



East Midlands Academy Trust

Attendance Policy

'Every child deserves to be the best they can be'

| Scope: East Midlands Academy Trust & Academies within the Trust | |
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| Owner: Thompson Team / Head of Education | |

| Policy type: | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Statutory | Replaces Academy's current policy |

Revision History

| Revision Date | Revisor | Description of Revision |
|--------------------|-----------|--|
| December 2025 v3.1 | A Kennedy | Updated template letters |
| September 2025 v3 | TT | Updated to reflect changes and additions to local and national guidance. Minor changes. Reflecting update to KCSIE 2025. |
| April 2025 v2.1 | ZM / TT | Updated to allow home visits to be made earlier should it be considered appropriate Ensuring consistent message of 96% as the academy attendance target. |
| September 2024 v2 | AR / TT | DFE updates to FPN fine and irregular attendance scope. Updated attendance codes. Reference to parental contract changed to attendance contract. Reference to KCSIE 2024. |
| May 2024 v1.2 | AR | Addition of criteria that must be met before WNC School Attendance Support Team can proceed with any referral. |
| March 2024 v1.1 | JL | Addition of reference to text message and email communication, incl Appendix F Tidied pupil absence safeguarding procedure diagram |
| February 2024 v1 | TT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Policy |

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AIMS AND PURPOSE

The following policy sets out the mechanisms and processes for attendance monitoring within EMAT but fundamentally we believe a strong partnership with parents, carers and pupils is the key ingredient. Regular school attendance is essential if pupils are to achieve their full potential. Prince William School believes that regular school attendance is the key to enabling pupils to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become resilient, confident and competent adults who can realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community. Every young person is entitled to an education and absence from school means lost learning. Pupils' absence can sometimes also be a warning sign for a range of safeguarding issues.

Prince William School believes that the foundation to secure good attendance is ensuring that school is a calm, orderly, safe and supportive environment where all pupils want to be and are keen and ready to learn.

Attendance is an essential foundation for positive outcomes for all pupils and the responsibility of everyone.

Our attendance target for pupils is 96% and above and we are committed to working proactively to help and support parents/carers and pupils to achieve this. The school will implement early intervention with parents/carers and pupils if attendance falls below this figure.

1. LEGISLATION AND STATUTORY GUIDANCE

This Attendance Policy should not be viewed in isolation. It is a strand that runs through all aspects of school improvement and is supported by our policies on safeguarding, bullying, behaviour and SEND.

The school adheres to all relevant legislation, statutory guidance and local guidance from the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. This includes:

Statutory Guidance

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation (July 2020)
- Early Years Foundation Stage (2025)
- Working together to improve school attendance (August 2024)

Legislation

- The Children Act 1989 and The Children Act 2004
- Section 5B(11) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015
- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (and the Prevent Duty guidance, updated 2023)
- The Education Act 2002
- The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009
- Part 1 of the schedule to the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015.
- The Equality Act (2010)
- The Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 (and 2018 amendment)
- The Childcare Act 2006 (all schools with pupils aged under 8)

The school also has regard to relevant non-statutory guidance relating to safeguarding, including:

- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused (2015)
- Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings (2022)
- Information Sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (2024)

This policy links with other school policies and procedures, including:

- Behaviour policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Colleague Code of Conduct
- Complaints policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Online Safety policy
- SEND policy
- Equality policy
- Relationships & Sex Education policy
- First Aid policy
- Designated CLA Teacher policy
- Privacy notices
- Speak Up policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Acceptable Usage policy
- Pupil Mental Health and Wellbeing policy

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

We will ensure every child becomes the best they can be. But this means we need parents/carers to work with us to ensure that their child(ren) attend school. Through ensuring children of compulsory school age attend school, in return they will receive full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude.

A child is of compulsory school age at the beginning of the term following their 5th birthday. A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the academic year in which they reach the age of 16.

Under the Education Act 1996, the local authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that parents/carers secure education for children of compulsory school age and where necessary, use legal enforcement.

The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, require schools to take an attendance register twice a day, once at the start of the morning session and again during the afternoon session.

The register must record whether the pupil was:

- present
- absent
- present at approved educational activity; or
- unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

3. ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE

Where pupils at compulsory school age are recorded as absent, the register must show whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

Absence can only be authorised by the Headteacher and cannot be authorised by parents/carers. All absences will be treated as unauthorised unless a satisfactory explanation for the pupil's absence has been received.

