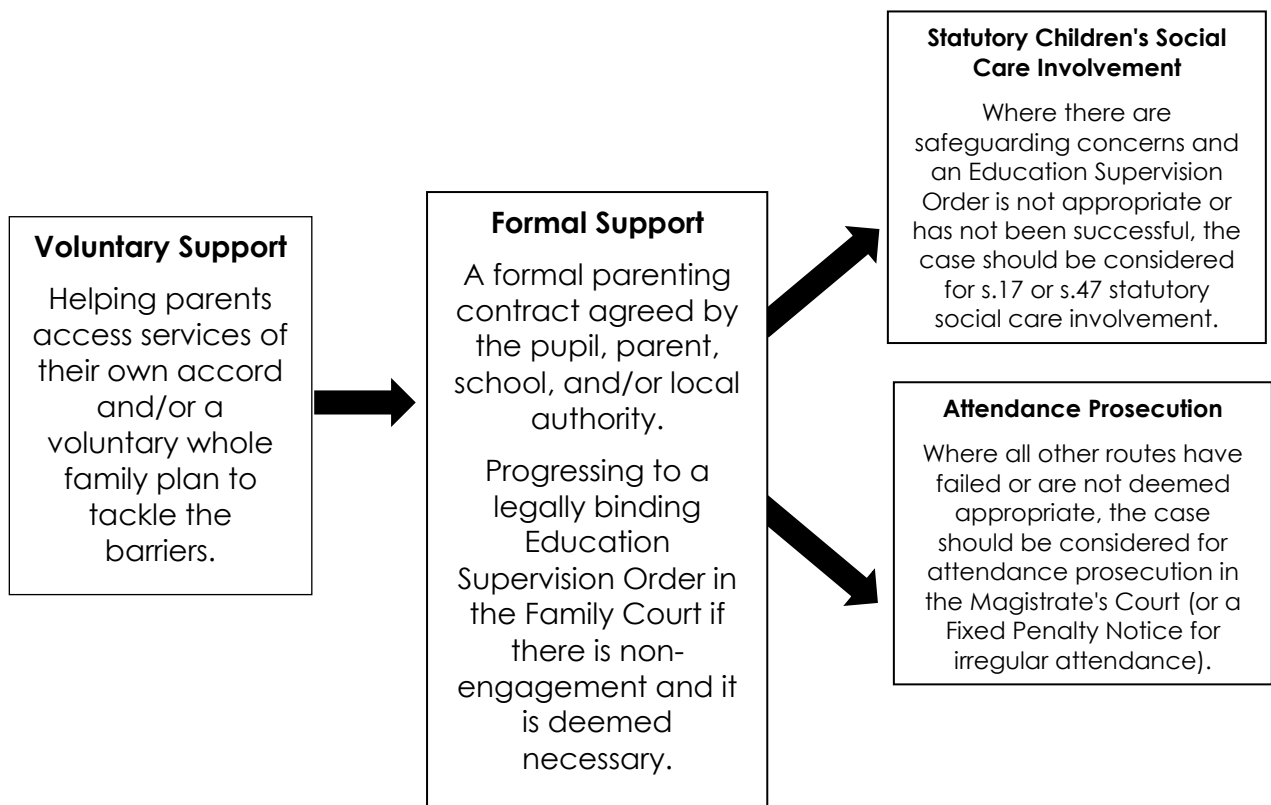
- When children have an illness that means they will be away from school for over five days, the school will do all it can to send work home, so that, where possible, the child can keep in touch with the learning going on in their class.
- If the absence is likely to continue for an extended period, or be a repetitive absence, the school will contact the Local Authority (LA) support services, so that arrangements can be made for the child to be given some tuition outside school, where possible.

#### 4.4 Repeated unauthorised absences

- The school will contact the parent or carer of any child who has an unauthorised absence. If a child has a repeated number of unauthorised absences, the parents or carers will be asked to visit the school to discuss the reasons. If the situation does not improve, the school will then contact the LA support services, who will visit the home and seek to ensure that the parents or carers understand the seriousness of the situation.
- The governors, supported by the LA, reserve the right to consider taking legal action, possibly resulting in a fixed penalty fine, against any parents or carers who repeatedly fail to accept their responsibility for sending their children to school on a regular basis.

