Attendance and Punctuality Policy

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1. Introduction

For any pupil to meet their full potential academically, a consistently high level of attendance is crucial. At this school, we aim to ensure the highest possible levels of attendance for all, thereby enabling every pupil to take full advantage of the educational opportunities, both academic and social, which are available to them.

In line with our ethos, this school is committed to providing the best possible education for our pupils, ensuring equal opportunities for all. Our intention is that each individual feels valued and supported. Our emphasis is on building excellent working relationships with pupils and ensuring a calm, orderly, safe and stimulating learning environment where all pupils want to be and where they are keen and ready to learn.

This policy outlines the various strategies we employ to promote excellent attendance which include creating a pleasant working environment, engaging and motivating pupils, ensuring early intervention when attendance begins to raise concerns and instigating further intervention when attendance remains a concern, including working in partnership with parents[1], the local authority and other external agencies, where necessary.

We see improving attendance as everyone's responsibility; effective communication and a joint approach to working are vital. We understand that barriers to accessing education are often complex, both within and beyond the school, and are often specific to individual pupils and families. We will work to build a positive relationship between home and school which can be the foundation of good attendance. We will ensure that parents are kept well-informed about the link between attendance and attainment, challenging views where there are misconceptions about what 'good' attendance looks like and ensuring that when academic progress is at risk, this message is clearly reiterated and support is put in place to help remove potential barriers from emerging.

This policy is fully compliant with *Working together to improve school attendance* (DfE August 2024) and should be read alongside the Ofsted report *Securing good attendance and tackling persistent absence* and the following DfE guidance:

- *Children Missing Education*
- *Keeping children safe in education*
- *Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions at school*
- *Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school*
- Toolkit for schools: communicating with families to support attendance - GOV.UK
- *Suspension and permanent exclusion guidance*
- *Alternative provision statutory guidance*

It should also be read in conjunction with the school's *Behaviour Policy*[2], which sets out school systems for managing behaviour, including that relating to attendance and punctuality.

2. Key school information – Woodloes Primary

Daily Routines[3]

[1] For the purpose of this policy, the term 'parent' is used to indicate all who have parental responsibility for, and/or day-to-day care of, a child. It also includes any parent who does not live with the child.
[2] Sometimes called *Behaviour and Relationships Policy* or similar. For the purpose of this document, the term *Behaviour Policy* is used.
[3] The procedures outlined in this policy also apply to all non-compulsory school age children, unless otherwise indicated.

SCHOOL DAY AND REGISTRATION TIMES

The school day at **Woodloes Primary School starts at 8.55am and finishes at 3.15pm**.

Pupils are welcome onto the school site from **8.30am**, with classroom doors opening at **8.40am**. Pupils are encouraged to be on site no later than **8.45am** and should be in their classrooms between **8.45am and 8.50am**, where they will be greeted by their teacher.

Early morning learning activities begin from **8.45am**. The morning register is taken at **8.55am**, and the first lesson begins promptly at **9.00am**.

The school gates are locked at **8.55am**. Any pupil arriving after this time must enter school through the main school office so that their arrival can be recorded accurately.

Registration periods

Morning registration

- Register opens: **8.55am**
- Register closes: **9.25am**

Afternoon registration

- Register opens: **1.00pm**
- Register closes: **1.10pm**

These registration times apply consistently to all pupils and registration periods are no longer than 30 minutes.

Pupils arriving after **8.55am but before 9.25am** will be recorded as late. Pupils arriving **after the morning register has closed at 9.25am**, without an acceptable reason, will receive a **U code (late after the register has closed)**. This is recorded as an unauthorised absence for the morning session and will affect the pupil's overall attendance.

Where a pupil is late because **school-arranged transport has arrived late**, the register will be amended appropriately so that the pupil is not penalised for circumstances beyond the control of the pupil or their family.

Where a pupil is habitually arriving shortly before the register closes, the school may work with the pupil and their parents/carers to agree an earlier individual arrival expectation as part of an attendance support plan. This will be used as a supportive measure to improve punctuality and establish consistent attendance routines.

PUNCTUALITY

Woodloes Primary School expects all pupils to attend school regularly and arrive on time. Good punctuality supports positive routines and ensures pupils do not miss valuable learning at the beginning of the school day.

All late arrivals are recorded and monitored. Where a pattern of lateness develops, parents/carers will be contacted to discuss the reasons and identify any support that may be required.

Parents/carers will be reminded that arrival after the register has closed at **9.25am**, without an acceptable reason, is recorded as an unauthorised absence. Persistent unauthorised absence,

including absence resulting from repeated late arrival after the register has closed, may lead to further attendance procedures and referral to the Local Authority where appropriate.

KEY ATTENDANCE STAFF AND CONTACT DETAILS

The **Senior Leadership Team Attendance Lead/Attendance Champion** with strategic responsibility for attendance is:

Mrs Byrne - Headteacher
Email: **admin5207@welearn365.com**
Telephone: **01926 497491**

For **day-to-day attendance matters**, including reporting an absence, explaining a late arrival or providing information relating to a pupil's attendance, parents/carers should contact the **school office**:

School Office
Telephone: **01926 497491**
Email: **admin5207@welearn365.com**

Parents/carers should report their child's absence **as soon as possible on each day of absence and, wherever possible, before 9.30am**. Parents/carers should provide the reason for absence and, where possible, an indication of how long they expect their child to be absent.

Where parents/carers require **additional support with their child's attendance or punctuality**, they should contact **Mrs Byrne, Headteacher and Attendance Lead**, through the school office using the contact details above. The school will work with families to understand barriers to attendance and identify appropriate support.

Pupils who have concerns about attendance or difficulties coming into school can speak to **their class teacher or any member of the Senior Leadership Team**, who will ensure that appropriate support is provided.

DAILY PROCESS FOR MANAGING ATTENDANCE

Woodloes Primary School monitors attendance every day to ensure that pupils are safe and that any unexplained absence is followed up promptly.

The school's daily process is:

1. **Registers are completed promptly** at the beginning of the morning and afternoon sessions using the appropriate attendance codes.
2. The **school office reviews the morning registers** and identifies pupils who are absent without a reason having been provided.
3. Parents/carers of pupils with an **unexplained absence are contacted by the school** to establish the reason for absence.
4. Where contact cannot be made, the school will continue to make reasonable attempts to establish the pupil's whereabouts and the reason for absence.
5. Where there are **safeguarding concerns**, or the school is unable to establish that a pupil is safe, the matter will be escalated in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures. This may include contacting other known emergency contacts and, where appropriate, other agencies.

6. Attendance information and absence reasons are recorded and attendance codes amended where necessary to ensure that the register is accurate.

7. **Late arrivals are recorded and monitored**, with patterns of lateness followed up with parents/carers.

8. Attendance is monitored over time so that emerging patterns, persistent absence or other concerns can be identified and appropriate support put in place at the earliest opportunity.