4.1. Procedures for reporting absence

Parents/carers must advise the school by telephone on day one of each absence which must be reported by 8:30am. This can be done via Edulink, emailing attendance@pws.emat.uk or by telephone on 01832 272881 and selecting option 2 for main school absence line. If your child is in sixth form and you wish to report their absence, please select option 1. Please provide your child's name, the reason for the absence and their expected return date. This must be followed up with medical evidence should a child have visited a doctor/dentist etc. This can be in the form of an appointment letter/card/text or a copy of a prescription.

Vulnerable pupils

Vulnerable pupils, including but is not exclusive to, those who are Looked After Children (LAC), subject to a Child Protection Plan (CP) or Children in Need (CIN), have specific expectations on monitoring to ensure their continued safety. Any unexplained absence will be followed up immediately by a telephone call to the pupil's home, a home visit or by a call to the local authority duty line and/or any other relevant agencies in order that a same-day visit can be made. Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will be treated with similar priority. We will work closely with vulnerable pupils' parents/carers and appropriate agencies to support their learning and ensure their safety.

4.2. Categorising absence

Absence is categorised as follows:

- **Illness:** parents/carers may be asked to provide medical evidence to allow the Headteacher to authorise absence where appropriate. This will usually be in the form of an appointment card, prescription etc.
- **Medical/dental appointments:** parents/carers are advised where possible to make medical and dental appointments outside of the school day. Where this is not possible, pupils must attend school for part of the day. Parents/carers must show the appointment card/text to school.
- **Other authorised circumstances:** this relates to where there is cause for absence due to *exceptional* circumstances, e.g. serious family illness or bereavement.
- **Suspension:** suspension from attending school is counted as an authorised absence. In these circumstances, the school will arrange for work to be sent home.

4.3. Requesting a leave of absence

Parents/carers who need to take their **child out of school during term time due to exceptional circumstances must send a written request to the Headteacher** using the school's Term Time Absence Request Form (See Appendix A).

Only exceptional circumstances warrant a leave of absence. We will consider each application individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.

All requests for term time absence will be responded to in writing outlining whether the request for absence has been granted.

Retrospective requests for term time absences will not be considered and therefore will result in the absence being categorised as unauthorised.

If a pupil fails to return to school and contact with the parents/carers has not been made or received, school may take the pupil off the school's roll in compliance with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. This means that the child will lose their school place.

If the permission to take term time absence is not granted and the parent/carer takes their child out of school the absence will be unauthorised. In such cases, the school may request the local authority issue a Fixed Penalty Notice or consider other legal sanctions including prosecution in the Magistrates' Court.

4.4. Religious Observance

We acknowledge the multi-faith nature of British society and recognise that on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods or weekends and that this may result in the need for a term-time absence request. Any absence request for religious observance must be in line with DfE guidance relating to absence for religious observance. We may authorise a one day absence per occasion where the day is exclusively set aside for religious observance by the religious body to which the parents/carers belong. Parents/carers will be aware of these dates in advance and a Term Time Absence Request Form should be submitted to the school (Appendix A). Any further days taken will be unauthorised. If a term time Absence Request Form is not submitted, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. Where necessary, the school will liaise with, and seek advice from, the relevant local religious bodies.

4.5. Late arrival to school (punctuality)

Lateness to school or poor punctuality also negatively impact pupils' learning. If a pupil is late by 5 minutes each day, over an academic year this would amount to three whole days of learning lost, 10 minutes lateness is six and a half days, and 15 minutes is 10 days of lost learning. 10 days is 50 hours and this can seriously impact on a pupil's achievement and ultimately, life chances. Good timekeeping is an important life skill. Poor punctuality not only disrupts your child's learning but the learning of others. It is for these reasons we take punctuality very seriously.

Pupils are expected to arrive on time and **we encourage all pupils to arrive to school 15 minutes before school begins** so that they are in their classroom ready to learn. Lateness to school is not acceptable.

Registration begins at the following times for our pupils:

- 8.50am for all pupils

Registration is completed by a member of staff and pupils are given a code to show their attendance status (see Appendix B).

The register closes 30 minutes after school begins for all pupils. All pupil absence codes are checked by the Attendance Team and all pupils on site are accounted for by 9:30am. If a pupil is absent and no reason has been provided, we will send a text to the parent/carer at this time. If no response has been received by 10:30am, a call will be made to the contacts provided. If the school is not able to make contact with a parent/carer of the absent child, a home visit may be made to check on their welfare.