Absence is often a symptom of wider issues a family is facing, and we are committed to working with our local partners to understand the barriers to attendance and provide the right support.

Where that is not successful, or is not engaged with, the law protects pupils' right to an education and provides a range of legal interventions to formalise attendance improvement efforts, and where all other avenues have been exhausted, enforce it through prosecuting parents. Attendance legal intervention can only be used for pupils of compulsory school age and decisions will always be made on an individual case by case basis in 3 broad stages as follows.



If the school register closes (for either morning or afternoon sessions) causing a pupil to be marked as absent when there is no authorised absence agreed for them (see Definitions on p1), we will take the following action:

1. Implement our First Day Calling procedure to find out where the child is.
2. Follow our Escalation of Intervention Procedure (see Flowchart 1 at the end of this document) where a pattern of non-attendance is emerging.
3. Routinely send letters for information to all parents about their child's termly school attendance and specially send a letter home when we have identified absences leading to attendance below 96%.
4. When termly attendance monitoring identifies persistent absentees (below 90%), we will send a letter home advising parents or carers that their child's attendance will be closely monitored during the following half term and if there is no improvement, they will be invited to an Attendance Panel Meeting with the Head teacher and the Attendance Governor to discuss any support needed.
5. Conduct the Attendance Panel Meeting and develop an appropriate action plan will be jointly agreed and may involve external partner agencies.
6. Conduct a review after one half term, and if there has been no improvement in attendance, we will consult with our LA Access and Inclusion Officer to determine the next course of action. This may be an Early Help Assessment, a referral to another agency, or an agreement to formally refer the matter to our Access & Inclusion Officer for official involvement and the consideration of legal action.

We will keep a detailed chronology of all interventions and action taken to improve attendance.

## 5. Attendance Monitoring and Review

- It is the responsibility of the governing body to monitor overall attendance, and they will request an annual report from the Headteacher. The governing body also has the responsibility for this policy, and for seeing that it is carried out. The governors will therefore examine closely the information provided to them, and seek to ensure that our attendance figures are as high as they can be.
- The school will keep accurate attendance records on file for a minimum period of three years.

## 6. Late Procedures

Lateness to school can affect a child's wellbeing and their education by disrupting their routines and learning opportunities. It can also be disruptive for teaching staff and the rest of the class as latecomers arrive.

### 6.1 Late Arrivals

If a pupil arrives after **9am** they are late for school.

If school has been secured for the day, late pupils should make their way to the front door with the adult who has brought them to school, where they will be met by a member of staff. They will be taken to their class and the register will be updated.

### 6.2 Persistent Lateness

It is to be expected that *very occasionally* a pupil will be late for a genuine reason. We are concerned when late arrivals become often and/or regular (persistent), especially if the reasons given seem repetitive and avoidable.

We will monitor lateness regularly and, where necessary, will implement our Escalation of Intervention: Lateness process (see Flowchart 2 at the end of this document) at the Head teacher's discretion as follows:

- If a pupil is late once after their lateness has been identified as a concern, admin staff recording the late arrival will remind the parents or carers who are with their child of the importance of punctuality and support strategies available for tackling it. If a parent or

carer is not present with the late pupil, the reminder should be given to them as soon as possible on the day of lateness e.g. our template slip, email, SMS, or app notification.

- If lateness continues, the Senior Lead on attendance will contact parents or carers informally for a discussion about avoiding persistent lateness.
- If lateness continues, the Head teacher will write a formal letter to parents or carers about improving punctuality.
- If lateness persists then parents or carers will be invited to a formal meeting with the Head teacher and the link Governor for attendance to establish the reasons and agree an action plan to address the issue.
- If lateness persists action will be move to our Escalation of Intervention: Absence process (see Flowchart 1 at the end of this document) which may include a referral to the LA Access and Inclusion Officer for the most persistent cases.

## 7. Medical or dental appointments

Missing registration for a health-related, medical, dental, therapy, hospital etc. appointment is an authorised absence. Advanced notice to school is required to get our authorisation for these absences. Parents or carers can tell us about these appointment in advance by telephone, email, letter, or verbally in person (although we may provide pen and paper and ask for the date, time, place, and reason for the appointment to be written down for us).