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Woodloes Primary School is committed to working **with pupils and families to identify and remove barriers to regular attendance**. Our approach prioritises early identification, support and positive engagement.

Where attendance or punctuality becomes a concern, the school will seek to understand the reasons and work with the pupil and their family to identify appropriate strategies and support. This may include meetings with parents/carers, attendance monitoring, agreed attendance targets, individual attendance plans and, where appropriate, support or advice from other agencies.

The school recognises its responsibility to ensure that every child has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled.

Where unauthorised absence continues despite appropriate support and intervention, or where parents/carers do not engage with the support offered, the school may make a referral to the **Local Authority** and consider formal attendance procedures in accordance with current statutory guidance and legislation.

Legal intervention will be considered where appropriate and will normally follow attempts to understand and address barriers to attendance, unless the circumstances warrant more immediate action.

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to the procedures set out in the Trust Attendance Policy:

- Pupils may come onto the school site from **8.30am**.
- Classroom doors open at **8.40am**, allowing pupils to settle and prepare for learning.
- Early morning learning activities are available from **8.45am**.
- Pupils should be in their classrooms and ready for registration by **8.55am**.
- The school gates are locked at **8.55am**, after which pupils must enter through the main school office.
- The school day finishes at **3.15pm/3.20pm**.
- Where school-arranged transport is responsible for a pupil arriving late, the pupil will not be penalised for circumstances outside their or their family's control.
- Individual attendance and punctuality arrangements may be agreed with families where these form part of a supportive plan to improve attendance.

This now explicitly covers **all six items** in your checklist: school-day times; registration periods; named SLT attendance lead; day-to-day and additional-support contacts; the daily attendance process; and Woodloes-specific arrangements.

3. Legal requirements

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education which is suitable to their age, aptitude and any special educational need they may have. There is a legal requirement placed on all parents to ensure their child receives that education either by attendance at school or by education otherwise than at a school.

Where a parent has decided to register their child at school, there are additional legal duties placed upon them to ensure that their child attends that school regularly. This means that their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances, such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.

This policy conforms to the aforementioned legal requirements, as detailed in section 7 of *The Education Act 1996*, and to the requirements outlined in the latest guidance document entitled *Working together to improve school attendance, (August 2024)*. This includes adherence to the requirement that all pupils, regardless of age, are placed on the admission register and must have their attendance recorded in the attendance register.

This policy also has due regard to all relevant legislation and other statutory guidance including, but not limited to that listed above in section 1, in addition to the following legislation:

- *Equality Act 2010*
- *School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024*.

4. Roles and responsibilities

The trust has overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy and for ensuring compliance with the relevant statutory guidance and legislation. The trust has delegated day-to-day responsibility for operating the policy to the School Standards Committees and to the headteachers of each trust school.

The **School Standards Committee** and **Strategic Leadership Team** in each school have a specific responsibility to ensure the fair application of this policy and all members of staff are responsible for supporting these colleagues in ensuring success.

The trustees of Community Academies Trust ensure that attendance remains a constant focus across all trust schools by:

- recognising the importance of attendance and actively promoting it through trust ethos and policies;
- ensuring the trust and each school meet their statutory responsibilities in relation to attendance and continue to have high aspirations for each pupil;
- reviewing attendance data at trust and individual school level, providing support and challenge as required;
- ensuring staff receive adequate attendance training and that best practice is shared between trust schools.

The trust will:

- devise and regularly review the *Attendance and Punctuality Policy*;

- agree and review attendance and punctuality targets with schools at least annually;
- provide advice and support to schools on attendance matters, as required;
- ensure admissions and attendance registers are kept electronically on Arbor in line with the *School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024*;
- ensure pupil level attendance data is shared daily with the DfE, in line with latest regulations.

The School Standards Committee will:

- ensure appropriate strategies are in place to promote and implement the *Attendance and Punctuality Policy* throughout the school;
- ensure the policy is well-publicised and that attendance expectations and procedures are understood by parents and pupils;
- review the effectiveness of the implementation of the policy in response to the data regularly provided via *Ensuring Excellence Reporting*.

The headteacher will:

- ensure the school's vision, values and ethos promote and celebrate good and improved attendance and punctuality;
- ensure a member of the Strategic Leadership Team is appointed as 'Attendance Champion' with overall responsibility for driving attendance improvements in school, as per DfE guidance;
- ensure strategies are in place to promote and implement the *Attendance and Punctuality Policy* throughout the school;
- ensure attendance support and improvement is appropriately resourced, including where applicable, through effective use of Pupil Premium funding;
- monitor the school's curriculum offer to ensure delivery of a curriculum which is engaging and personalised to the needs of the pupils, with good teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve;
- regularly monitor attendance and punctuality data;
- make decisions regarding the authorisation of absences in exceptional circumstances;
- set attendance targets with the strategic attendance lead and/or other relevant members of staff directly responsible for attendance.

The strategic attendance lead[4] will:

- set a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance;
- ensure that section 2 and Appendices 1 and 2 of the *Attendance and Punctuality Policy* is fully personalised to the school to meet statutory requirements;
- ensure that all staff are aware of the *Attendance and Punctuality Policy*, are well trained to address attendance issues and are aware of the school's current attendance headline data;
- ensure the *Attendance and Punctuality Policy* is consistently applied across the school, starting with the accurate completion and maintenance of the Admissions Register (often called the school roll) and the Attendance Register in line with Chapters 7 and 8 of the DfE's *Working together to improve school attendance* statutory guidance;
- ensure attendance and absence coding is completed for each session, using the latest DfE codes, as detailed in section 6 of this policy;

[4] Since September 2022, the DfE has required all schools to have a named senior leader who is responsible for the strategic approach to attendance. This may well be the Headteacher. Where an Executive Headteacher is in post across multiple schools, each school must have a named strategic attendance lead, who acts as the school's Attendance Champion.

- actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and parents, including ensuring regular use of praise and the issuing of rewards that are valued by pupils;
- with the support of key staff members, analyse attendance and punctuality data at least on a fortnightly, half-termly and termly basis, identifying patterns and trends and preparing evaluative reports as necessary for other school leaders and governors;
- provide the School Standards Committee with regular updates on attendance and punctuality, including data about pupils who are persistently absent (90% attendance or below) and those who are severely absent (50% attendance or below);
- establish and maintain effective systems for tackling absence, ensuring they are followed by all staff;
- oversee attendance intervention, including quality assuring action plans and the arrangements for attendance review meetings;
- ensure appropriate school liaison with the local authority, including full engagement with the School Attendance Support Team, to ensure multi-agency working is effective;
- comply with the DfE's statutory guidance on *Children Missing Education* (CME) by informing the local authority of the details of children who are regularly absent or missing from school following a leave of absence, and prior to removing a child from the school roll;
- comply with the legal requirement to make absence returns to the local authority in accordance with locally agreed arrangements for all compulsory school age pupils 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 unauthorised absence codes (G, N, O or U);
- comply with the legal requirement to make sickness returns to the local authority for all compulsory school age pupils who have been recorded with code I (illness) and who the school has reasonable grounds to believe will miss 15 days consecutively or cumulatively in a year because of sickness, in order to assist both in agreeing provision needed to ensure continuity of education;
- comply with the requirements set out in the local authority's *Code of Conduct* when requesting legal intervention;
- ensure that Arbor is employed effectively and that staff accessing it are appropriately trained to meet all legal and statutory recording requirements so that they can make best use of the system to support effective data analysis and intervention.