Pupils who arrive after formal teaching has started will be marked as 'Late' on the registers (coded 'L').

Pupils arriving after the close of register must immediately report to Reception to ensure that they are registered correctly and that staff are aware that the pupil has arrived in school. This will be recorded as an unauthorised half-day absence (coded 'U'). Statutory action, as outlined in section 11, may be taken where appropriate. Lateness will only be authorised if a satisfactory explanation and evidence for the late arrival is provided, for example, attendance at a medical appointment.

Due to the importance of punctuality, all pupils who arrive late to school will be issued with a detention arranged by the head of year (please see the behaviour and attitudes policy for more details).

4.6. Unauthorised absence

Absence will not be authorised unless parents/carers have provided a satisfactory reason and explanation that has been accepted as such by the Headteacher.

Examples of **unsatisfactory** reasons include:

- A pupil's/family member's birthday
- Shopping for uniform or any other shopping activities
- Having a hair cut
- Closure of a sibling's school for training days or other purposes
- "Couldn't get up"
- Illness where the child is considered well enough to attend school
- Family holidays
- Looking after a family member.

5. ABSENCE PROCEDURES: SCHOOL ACTIONS

If a pupil is marked absent when registration opens and this has not been reported by parents/carers by the expected time (see above), the Attendance Team will make a telephone call to the parent/carer on the same day to clarify the reasons for the absence and ensure the absence of a pupil is made known to the parent/carer (see appendix E). If contact is not able to be made by phone, contact will be made by text message and followed up with a further phone call. If a pupil is deemed to be vulnerable and we have not had a response, the school will make a home visit and inform the relevant agencies as appropriate (Police, Social Care etc).

If a pupil is absent for three or more consecutive days and it has not been possible to make contact with the parent/carer, a home visit will be made no later than the third day of absence and any subsequent days of absence until contact is made. For vulnerable pupils, daily home visits will be made on the first day of absence and any subsequent days of absence. For any child who is absent without explanation and contact is not able to be made, advice may be sought from the local authority in order that further investigations can be made. Police and/or other relevant external agencies may also be notified where the school has concerns.

In the event of a pupil's absence where contact has been made with the parent / carer, a home visit will be made no later than the fifth day of absence and at regular intervals until no later than the 10th day of continuous absence. For children defined as a vulnerable pupil, daily home visits will be made on the first day of absence and any subsequent days of absence. For any child, Police and/or other relevant external agencies may also be notified where the school has concerns.

Where there are unexplained or unauthorised absences, the school will contact parents/carers for more information. Where there is a pattern of unauthorised absence, or children being absent from education for prolonged periods and/or on repeat occasions, the school will contact parents/carers to discuss the reasons for this and school systems that could support the family and/or the pupil with their attendance.

Reasons for absence must always be reported by parents/carers. Where a pupil gives a reason for an unauthorised absence, the Attendance Officer will contact the parent/carer to discuss this absence.

A Child Missing in Education (CME) referral will be made by the Attendance Officer where the following criteria applies:

- A pupil has been absent from school for a period of 10 consecutive school days
- The absence was unauthorised
- The school has not been able to contact the parents/carers
- The family do not appear to be living at the home address.

The school will take disciplinary action against any pupils discovered to be truanting. Truancy includes a pupil absconding from lessons and/or absconding from school. In the event of truancy, parents/carers will be contacted to discuss possible reasons and school systems that could support the family and child to reduce the risk of further absence.

6. LOW AND PERSISTENT ABSENCE

We monitor pupils' attendance closely and regularly inform parents/carers about their child's attendance and absence levels, including the amount of time missed and the impact on the pupil's learning.

| Percentage Attendance | Number of days absence | Lost learning time | What happens? |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Pupils with attendance 100% | 0 | 0 | Maximised chance of success. School implements rewards |
| Pupils with attendance 99 – 96% | 2 to 8 days | 10 to 30 hours | Satisfactory level of attendance considering genuine illnesses or other authorised circumstances |
| Pupils with attendance 95 – 91% | 7.5 to 17 days | 37.5 to 80 hours | Unsatisfactory attendance. Early targeted intervention put in place. Contact made with home to raise awareness of low or declining attendance. Possibility of meeting with senior leader and school governor to discuss support needed and set target. Clear messaging about risks of county intervention if attendance does not improve – see Appendix G |
| Pupils with attendance below 90% | 19 days or more across the year | 95 hours or more | If you have been asked to attend a meeting to discuss your child's attendance and attendance has not improved, a parent contract meeting will be requested. Where this happens, you are at risk of the school referring the case to County Council for irregular attendance review. If County feel it is an aggravated offence, you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice or even legal proceedings where you will be expected to explain your child's attendance to a magistrate |

We report pupils' attendance to parents and carers on a regular basis. Where we have concerns about attendance, we will notify parents / carers by letter (see appendix D). In addition, we provide parents and carers with weekly updates by text or email (see appendix F).