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

## 8. Children Missing Education and school roll procedures

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to an efficient, full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude, and any special educational needs they may have.

Children missing education are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. Children missing education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation, or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment, or training) later in life.

Effective information sharing between parents and carers, schools, local authorities, and other safeguarding children partners is critical to ensuring that all children of compulsory school age are safe and receiving suitable education.

Our attendance monitoring procedures allow us to quickly identify pupils at risk of missing vital education so that we can take prompt action to address issues, lower a child's risks, and improve their outcomes.

### 8.1 Updating the School Roll

We must notify our local authority when we are about to remove a pupil name from our School Admission Register under any of the 15 grounds listed in the [Children Missing in Education Regulations 2016 annex A](#).

We must also notify our local authority within 5 days of adding a pupil's name to our Admissions Register.

We must complete the 'Pupils Gains and Losses Information Sheet' and send it to the local authority at the end of each week if gains or losses occur in the school.



If a pupil leaves our school and their destination is not known to us then we must complete the CME1 form and forward it to our LA Child Missing Education (CME) officer as soon as possible (see section 8.2 below).

We must enter pupils on our Admission Register at the beginning of the first day on which we agreed, or were notified, that the pupil will attend our school. If a pupil fails to attend on the agreed or notified date, we will undertake reasonable enquiries to establish the pupil's whereabouts and consider notifying our Local Authority about a potential child missing education at the earliest opportunity.

## 8.2 What happens when a school thinks a child is missing education

This school understands that we have a duty of care to ensure we have conducted 'reasonable enquires' to locate a child missing education before it is reported to the Local Authority CME officers.

Where a pupil leaves without advance notice or their destination is unknown, we will:

- Check possible whereabouts with staff.
- Contact parents using their last known telephone number, email address, app accounts or other reasonable route.
- Contact any other emergency contacts held for the pupil.
- Make a home visit to the last known address.
- Check with neighbours and any known friends.
- Contact any agencies known to be involved.
- If the pupil is statemented or has SEND check with SEND services.
- If the pupil or family is known to Social Services inform their named social worker in accordance with the child's plan and previously agreed arrangements.
- Ask the pupil's friends and their parents if they are aware of the pupil's whereabouts.
- Check any social media sites e.g. Facebook.

**If the pupil's whereabouts is still not known**, the school will complete a CME1 referral and email it securely to the relevant person. This will enable the LA to make further enquires, as appropriate, to try and locate the pupil.

The pupil should remain on our school roll for **20 school days** and their absence should be recorded.

We will contact the CME officer to **agree the date** that the pupil should be removed from our school roll before we actually remove the pupil from our roll. On this date, the CME officer will forward a CME2 form to us. We will ensure the pupil's attendance data is up to date on that day and remove them from our roll with the correct leaving date.

## 8.3 Admission of children from overseas

These procedures apply to all schools where the Local Authority is the admissions authority.

This school understands and will comply with the [Schools Admission Code](#) when dealing with an application for a child who is not a UK National. We cannot refuse a school place simply because of doubts about a child's immigration status, neither can we check the immigration or nationality status of foreign national children as a pre-condition for admission. In addition we must not ask to see passports or other immigration information as a condition of admission. With the exception of children who are Irish nationals, we must not actively recruit foreign national children who are still resident overseas as pupils. For more information, see DfE guidance on [School applications for foreign national children and children resident outside England](#).

Any EEA or Swiss national who arrived in the UK by 31 December 2020 was eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by 30 June 2021, to continue to be able to live, work and study in the UK if their application was successful. The scheme is still open for joining family

members and those who have 'reasonable grounds' for not applying by the 30 June 2021 deadline.

If they are not eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, EEA and Swiss national children entering the UK after the end of 2020 will be treated the same as other foreign nationals. This means they will not have the right to enter the country to access a state-funded school unless they fall within the categories of children who can enter the UK and attend a school (see following sections).

Those EEA and Swiss citizens already living in the UK have a right to continue to attend a state-funded or independent school in England. State-funded schools must not ask them to prove their right to live in the UK before offering them a place.