Others responsible for attendance, as directed by the Headteacher[5] will:

- monitor attendance on a daily, weekly, half-termly, termly and annual basis, contacting parents of pupils who have been identified as 'at-risk of persistent absenteeism' to challenge absences and to encourage an early return to school;
- ensure that the attendance of pupils attending alternative provision is monitored regularly, that attendance information is received promptly from the provider and recorded appropriately, and that any absence patterns, safeguarding concerns or barriers to attendance are followed up without delay. The school will retain oversight of attendance and work collaboratively with the alternative provision, parents and relevant agencies to secure regular attendance and appropriate support;
- ensure data on attendance and punctuality is displayed in school in prominent places, visible to pupils and staff;
- implement the identified strategies for tackling unsatisfactory attendance including, where appropriate, carrying out home visits and/or making a referral to the local authority's

[5] Individual schools will have different members of staff in various roles carrying out these responsibilities; it will not necessarily be the same person taking responsibility for each action; the Headteacher will ensure individual staff members know which parts are their responsibility and this will be monitored by the Strategic Attendance Lead.

education welfare service or equivalent contracted service where concern is ongoing and/or where initial interventions are not proving effective;

- where necessary, and in line with school policy, issue appropriate sanctions to pupils for whom attendance and punctuality is a cause for concern;
- in line with school policy, issue appropriate rewards to pupils for whom attendance and/or punctuality has improved;
- with oversight from the strategic leader responsible for attendance, maintain an up-to-date Attendance Risk Register for 'high-risk' pupils, which tracks interventions and their impact;
- where punctuality is a concern, maintain a Punctuality Risk Register as outlined in section 8 of this policy;
- lead attendance interventions, including initiating Attendance Review Meetings and developing Attendance Action Plans involving the child, parent and, where appropriate, other agencies for pupils whose attendance and/or, if applicable, punctuality, falls below the expected level;
- coordinate the support plans for pupils returning to school after a prolonged absence;
- if appropriate, co-ordinate other staff members in agreed intervention activities, including mentoring and/or target setting of individuals or groups;
- where necessary, make referrals to appropriate external agencies;
- authorise appointments, as appropriate;
- co-ordinate the collation of all the documentary evidence required by the local authority for pursuing legal intervention;
- ensure that the procedures for making additions to, and removals from, the admissions register follow statutory guidance and that no pupil is removed without the school having full details of their destination and providing this information to the local authority, using agreed local procedures.

Class teachers responsible for morning and afternoon registration will:

- actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents;
- ensure that the statutory attendance register is taken at the start of the first session of the school day and once during the afternoon session;
- provide regular encouragement and support to the class as a whole and to individual pupils about the importance of regular attendance and punctuality;
- ensure their own register is completed accurately and in a timely manner;
- ensure absence notes or verbal messages relating to attendance and punctuality are provided to the attendance administrator;
- be proactive in noticing and addressing any signs of disaffection or any well-being concern which may result in poor attendance and punctuality, thereby impacting on learning and potentially safety;
- contribute to a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance, by providing stimulating teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve;
- support pupils to catch up on essential work missed following absence, thereby removing a potential barrier to re-engagement;
- regularly review class registers and report any absence trends or concerns that they identify.

Attendance administrators will:

- monitor whole school attendance on a daily basis, ensuring all registers are completed accurately and on time and that any missing marks are quickly resolved in order to keep pupils safe;
- be the first point of contact for parents and relevant school staff regarding pupil absence and appointments;

- be responsible for ensuring that the parents of non-attenders are notified by text message, or similar system, on the first day and any subsequent days of absence;
- ensure that reasons for absences are provided by parents after each period of absence;
- collate and issue all attendance and punctuality data on a daily, weekly, half-termly, termly and annual basis to attendance leaders and strategic leaders, as requested;
- maintain a record of all applications for leave of absence during term time and all requests to the LA to issue penalty notices;
- maintain a record of all mid-year arrivals and leavers, including reasons for their moves;
- maintain a log of all pupils whose parents have instructed the school to remove them from roll in order to electively home educate;
- support leaders, where requested, in making attendance referrals to external agencies;
- following approval from the relevant strategic leader, inform the local authority of any pupil who is to be deleted from the admissions and attendance registers.

All staff members will:

- lead by example, modelling excellent attendance and punctuality, thereby conveying a message about the importance we attach to attendance;
- in line with our *Ensuring Excellence* document, aim to create a positive atmosphere, developing excellent working relationships with pupils which are supportive and encouraging.

Parents/carers will:

- ensure their child attends school every day when the school is open;
- ensure their child arrives to school on time, ready and equipped to learn;
- be aware that it is an offence for their child to be absent from school without a valid reason;
- be aware that only the school can determine if an absence from school is 'authorised';
- notify the school as soon as possible and ideally before the start of the school day and on each subsequent day of absence if their child is unable to attend, including the reason for absence and the expected date of return;
- ensure that all appointments, wherever possible, are arranged out of school hours;
- ensure that where an appointment during school time is unavoidable, their child attends for as long as possible prior to and/or returns immediately after the appointment;
- ensure that their child returns to school as soon as possible after any period of illness;
- support their child's attendance by avoiding requesting leave during term time except in exceptional circumstances;
- understand that the school is not in a position to authorise a holiday in term time; [6]
- ensure that all requests for leave during term time are made by completing the *Leave of Absence during Term Time Request Form*, where possible at least one month in advance;
- work with the school and other agencies when barriers to their child's attendance are identified;
- be aware that for unauthorised absences the School Standards Committee reserves the right to apply to the local authority to issue a fixed penalty notice (a fine);
- provide the school with a minimum of two emergency contact numbers and ensure they are kept up to date with any changes.

Pupils, at the appropriate developmental level, will:

- strive to achieve an excellent level of attendance and punctuality;
- understand the correlation between high levels of attendance and academic achievement;

[6] From August 2023 schools are no longer permitted to authorise holidays in term time. As such, the H code for recording holiday absence has been removed.

- be proud of achieving excellent attendance and punctuality;
- ensure all absence notes/appointment cards are passed to the relevant member of staff;
- speak with the appropriate member of staff if there are any problems which may affect attendance, punctuality and/or learning;
- take responsibility for catching up on all work missed due to absence.

