

Attendance Strategy



Our Approach

Our school approach is written in conjunction with the DFE 'Working together to improve school attendance'. We work together with partners to ensure that we have the right culture in school to promote good attendance alongside the right support being offered at the right time to enable pupils to fully access education.

We recognise that the barriers to accessing education are wide and complex and therefore remain professionally curious at all times, seeking to expose the barrier or barriers to school attendance. We want to achieve the very best for all of our pupils and we seek to do this through building strong relationships with our families ensuring that they know we are a source of support at all times.

The Law

The law in the UK entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have.

Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means 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.

Our Vision

Our vision for attendance is intrinsically linked to our school statement of "**learning today, leading tomorrow**". Regular and prompt attendance is fundamental to ensuring every child maximises their educational opportunities, develops essential life skills, and reaches their full potential. Good attendance enables pupils to:

- ✓ engage fully with the curriculum
- ✓ build strong relationships
- ✓ prepare for their future roles as successful and happy citizens.

Expectations for Attendance

We have high expectations for attendance, striving for a whole-school target of **at least 96% attendance** for all pupils.

- **Punctuality:** All children are expected to arrive at school on time every day, ready to learn. Punctuality is a crucial life skill that will support each child as they grow older, both in school environments and in their future careers.
- **Regularity:** Pupils are expected to attend school every day the school is open, unless the absence is unavoidable due to illness or exceptional circumstances agreed upon with the school.
- **Communication:** Parents/carers are expected to contact the school on the first day of any absence, providing a clear reason. Although it should be noted that not all absences will be authorised.

Process

EXPECTATION

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

MONITOR

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

LISTEN AND UNDERSTAND

We have different progressive stages of how we respond, dependent on the child's overall attendance percentage, this is shown through our 'traffic light' overview:

	Percentage	Comment
Green	96 – 100%	Your child's attendance meets our school expectation. You have supported your child with achieving the best possible outcomes in life. If your child has achieved 100% - well done!
Amber	93.9 – 95.9%	Stage 1: At this stage you may be invited in for a meeting with the senior leader for your child's year group or you may receive a letter outlining our concerns. We understand that absences this may be due to illness (where we have authorised) or other authorised absences, we hope that by bringing this to your attention now, will help you and your child make the necessary improvements.
	91 – 93.8%	Stage 2: Your child's attendance is a serious cause for concern. If your child's attendance falls within this bracket, then you will meet with a member of the attendance team and a school action plan will be put in place. This will be monitored and could be escalated to the Local Authority if no improvement. Local Authority involvement may lead to a notice to improve issued, a fixed penalty notice or court proceedings.
Red	90% and below	Your child's attendance is far from our expectations and they are now on the persistent absentees list . At this stage there will be Local Authority involvement, which could be a notice to improve issued, a fixed penalty notice or court proceedings.

FACILITATE SUPPORT

We have in school incentives to support pupil's to come into school each day, build resilience for learning, remove barriers in school and help families to access the support they need to overcome the barriers outside of school. Informal and formal meetings are important as they offer a better understanding for attendance and / or punctuality concerns, so that the right support can be put in place. Support and the time frame for it is tailored to each family's needs.

FORMALISE SUPPORT

Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, depending on the circumstances we may include formalising support through referral to the Local Authority attendance team.

ENFORCE

Where all other avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or not being engaged with, we may enforce attendance through statutory intervention or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education

The Attendance Team

Attendance Champion Lead: Rachael Alexander-Gordon

Attendance Champion Officer: Kaylah Wynne-Peters

Senior Leaders: EYFS: Karen Britton / Years 1 and 2: Farida Kerr / Year 3: Sansel Guvercintasi / Years 4 and 5: Steve Rogers / Year 6: Patius Africa