Children aged under 18 can enter the UK and attend a school:

- as a dependant of a foreign national parent who has settled status in the UK;
- as a dependant of their parent(s) who are in the UK on a Work visa or Student visa;
- as part of a family entering and residing in the UK under the immigration route for Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BNO) and their dependents;
- as part of a family entering and residing in the UK under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme or Ukraine Family Scheme;
- as part of a family entering and residing in the UK under:
  - the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme;
  - the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy;
  - the Afghanistan Locally Employed Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme.

All these categories of children can study at a state-funded or independent school once in the UK. Dependent children who do not arrive in the UK at the same time as their parents would need to apply for a visa separately as a dependent child.

## 9. Leaves of absence during term time

The law does not grant parents an automatic right to take their child out of school during term time and parents or carers must apply to school for a leave of absence.

The Department for Education allows a Head teacher the discretion to consider authorising a leave of absence in term time only in 'exceptional circumstances'. They do not clearly define this for schools, but we are required to consider each application individually taking account of the specific facts and circumstances, and relevant background context behind the request.

Parents and carers must complete a 'Leave of Absence' form, which can be found on our school website, outlining in writing the exceptional circumstances for the request. A paper copy of the form can be obtained from the school office. The form must be returned to school for a decision at least 2 weeks before the first day of leave requested (except for a bereavement or other serious family emergency). The Head teacher may invite you to attend a meeting to discuss your request.

We define exceptional circumstances as an event or problem which a parent or carer cannot control or did not expect.

**No holidays taken during term time will be authorised unless an exceptional circumstance also applies.**

Valid reasons for applying exceptional circumstances and allowing an authorised absence may include:

- The school site, or part of it is closed due to an unavoidable cause when it should be open.

- A local or national emergency has resulted in widespread disruption to travel or daily activities which has prevented the pupil from attending school.
- Service personnel close to the family returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be able to take leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
- Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parents belong. If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parents' religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart.
- Traveller pupils travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers, Showmen (fairground people) and Circus people, Bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and New Travellers. Absence may be authorised only when a Traveller family is known to be travelling for occupational purposes and has agreed this with the school, but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision.
- Bereavement or unexpected and serious personal or family problems.
- To attend the wedding of a person close to the family – up to 1 day.

Evidence would be required in each case to support any application for leave and that the circumstances are exceptional.

If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the Head teacher to determine the length of time the pupil can be away from school, and they may not authorise the whole period requested. If a pupil does not return to school on the day after their authorised leave of absence ends, their attendance will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

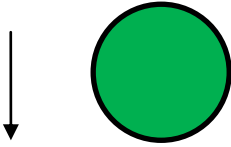
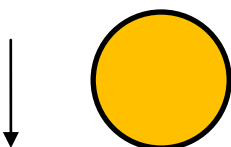
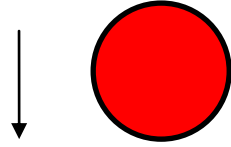
All unauthorised absences, including holidays that have not been sanctioned by the Head teacher, are cumulative (they are added together with all past periods of absence at this school). Parents who fail to ensure regular attendance of their children at school can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. The amount is £60 (per parent per child) if paid within 21 days and £120 (per parent per child) if paid between 21 and 28 days. Failure to pay a Penalty Notice will result in prosecution, except in limited circumstances.

**Table 1: ScholarPack Register Codes**

Code	Description
/	Present AM **
\	Present PM **
L	Late (before registers closed) marked as present **
I	Authorised absence due to illness (NOT medical or dental etc. appointments)
M	Authorised absence due to medical/dental appointments
R	Authorised absence due to religious observance
H	Authorised absence due to agreed family holiday
E	Authorised absence as pupil is excluded, with no alternative provision made
C	Authorised absence as pupil is absent due to other authorised circumstances
B	Approved education activity as pupil being educated off site (NOT dual registration) **
D	Dual registered (at another establishment) - NOT counted in possible attendances **
P	Approved education activity as pupil is attending an approved sporting activity **
V	Approved education activity as pupil is away on an educational visit or trip **
G	Unauthorised absence as pupil is on a family holiday, NOT agreed, or is taking days in excess of an agreed family holiday
O	Unauthorised absence as pupil missed sessions for an unauthorised absence not covered by any other code/description
N	Unauthorised absence as pupil missed sessions for a reason that has not yet been provided
X	Non-compulsory school age absence - not counted in possible attendances **
Y	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances - not counted in possible attendances
Z	Pupil not yet on roll - not counted in possible attendances **
#	Planned whole or partial school closure - NOT counted in possible attendances **