5. Day to Day Process for Registration and Responding to Absences

- The attendance register will be completed at the start of the first session of the day and once during the afternoon session.
- The member of staff with responsibility for taking the session register must record whether each pupil is:
    - Attending the school;
    - Attending a setting other than the school;
    - Absent - with leave of absence;
    - Absent - for other authorised reasons;
    - Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause;
    - Absent - due to unauthorised circumstances.
- Registers will be completed using the *Department for Education*'s Attendance and Absence Codes, as detailed below.
- Parents should report absences as soon as possible when known and ideally before 8:30 am on the first morning of absence and on each subsequent day of absence until the pupil's return.
- Where a pupil who is expected in school does not arrive, the school will contact parents on the morning of absence by automated text/messaging system or telephone to try to establish the reason for absence.
- The school will prioritise making contact where a child is considered to be vulnerable e.g. those in care, those with Child Protection Plans or those who have previously gone missing.
- When the reason is established, the absence will be marked as authorised or unauthorised depending upon the reason provided.
- If the school is unable to establish the reason for absence, the absence will be coded as unauthorised (O) after five working days.
- If the school is concerned about a pupil's safety or is unable to contact a parent, the school may use other named contacts[7] who may reasonably be able to confirm the child's whereabouts.
- In some cases, where concern is significant, the school may choose to contact the emergency services or other professionals for advice and support. Home visits may also be carried out by the school or external agencies, as appropriate.
- The school will record reasons for lateness or absence, whether received in note form or via email or phone call, using Arbor. Where phone calls home are made, details of the call or messages left will also be recorded.
- In line with legislation[8], any amendment to the attendance register will include:
    - The original entry
    - The amended entry
    - The reason for the amendment
    - The date of the amendment
    - The name and role of the person who made the amendment.

[7] Parents are expected to provide at least two named contacts for emergencies.
[8] *School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 - Regulation 6 (1))*

- Every entry on the attendance register will be retained for six years after the date of entry.
- In line with legislation[9], a back-up copy of the admission register and the attendance register will be made at least once a month in the form of an electronic or printed copy.

6. Absence coding

The school records attendance and absence, using national codes which comply with the regulations detailed in *Working together to improve school attendance - Guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities*, August 2024.

CODES WHICH COUNT AS PRESENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Attending the school:

**/ ** Present at the school - / = am session \ = pm session

L Late arrival before registration is closed

Attending a setting other than the school:

K Attending education provision arranged by the LA

V Attending and educational visit or trip

P Participating in a sporting activity

W Attending work experience

B Attending any other approved educational activity

D Dual registered at another school

CODES WHICH ALSO COUNT AS ABSENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Authorised absence - leave of absence:

C1 Leave for participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad

M Leave for attending a medical or dental appointment

J1 Leave for attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational establishment

S Leave for studying for a public examination

C2 Leave for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable

C Leave for exceptional circumstance

Authorised absence - for other authorised reasons:

T parent travelling for occupational purposes

[9] *School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 - Regulation 5 (3)*

R Religious observance

I Illness (not medical or dental appointments)

E Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made

CODES WHICH COUNT AS NEITHER ABSENT NOR PRESENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

X non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend

Unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause:

Q Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements

Y1 Unable to attend – transport normally provided is unavailable

Y2 Unable to attend – widespread travel disruption

Y3 Unable to attend – part of school premises closed

Y4 Unable to attend – whole school site unexpectedly closed

Y5 Unable to attend – Pupil in criminal justice detention

Y6 Unable to attend – In accordance with public health guidance or law

Y7 Unable to attend – Other unavoidable cause

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES CODES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Absent - due to unauthorised circumstances:

G Holiday taken without leave granted by school

N Reason for absence not yet established

O Absent in other or unknown circumstances

U Arrived in school after registration closed

ADMINISTRATIVE CODES - COUNT AS NEITHER ABSENT NOR PRESENT

Z Prospective pupil not on admission register

Planned whole or partial school closure

7. Promoting and incentivising good attendance

School staff work hard to create a positive working environment for our pupils in which they feel safe and supported. The school believes that pupils have the best opportunity to achieve if they feel happy and valued. This approach is at the heart of our school ethos.

We recognise that good attendance is a learned behaviour and that securing this is not a discrete piece of work but rather an integral part of the school's ethos and culture. We also understand the intrinsic connection between excellent attendance and high attainment. We are fully aware that

children with low attendance can be at increased risk in terms of safeguarding and well-being. Developing good attendance habits and setting high attendance and punctuality expectations is a key part of our school's vision, values and ethos; as such, the school aims to promote and incentivise high levels of attendance through a range of strategies including the following:

- Prioritising effective primary to secondary transition so that pupils who need additional support at this point receive it to help ensure a smooth and successful start to their secondary education;
- Providing a varied and flexible curriculum to meet the needs of all pupils, challenging the most able and supporting the pupils who struggle with their learning;
- Ensuring, in partnership with the LA, that, where appropriate, regular review meetings are held to support parents and pupils in raising their attendance levels in order to avoid prosecution;
- Setting personal targets and providing mentoring support for pupils who are struggling to attend regularly;
- Regularly providing parents with information regarding attendance via newsletters, our website and social media, highlighting the educational impact of absence;
- Reporting to parents regularly on their child's attendance, avoiding headline percentages and instead making this understandable for parents (e.g. explaining attendance in terms of days and learning hours missed);
- Informing parents rapidly where we notice attendance is starting to cause concern and providing clear information about available support;
- Continuing to liaise with parents, agreeing action plans and providing targeted support where a pupil's attendance continues to decline;
- Providing individually tailored re-integration programmes, when appropriate, for pupils who have been absent for an extended period;
- Rewarding good and improving attendance, using the school's reward system;
- Taking every opportunity to celebrate excellent and improved attendance, for example through letters and postcards home, praise phone calls, sustained or improved attendance prizes, celebration assemblies or by displaying/reporting individual and class/year group/House achievements.

8. Tracking and monitoring attendance

School staff with responsibility for attendance will monitor weekly attendance data so as to rapidly identify pupils and cohorts whose attendance is in decline and respond accordingly. We will routinely monitor key cohorts and pupil groups based on our context and school population. Possible groups might include:

- Whole school
- Individual year groups
- Boys/ girls
- Those eligible for free school meals
- Those with special educational needs or disabilities
- Pupils for whom English is an additional language
- Children who are looked after or who have been looked after previously
- Those with a social worker
- Those who are persistently or severely absent
- Any other groups of pupils or cohorts who have historically had lower attendance than their peers or about whom there is an emerging concern.

All school attendance data is routinely benchmarked against available local, regional and national data, using the DfE's *View Your Education Data* (VYED) portal to access the *Monitor Your School Attendance* tool. Relevant data is routinely shared with pupils, parents, staff teams, governors, the trust, including CAT trustees and the local authority, all with the intention of continuing to improve attendance levels.

