

At Allanson Street Primary School, all staff work collaboratively to encourage every pupil to strive for excellence. Every child is supported, challenged and valued. One way in which we strive to do this is by encouraging staff, parents/carers and children to maximise the learning experience through good attendance in order that all children reach their maximum potential. We are determined in encouraging the development of high self-esteem and for our children to take pride and ownership of their learning. In conjunction with this, we will continuously provide a clear framework for parents/carers and staff as well as clear procedures for involving parents/carers and/or external agencies in promoting good attendance where appropriate.

Our Attendance and Absence policy applies to all children registered at this school and this policy is made available to all parents/carers of pupils that are registered at our school on the school website.

Aims & Objectives

This Attendance and Absence Policy ensures that all staff and governors in our school are fully aware of and clear about the actions necessary to promote good attendance. Through this policy we aim to:

- Improve pupils' achievement by ensure high levels of attendance and punctuality.
- Achieve a minimum of 96% for all pupils, 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 of parents, carers and pupils of the importance of uninterrupted attendance and punctuality at every stage of a child's education.
- Ensure that our policy applies to Nursery and Reception age children in order to promote good habits at an early age.
- Work in partnership with pupils, parents, staff and the Education Welfare Service 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 in promoting good attendance.

All pupils' school attendance and absence is managed through the use of Sims.

Registers are completed electronically each morning and again at the start of the afternoon session. Pupils who leave site during the school day are signed out in the file in the front office.

Responsibility of Parents/Carers

Children who are persistently late or absent soon fall behind with their learning. Children who are absent from school frequently develop large gaps in their learning which will

impact on their progress and their ability to meet age related learning expectations. A child whose attendance drops to 90% each year will, over their time at primary school, have missed more than six months of schooling.

Punctuality

It is the parent/carers responsibility:

- To ensure that their children arrive to school on time, the front door open at 8:40am until 9am. This is sufficient time for all pupils to get to their classroom.
- To ensure children who are late after 9am report to the school office to receive a late slip. Records are kept of the pupils that are late with an L code in the register.
- To ensure children are collected promptly at the end of the school day and that necessary arrangements are in place for the journey home. If these differ from the child's normal arrangements, the class teacher and school office should be made aware of this.

Absences

It is the parent/carer's responsibility:

- To notify the school on the first day of absence before 9:30am or as soon as possible. Parents can report an absence by telephoning the school office, emailing or via the school app.
- To provide medical evidence where possible, on the child's return to school.
- To ensure that as far as possible, medical appointments are arranged for outside school hours. Where this is not possible, parents are expected to provide evidence of the appointment in advance, and the child should attend school before/after the appointment.
- To liaise with the school as soon as possible regarding any specific issues that might cause absence or lateness, e.g. a sick parent/carer.

Parents/carers of children for whom we do not know the reason for absence will be contacted by text message after 9:30am (first day response).

Illness/Medical absences

In addition to the points above, if a child is repeatedly absent due to illness, the school may request medical evidence for further absences. This can take the form of a GP appointment card, a consultant letter, a copy of a prescription etc.

The school may request medical evidence for any illness absence taken immediately before or after a school holiday.

Absence for Holidays

Parents/carers are expected to take their children on holiday during the school holidays to minimise the impact of missing education.

If there are exceptional circumstances, parents/carers must complete a leave of absence request form in advance of the absence. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher, and they will use their discretion whilst applying government recommendations.

It is the parent/carer's responsibility:

- To obtain a leave of absence form from the school office.
- To complete and submit the form in advance of the period of absence.

If parents/carers decide to take a holiday without authorisation, the child's absences will be marked as unauthorised. **Fixed Penalty Notices may be issued by the Education**

Welfare Service for unauthorised holiday absence during term time. This fine is payable at £60 per child, per parent.

Absence for Other Reasons

Absences for reasons such as religious observance (up to 2 days per year) or close family bereavement *may* be authorised. These requests must be discussed with the school.

Absences for close family members' weddings or funerals will be limited to one day's authorised absence, if granted.

It is the parent/carer's responsibility:

- To inform the office, in writing, of the need for leave in circumstances which are known in advance.
- To inform the school as soon as possible when sudden circumstances occur which prevent a family bringing a child to school, so that the appropriate code can be recorded in the register.

Unexplained Absence

When a child is repeatedly absent and no satisfactory reason is given, the absence will be investigated and parents/carers may be liable for prosecution and/or a fine from the Local Authority.

Regular monitoring is carried out by the Education Welfare Officer. Children who have repeated unauthorised absences, holidays or otherwise, will be contacted by the Education Welfare Officer and may be invited in to an attendance meeting to discuss absences and any appropriate support.

Role of the Education Welfare Officer

- To investigate persistent absence (more than 10%), and to hold attendance meetings with these parents/carers as required.
- To investigate any unexplained absence which causes attendance to fall below 96% and support parents/carers to improve attendance.
- To investigate unexplained absence of vulnerable pupils (Child in Need/Child Protection) including making home visits.
- To investigate persistent lateness and support parents/carers to improve punctuality.

- To ensure parents are aware of their legal duty under the Education Act to ensure their children attend school.
- To put in place parenting contracts in order to offer intervention and support at an appropriate level.
- To refer cases to the Local Authority for prosecution where persistent absenteeism has not improved despite intervention and support from the school and Education Welfare Officer.
- To report accurate whole school and individual attendance data when required.

Children Missing in Education

If a child is absent (unexplained) for at least 5 consecutive days, the Education Welfare Officer will be notified. A home visit may be carried out. If the absence continues for a total of 10 days, the family will be referred as a CME case to the Local Authority.

Celebrating Good Attendance

Good attendance is celebrated both at an individual and class level.

Each week, all classes are made aware of their overall attendance for the previous week. A points system operates during the year and the class with the most attendance points at the end of the school year receive individual prizes.

Each term, pupils receive awards for 100% attendance.

At the end of the school year pupils receive medals for 100% attendance.

At the end of the school year, pupils with attendance over 96% take part in a treat activity such as a visit from the ice cream van.

This policy has been produced in line with the following Department for Education documents:

School attendance guidance July 2019 (non-statutory)

School attendance parental responsibility measures January 2015 (statutory)