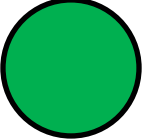
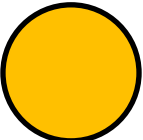
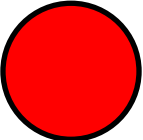
## Flowchart 1: Attendance Escalation of Intervention - ABSENCES

Attendance is monitored termly and in some cases half termly. Issues with attendance can arise at any time so action on concerns can take place at any time in the school year but may fall in line with monitoring.

% Attendance	Level of Intervention	Responsibility
<p>100%</p>  <p>Lower Green 96 – 99.9%</p>	<p><b>No attendance concerns.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the end of term monitoring.</li> </ul>	<p>The School Lead on these actions</p>
<p>Upper 94 -95.9%</p>  <p>Lower 90 – 93.9%</p>	<p><b>Attendance concerns.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First day response to be actioned.</li> <li>Speak to the individual in school.</li> <li>Rewards to be given as per the current school strategy.</li> <li>Analyse the end of term monitoring.</li> <li>Parents to be invited to come to school voluntarily to learn about Early Help or other support which might improve attendance.</li> </ul>	<p>The School Lead on these actions</p>
<p>Below 90 %</p> 	<p><b>Significant attendance concerns.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the end of term monitoring.</li> <li>RAG Attendance Letters to be sent home with a warning that further monitoring will take place over the next half term.</li> </ul> <p>At the end of the half term monitoring period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If there is improvement, communicate and celebrate appropriately and continue monitoring.</li> <li>If there is no improvement, convene an Attendance Panel Meeting (with the Head teacher and a Governor present) to enable the school and parents to agree and write down a parent/pupil/school contract and action plan to improve a child's attendance e.g. TAF, Early Help / Plan of Support. Plan to monitor for a further half term and agree a review date with parents.</li> </ul> <p>At the end of the further half term monitoring period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite parents to review the action plan (this meeting will be held, and decisions made in a parents' absence if they fail to attend).</li> <li>If there is improvement, communicate and celebrate appropriately and continue monitoring.</li> <li>If there is no improvement then escalate by referring the pupil to [insert LA Access and Inclusion Officer with evidence– this may lead to prosecution</li> </ul>	<p>School Lead</p> <p>School Lead/LA Officer</p> <p>School Lead/LA Officer</p>

## Flowchart 2: Attendance Escalation of Intervention - LATENESS

Lateness is monitored on a weekly basis and sometimes more often, and the following action triggers are in place.

% Attendance	Level of Intervention	Responsibility
<p><b>No lateness</b></p> 	<p><b>No lateness concerns.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the end of term monitoring.</li> <li>Celebrate punctuality.</li> </ul>	<p>The School Lead on these actions</p>
<p><b>1 or 2 late arrivals in a week</b></p> 	<p><b>Lateness concerns.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lateness is to be challenged by the member of staff admitting the late child into school by speaking to the parent where possible and asking them why their child is late.</li> <li>Offer advice or support to parents if necessary.</li> <li>Record it in the school's late system.</li> </ul>	<p>The School Lead on these actions</p>
<p><b>3 or 4 late arrivals in a week</b></p> 	<p><b>Significant lateness concerns.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue written warnings (lateness letters) about concerns at the Head teacher's discretion</li> </ul> <p>At the end of monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If there is improvement in punctuality, continue monitoring.</li> <li>If there is no improvement in punctuality convene a Lateness Panel Meeting (with the Head teacher and a Governor present) to enable the school and parents to agree and write down a parent/pupil/school contract and action plan to improve a child's punctuality.</li> <li>If lateness continues, escalate the lateness to consideration as unauthorised absence and move over to the attendance escalation procedure.</li> </ul>	<p>School Lead</p> <p>School Lead/LA Officer</p>