Weekly monitoring and attendance improvement strategies should include:

- analysing data to identify attendance and punctuality concerns and successes within specific cohorts and pupil groups;
- displaying weekly attendance and punctuality data in prominent locations in school to engender a sense of friendly competition amongst staff and pupils;
- intervene with pupils who are regularly late without a good reason, informing parents;
- contacting parents to raise attendance and/or punctuality concerns with them, particularly where issues are repeated;
- contacting parents where attendance for the year to date falls below the school's minimum target for the first time;
- strategic leaders maintaining an overview of weekly attendance across the school.

Fortnightly monitoring and attendance improvement strategies should include:

- the strategic attendance lead agreeing appropriate intervention strategies with other colleagues who share an attendance remit
- the provision of up-to-date relevant cohort attendance data to class teachers and the provision of current whole school data to SLT.

Half termly monitoring and attendance improvement strategies should include:

- Attendance administrative staff producing half-termly attendance and punctuality data for attendance leads which will help leaders to analyse areas of concern and success within specific cohorts and pupil groups;

- The strategic leader responsible for attendance:
    - keeping an overview of the Attendance Risk Register across the school;
    - making use of the VYED portal's absence bandings data to support and inform targeted intervention;
    - agreeing appropriate intervention strategies with the Headteacher, if applicable;
    - identifying pupils requiring attendance review meetings;
    - providing the School Standards Committee with half termly data on attendance and punctuality, including data about pupils who are persistent/severe absentees and about leave of absence requests and their outcomes.

- The updating of the Attendance Risk Register as follows:
    - Pupils on 99-100% attendance are on level 0 (no risk of persistent absence)
    - Pupils on 97-98.9% attendance are on level 1 (low risk of persistent absence)
    - Pupils on 95-96.9% attendance are on level 2 (moderate risk of persistent absence)
    - Pupils on 92-94.9% attendance are on level 3 (high risk of persistent absence)
    - Pupils below 92% attendance are on level 4 (very high risk of persistent absence)

- Arranging attendance review meetings with pupils and parents for those placed on level 4 of the Attendance Risk Register, or the Punctuality Risk Register, if applicable, to:
    - discuss levels of authorised and unauthorised absences;
    - discuss punctuality levels;
    - discuss causes for the levels of absence and lateness;

- provide challenge and support to improve attendance and punctuality;
- set an action plan with achievable and realistic attendance and punctuality targets;
- agree a review date.

Half termly monitoring and punctuality improvement strategies may include the updating of the Punctuality Risk Register as follows:

- Pupils with no late marks in the previous half term are on level 0
- Pupils with 1-6 late marks in the previous half term are on level 1
- Pupils with 7-10 late marks in the previous half term are on level 2
- Pupils with 11-15 late marks in the previous half term are on level 3
- Pupils with 15+ late marks in the previous half term are on level 4

Termly monitoring and attendance improvement strategies should include:

- analysing data, including making use of the DfE's *Attendance Summary Reports*, to identify attendance and punctuality concerns and successes within specific cohorts and pupil groups;
- displaying termly attendance and punctuality data in prominent locations in school visible to staff, pupils and visitors;
- sharing attendance data and information regarding the importance of high levels of attendance with parents;
- issuing letters of concern to parents of pupils with attendance below 96%;
- issuing positive letters to parents of pupils who achieve above minimum expectation for attendance and punctuality or who have significantly improved attendance/attendance above the school target;
- recognising, celebrating and rewarding the above-mentioned pupils in celebration assemblies.

9. Vulnerable pupils including those with medical conditions or special educational needs and disabilities

We recognise that some pupils face greater barriers to attendance than their peers. These can include pupils with a social worker, those in receipt of Pupil Premium and those who suffer from long term medical conditions or who have special educational needs and disabilities. These pupils have the same right to an education as any other pupil and as such our attendance ambition for these pupils should be the same as they are for any other pupil.

Nevertheless, we remain sensitive to, and mindful of, the barriers these pupils may face and we will put additional support in place where necessary to help them access their full-time education. This includes:

- developing good support for pupils with physical or mental health conditions e.g. by making reasonable adjustments or putting in place an individual healthcare plan where needed;
- considering whether additional support from external partners would be appropriate;
- where a pupil has a social worker, informing them when the pupil is absent without good reason;
- making referrals in a timely manner and working together with external services to deliver any subsequent support;
- working collaboratively with parents, the local authority and relevant partner agencies to develop a coordinated plan of support where attendance concerns are linked to wider needs or vulnerabilities. This may include the use of Early Help processes, Team Around the Family

meetings and other multi-agency approaches to identify, address and review barriers to attendance;

- working with 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;
- establishing strategies for removing in-school barriers pupils may face;
- ensuring joined up pastoral care is in place where needed and consider whether a time-limited phased return to school would be appropriate, for example for those affected by anxiety about school attendance;
- issuing positive letters to parents and recognising, celebrating and rewarding pupils who work hard to attend whenever possible in the light of adversity or other barriers beyond their control.

Where attendance difficulties are linked to anxiety, emotional wellbeing or emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA), the school will seek to understand and address the underlying barriers to attendance through a supportive, individualised and graduated approach.

In all cases, the school will be sensitive and avoid stigmatising pupils and parents, instead working with them to understand how they feel and what they think would help improve their attendance. The aim will be to develop individual approaches that meet pupils' specific needs.

Data for the above groups will be proactively and regularly monitored to ensure they remain a key focus and that attendance is maximised.

10. Leave of absence

Education regulations and DfE guidance stipulate the following:

- Only exceptional circumstances warrant a leave of absence.
- Schools should consider each application individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.
- If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the headteacher to determine the length of the time the pupil can be away from school.
- As headteachers should only grant leaves of absence in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.
- Leave of absence will not be granted for a pupil to take part in a protest activity during school hours.
- Applications for Leave of Absence must be made in advance by a parent who the pupil normally lives with; failure to do so will result in the absence being unauthorised.
- Applications for Leave of Absence which are refused will result in the absence being unauthorised. This may result in legal action being taken against the parent.

While a leave of absence may be authorised in extenuating circumstances, parents will also be mindful that often in these difficult family times it can also be beneficial to the child for them to remain in school. In these circumstances a proportionate, minimal time away from school is encouraged.

11. Persistent and Severe Absence

The DfE defines a persistent absentee as a pupil whose attendance is at 90% or lower. This is the equivalent to having one day off every fortnight. As part of the Trust's persistent absence strategy a pupil is placed on Attendance Risk Register if their attendance falls below 92%, thereby ensuring they receive immediate intervention from this point onwards to help avoid becoming a persistent absentee.

Where a pupil's attendance is at 50% or lower, the DfE define this to be 'severe absence' and in these circumstances, where the pupil is missing over half of all learning opportunities, they should receive a more intensive level of support and where appropriate a more urgent level of challenge, including the possible use of legal intervention through the local authority to help secure improvement.

For both persistent and severe absentees, school-led intervention will have taken place and parental meetings will have been initiated with targets for improvement having been set as part of the process. Where agreed strategies have proved unsuccessful, further consultation will take place with local authority attendance services/School Attendance Support Team to agree a way forward. This may include putting formal support in place in the form of an attendance contract, intensifying multi-disciplinary support for families via an Early Help Assessment or through statutory social care involvement, where there are safeguarding concerns or by initiating legal intervention to formalise support and/or enforce attendance where voluntary support has not been successful or engaged with.

While the intention will always be to work with pupils and their families to successfully secure improved attendance so that pupils are no longer persistent or severe absentees, where all attempts to engage with parents have proved unsuccessful and all strategies to secure compliance have been exhausted, the school will have no option but to consider legal action. In these circumstances the school will liaise with the local authority to decide whether issuing a fixed penalty notice, as an alternative to prosecution, would be effective in changing parental behaviour and securing the regular attendance of their child. In such circumstances the local authority's *Code of Conduct* for issuing fixed penalty notices will be followed. Should the relevant agencies agree that a fixed penalty notice is unlikely to change parental behaviour and secure improved attendance, the decision may be made to move directly to prosecution via court action. If there are also safeguarding concerns, support will be sought through the Local Authority's Children's Social Care.

12. Children Missing Education

The school recognises that children missing education can be a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues including neglect, sexual abuse and child sexual and criminal exploitation. As such, the school will respond rapidly at the first sign of a potential child missing education, making enquiries as to the whereabouts of the pupil as soon as concern is raised.

The school will only remove a pupil from the Admissions Register in line with the *Pupil Registration Regulations*. We will follow the local authority's *Children Missing Education* (CME) procedures, making appropriate referrals in all circumstances where:

- a pupil of compulsory school age is absent for ten or more days without the school being able to ascertain the reason for that absence; or

- the whereabouts of the pupil is unknown and the school has been unable to locate them, despite making active enquiries; or
- the family has informed the school that they are leaving the area but there has been no request for the Common Transfer Form from a receiving school.

13. Re-integrations and temporary reduced timetables

All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. However, where pupils have been absent through sickness for any extended period of time, the school will discuss with parents/carers the most appropriate way to re-integrate their child back into school. For some pupils it may be appropriate to have work sent home to them to work on, with the understanding that appropriate support will be given by the school upon their return. In these circumstances, upon returning to school, teachers may choose to focus on work in the core subjects, identifying the priority needs of the pupil so as not to hinder future learning. Inclusion support will also be available, as appropriate.

In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary reduced timetable to meet their individual needs. For example, where a medical condition prevents a pupil from attending full-time education and a reduced timetable is considered appropriate by the school, as part of a re-integration package.

A reduced timetable will never be used to manage a pupil's behaviour.

A reduced timetable will only be used for the shortest time necessary and will never be initiated as a long-term solution. Any pastoral support programme or other agreement will have a time limit at which point the pupil is expected to attend full time, either at school or alternative provision. Formal regular reviews will be held with the pupil and their parents.

In agreeing to a reduced timetable, a school has agreed to a pupil being absent from school for part of the week or day and therefore must treat those absences as authorised.

14. Escalation of procedures and legal intervention

The school will endeavour to always take a 'support first' approach to managing and improving attendance, working proactively with parents and pupils to remove barriers and improve a pupil's attendance through the range of strategies detailed in this policy. However, if a pupil's attendance continues to decline or if engagement strategies have not had the desired effect, the school will liaise with the local authority and other local partners to help support families with ongoing barriers. This could include Pastoral Support Plans, attendance contracts or involvement with early help or social care.

The local authority may choose to exercise its legal powers to address ongoing poor attendance. This might include:

A Notice to Improve

This is a final opportunity for a parent to engage in support and improve attendance prior to issuing a penalty notice and runs over a timeframe of between three to six weeks. What constitutes sufficient improvement will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Fixed Penalty Notices

Fixed penalty notices will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may be served on parents as an alternative to prosecution where parents have failed to ensure that their child of compulsory school age regularly attends the school where they are registered or at a place where alternative provision is provided. Fixed penalty notices can be issued to each parent.

Fixed penalty notices are intended to prevent the need for court action and should only be used where it is deemed likely to change parental behaviour and where support to secure regular attendance has been provided and has not worked or been engaged with, or where support would not have been appropriate in the circumstances of the offence, such as following an unauthorised holiday in term time.

A penalty notice may also be issued where parents allow their child to be present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification during the first five days of a suspension or permanent exclusion.

The national threshold for considering a penalty notice is ten sessions (typically five days) within a rolling period of ten school weeks and incurs a fine of £160 if paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 when paid within 21 days. A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil incurs a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days. All fines are paid to the LA and will be administered in line with their local code of conduct. There is no right of appeal by parents against a penalty notice.

Education Supervision Orders (ESO)

Where a voluntary early help plan, or formal attendance contract has not been successful, an Education Supervision Order (ESO) can be a useful alternative to provide formal legal intervention without criminal prosecution. ESOs are made through the Family or High Court, rather than Magistrates Court. They give the local authority a formal role in advising, helping and directing the pupil and parent(s) to ensure the pupil receives an efficient, full-time, suitable education.

Where parents persistently fail to comply with the directions given under the ESO, they may be guilty of an offence. Local authorities can prosecute in the Magistrates Court for persistent non-compliance with the Order and parents (upon conviction) will be liable to a fine of up to £1,000.

Prosecution

If a child of compulsory school age fails to attend regularly at a school at which they are registered, or at a place where alternative provision is provided for them, their parents may be guilty of an offence and can be prosecuted by the local authority.

Prosecution in the Magistrates Court is the last resort where all other voluntary and formal support or legal intervention has failed or where support has been deemed inappropriate in the circumstances of the individual case.

The local authority has the power to prosecute parents who fail to comply with the school attendance order under section 443 of The Education Act 1996 or fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at school under section 444 of The Education Act 1996. The fines available to the courts if the parents are found guilty could be between £1000 and £2500. The courts can also sentence parents to a community order or imprisonment for up to three months.

Parenting orders

Parenting orders can be imposed by the Court following conviction for non-attendance alongside a fine and/or community order. Parents' agreement is not required before an order is made. They

may be appropriate where the parent has not engaged in support to improve their child's attendance and where compulsion to do so would help change parental behaviour.

The order requires a parent to comply with the arrangements specified in the order by the Court which can include a requirement for parents to attend counselling or guidance sessions (e.g. parenting education or parenting support classes) where they will receive up to three months of help and support to enable them to improve their child's attendance.

15. Removal from Admissions Register and Elective Home Education

Schools are only permitted to remove compulsory school aged children from roll under certain circumstances, detailed in regulation 9 of the *School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024*.

In accordance with regulation 13(4) to (6) of the *School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024*, schools must make a return to the local authority as soon as a pupil's name is deleted from the admission register under any of the reasons set out in regulation 9 (1) or 9 (3). This does not apply where the pupil's name is deleted after they have completed the school's most senior year.

This school will only delete a pupil's name from the admission register where the specified grounds detailed in the aforementioned regulations are met. Where a pupil's name is deleted from the admissions register, they must be deleted from the attendance register at the same time.

Schools may not retrospectively delete a pupil's name from the admission register or attendance register as these registers must be an accurate record of who is a registered pupil and their attendance at any given time. A pupil's attendance must be recorded up until the date that the pupil's name is deleted from the admission register.

A name of a pupil transferring to another school must be deleted from the admission register as soon as they are entered on the admission register of the new school. The new school must enter the pupil's name on the admission register on the first day that it has agreed the pupil will start attending.

Elective Home Education

In line with best practice and DfE guidance, the school does not seek to persuade parents to educate their children at home as a way of avoiding an exclusion or because of poor attendance. However, the school does understand that home education is a parental choice and that there is no requirement for parents to obtain the school's or the local authority's agreement to educate their child at home. As such, on receipt of written notification from a parent of their intention to educate their child other than at school, the school will follow its EHE procedure as detailed in Appendix 1, which includes informing the LA immediately that the pupil is to be deleted from the admission register, providing the expected date of deletion, in line with parental wishes.

16. Concluding points

All of our attendance procedures are intended to ensure that:

- we have a consistent recording system of pupil attendance which enables us to meet legal requirements;
- the security and safety of our pupils is a priority;
- trends of lateness and absenteeism are identified and addressed.

Our *Attendance and Punctuality Policy* is part of a wider set of policies and documents all aimed at ensuring that all our pupils receive a broad, balanced education in a safe, caring environment. This ethos is reflected in the following related documents:

- *Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy*
- *Behaviour Policy*
- *Child on Child Abuse Policy*
- *Equal Opportunities Policy*
- *SEND Policy*
- *Ensuring Excellence* document

This policy will be reviewed annually, or earlier if required.

17. Appendix 1 - Woodloes Primary School process for addressing Elective Home Education (EHE) requests

The aim of this process is to discourage parents from taking their child out of school to electively home educate. Staff members are expected to inform the Head/Deputy Head/Assistant Head/HOY[10] responsible for attendance, if they hear of any pupil whose family are considering EHE.

Stages	Actions	Further actions if stages missed
1	Parent or child indicate to a member of staff that EHE is likely to be pursued, or is being considered as an option. Staff member shares information with the Headteacher immediately via email. Headteacher initiates a new EHE record. Even if the EHE does not go through, this will be stored on file for the records.	If a letter is brought in with no warning, Admin to speak with parents immediately and if, after discussion, parents remain resolute, school will immediately remove child from roll from the date indicated on the letter and follow Stage 4 procedures.
2	Parent, and child, if appropriate, invited into school for a meeting with Headteacher/Deputy Head. In the vast majority of cases, parents will immediately be informed that the school does not support EHE. The disadvantages and issues surrounding EHE are shared verbally. If parents/child do not attend a face-to-face meeting, this message may be shared over the phone. The reasons for EHE are explored at this stage. The school will be proactive in attempting to resolve issues.	If a letter is brought to the meeting, and if, after discussion, parents remain resolute, school will immediately remove from roll from the date indicated on the letter and follow Stage 4 procedures.
3	Admin will notify the LA of potential EHE, following local procedures and confirm the school is trying to address this and keep the child in school. This email is kept on file, along with any response received. Any advice from the LA is actioned by the school. **A letter is sent to the parents by the Attendance Lead,** stating that we advise against their child being Electively Home Educated and offering support to resolve any issues.	If no further parental contact or correspondence, or if parents remain resolute, move to Stage 4.
4	If parent remains adamant that they wish to remove their child from roll and have put it in writing, along with the date of required removal, **a letter will be sent to the parents from the Attendance Lead**, confirming removal from roll from the requested date. The letter will include details of how to re-apply for admission should they change their mind. Admin/Headteacher will complete the relevant EHE form and send to the school's Attendance Lead, along with the formal written request received from the parents. School will send the documentation to the LA and confirm removal from school roll.	
5	All paperwork/evidence are retained in the student's school file. NB - If a parent sends in a EHE letter and does not engage in any of the school's meetings this will be evidenced via communication logs and emails. Both Stage 3 and Stage 4 letters will still be sent.	

[10] Edit to name relevant role/colleague, as applicable.

18. Appendix 2 - Leave of Absence During Term Time Request Form

Application for Leave of Absence During Term Time - Exceptional Circumstances Only

Warwickshire County Council
Children and Young People Directorate

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR A SCHOOL PUPIL IN TERM TIME IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES ONLY

Important Information for Parents/Carers

Generally, the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

- Exceptional circumstances: All schools can grant a leave of absence for other exceptional circumstances at their discretion:
  - It must be requested in advance by a parent who the pupil normally lives with.
  - Schools are then expected to consider each application individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.
  - If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the school to determine the length of the time the pupil can be away from school.
- When making an application for Leave of Absence the resident parent is advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify of their decision.
- Requests for leave of absence should made before any arrangements confirmed or money committed.
- It is advised if you have not received notification from the school regarding the leave of absence request, it is your responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of leave.
- Failure to make a request for a leave of absence in advance will result in the absence being recorded as unauthorised.
- Any additional days taken either side of a leave of absence period, which has not been applied for, may be considered as part of the leave of absence period and be unauthorised.
- Unauthorised Leave of Absences will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service upon the child's return to school for consideration of a Penalty Notice.

Please see over for important information relating to the changes in relation to Penalty Notices

I wish to apply for Leave of Absence from school to be granted to:

Name of Child: _____ Form Group: _____

First Date of Proposed Absence: _____ Last date of Proposed Absence: _____

Expected date of return to school: _____

Reason for Proposed Absence – please provide reasons to support the application including evidence (see overleaf before completing):

.....

.....

.....

Total Days Requested on this occasion. _____

(For siblings) I have also applied to _____ School/Academy for leave of absence for _____ (Insert child/children's name)

Signature of resident Parent/Carer: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

For school use only: NAME OF CHILD: _____ **Date received by school:** _____

1st date of absence requested by parents: ..... Last date of absence requested by parents: .....

Expected date of return to school (as advised by parents): .....

Absence: Authorised / Unauthorised / Split (please delete as appropriate)

The reasons for this decision are: .....

• **LOA record sheet to be completed by school and submitted where verbal requests made/ for other relevant information**
Head teacher/Attendance Lead: ..... Date: .....
• **Copy of this completed section should be sent back to parent with letter**

➢ Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their children of compulsory school age receive a suitable full-time education through regular attendance at a school or otherwise (ie home education) (Section 7 Education Act 1996). If a child who is of compulsory school age, who is registered at school and fails to attend regularly, it is the parent that will be guilty of an offence (Section 444 (1) Education Act 1996).

➢ Section 576 Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' as:

- Any natural parent, whether married or not;
- Any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person;
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

➢ The National threshold is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. If the local authority believes a penalty notice would be appropriate, they retain the discretion to issue one before the national threshold is met. This might apply for example, where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below threshold, or for repeated absence for birthdays or other family events. Please refer to Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for non-school attendance and penalty notices for further information.

Leave of Absence taken after 1 September 2024:

The law relating to Penalty Notices has been amended and Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absences taken after 1 September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- **First Leave of Absence offence:** The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.

- **Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice):** The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

- **Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice).** A penalty notice will not be issued, and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

➢ Any Penalty Notices issued and/or prosecution will apply to each parent for each child who fails to attend school (e.g 2 absent children is 2 offences under section 444 Education Act 1996).

➢ A Penalty Notice is an alternative to prosecution, however if the Penalty Notice expires and is not paid Warwickshire County Council will consider instigating a criminal prosecution under the Education Act 1996.

➢ Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted.

➢ Where criminal proceedings are issued and a parent is found guilty, the court could issue a sentence of a fine of up to £1,000 for a Section 444(1) conviction; or £2,500, a community sentence period or a custodial period of up to 3 months for a Section 444(1A) conviction.

19. Appendix 3 - Example Attendance Risk Register

The following template (or similar) is used by schools, at least fortnightly, to track attendance patterns, interventions used and to help measure their impact:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1	Full Name	Yr Group	Reg Group	SEN Status	PP	Last Yrs %	18/09	02/10	16/10	06/11	20/11	04/12	15/01	31/01	26/02	18/03	Comments
2		Year 9	9X		No	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
3		Year 9	9X	SEN Support	Yes	85.47	100	94.74	89.66	89.47	87.37	89.57	88.24	88.14	89.16	88.84	19/11 Bullying issue, HOY sorted
4		Year 9	9Y		No	97.49	100	100	96.55	97.37	95.79	96.52	97.39	97.74	98.03	98.28	
5		Year 9	9Y	SEN Support	No	88.02	88.89	76.32	84.48	85.53	86.32	82.61	83.01	78.53	78.82	77.25	01/10 Sickness
6		Year 9	9Y	SEN Support	Yes	90.33	77.78	73.68	79.31	84.21	86.32	86.96	84.97	87.01	85.71	86.7	10/09 2 days off ill
7		Year 9	9Z		No	93.3	100	100	100	100	100	99.13	96.73	97.18	95.57	95.71	
8		Year 9	9H		No	94.13	100	100	100	81.58	85.26	87.83	89.54	90.96	92.12	93.13	09/11 Unauthorised holiday
9		Year 9	9W		No	95.53	100	89.47	93.1	94.74	93.68	84.35	86.93	84.75	85.71	85.84	01/12 COVID

A template for this spreadsheet can be obtained from the Trust's Director of Behaviour and Safeguarding.

20. Appendix 4 - Attendance Risk Register Snapshot - Proforma

Please enter raw data (**a number, not a percentage**) to provide a snapshot of the number of pupils at each attendance level from September to the end of each specific half term.

	End of Autumn 1	End of Autumn 2	End of Spring 1	End of Spring 2	End of Summer 1	End of Summer 2
Level 0 99-100% no risk						
Level 1 97-98.9% low risk						
Level 2 95-96.9% moderate risk						
Level 3 92-94.9% high risk						
Level 4 <92% very high risk						

21. Appendix 5 - Punctuality Risk Register Snapshot - Proforma

Please enter raw data (**a number, not a percentage**) to provide a snapshot of the number of pupils at each punctuality level from the start to the end of each specific half term

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Level 0 No L or U codes						
Level 1 1-6 L or U codes						
Level 2 7-10 L or U codes						
Level 3 11-15 L or U codes						
Level 4 15+ L or U codes						

22. Appendix 6 - Absence data chart

Attendance data	This might indicate . . .	Associated risk
98% + Fewer than 4 school days absent per year	Outstanding attendance Fully able to access all learning opportunities	No risk of becoming a persistent or severe absentee
97 - 97.9% 4-6 school days absent per year	Excellent attendance Up to six learning days lost over the year Minimal learning opportunities missed	Very low risk of becoming a persistent or severe absentee
96 - 96.9% 6-8 school days absent per year	Good attendance Up to eight learning days lost over the year Very few learning opportunities missed	Low risk of becoming a persistent or severe absentee
95 - 95.9% 8-10 school days absent per year	Increasing concern if further absences occur Up to 10 learning days lost over the year Missed learning opportunities are likely to have an impact on attainment and progress	Moderate risk of becoming a persistent or severe absentee
92 - 94.9% 10-15 school days absent per year	Significant concern. Attendance levels require improvement Up to 16 learning days lost over the year Missed learning opportunities will now have a significant impact on attainment and progress	High risk of becoming a persistent or severe absentee
Below 92% More than 15 school days (3 school weeks) absent per year	Urgent concern. Attendance levels are now critical Over 16 learning days lost over the year Missed learning opportunities will now have a significant impact on attainment and progress	Very high risk of becoming a persistent or severe absentee
Below 90% More than 19 school days (4 school weeks) absent per year	Urgent concern. Attendance levels now critical Pupil is flagged as being a Persistent Absentee Over 19 learning days lost over the year Extreme risk of significant underachievement	Persistent Absentee
85% 29 school days (or 6 school weeks) absent per year	Urgent concern. Attendance levels now critical Pupil is flagged as being a Persistent Absentee Over 28 learning days lost over the year Extreme risk of significant underachievement Potential increased safeguarding risk	Persistent Absentee
80% 38 school days (or 8 school weeks) absent per year	Urgent concern. Attendance levels now critical Pupil is flagged as being a Persistent Absentee Over 38 learning days lost over the year Extreme risk of significant underachievement Potential increased safeguarding risk	Persistent Absentee
50% or below At least 95 school days (or 19 school weeks) absent per year	Education is at critical risk Pupil is flagged as being a Severe Absentee Over 97/195 learning days lost over the year Extreme risk of significant underachievement Potential increased safeguarding risk	Severe Absentee

Absence over seven primary school years - Further impact statistics	
85 - 90% attendance	Equivalent of over 27 weeks (⅔ of a year) absent from primary school
80% attendance	Equivalent of 55 weeks (a full year and a term) absent from primary school
1 day a week absent	Equivalent of over three years missed over full school career
10 days holiday a year	Equivalent of two terms of education missed over full school career
15 minutes late a day	Equivalent of two terms of education missed over full school career