Low or declining attendance

The school reviews attendance to look for patterns and will take early action based on low or declining attendance (see appendix G).

6.1. Persistent Absence

A pupil has persistent absence (PA) if attendance falls below 90%. When a pupil misses 10% or more of school this is equivalent to 1 day or more per fortnight across a full school year. We will put additional targeted support in place for pupils who are persistently absent.

6.2. Severe Absence

Severe absence is when attendance falls below 50%. Pupils who are absent from school more than they are present are identified as severely absent pupils.

These pupils may find it more difficult to be in school or face bigger barriers to their regular attendance and as such, we will provide more intensive, targeted support and an agreed joint approach with parents/carers, local authorities and where necessary, working with additional partners and agencies. All partners will work together, including specific support with attendance, including where relevant a whole family plan, or, for example, possible consideration for an education, health and care plan or an alternative form of educational provision where necessary to overcome barriers to a pupil being in school.

We will work with the local authority's School Attendance Support Team to identify, discuss, and agree joint targeted actions for pupils who are persistently or severely absent and those at risk of becoming so. This will include agreeing what support the local authority will provide and which (if any) other statutory or voluntary services should become involved.

Parents/carers should do everything possible to encourage all school-age children to attend. However, if the reason for their reluctance appears to be school based, such as difficulty with work, please discuss this with the school at the earliest opportunity and the school will do everything possible to resolve the problem.

School refusal/school phobia is a psychological condition that has been medically diagnosed. Other arrangements may be put in place for a child with a genuine school phobia diagnosis and referrals to external agencies will be sought to support the pupil in receiving their education.

7. REMOVAL FROM THE SCHOOL REGISTER

In accordance with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, pupils can be removed from the school's register when one of the following circumstances applies:

- The pupil has ceased to be of compulsory school age.
- Permanent exclusion has occurred, the correct process has been completed and the local authority has indicated the pupil can be removed from roll.
- Transfer to a new school; the pupil will not be removed from the register until we have received confirmation of their new provision and evidence the pupil has started.

- The pupil is withdrawn by the parent/carer (in writing) to be educated outside the school system.
- Failure to return from an extended holiday after the school has tried to locate the pupil, continuous unauthorised absence and/or the school has not been able to locate the pupil. The school will complete a Child Missing in Education (CME) application to the local authority.

8. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We believe that improved school attendance can only be achieved if it is viewed as a shared responsibility of the school staff, governors, parents/carers, pupils, and the wider school community.

8.1. East Midlands Academy Trust will:

- Recognise the importance of school attendance and promote it across the trust's ethos and policies.
- Take an active role in attendance improvement, support our schools to prioritise attendance, and work together with school leaders to establish positive, whole-school attendance cultures.
- Work collaboratively with staff in schools, the local advisory boards, local authorities, and other local partners to support schools to maintain high levels of attendance for all pupils.
- Set high expectations of all leaders, staff, pupils, and parents/carers.
- Ensure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties.
- Regularly review attendance data, discuss, and challenge trends, and help school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Identify and monitor attendance patterns across our schools to identify common issues and barriers and share effective practice between schools.
- Regularly review attendance data at board meetings, including thorough examination of recent and historic trends at a school level as well as benchmarking to comparator schools within the trust, local authority area, region and nationwide.
- Regularly review the Attendance Policy and ensure the required resources are available to fully implement the policy.
- Ensure training on attendance is included in any trust wide induction packs.
- Ensure training on attendance is included in schools continued professional development offer for all staff.
- Provide opportunities to share effective practice and interventions on attendance management and improvement across schools.
- Where appropriate, share staff and other resources between schools in the trust.

8.2. The Trust Board and Local Advisory Board will:

- Recognise the importance of school attendance and promote it across the school's ethos and policies.
- Ensure that the importance and value of good attendance is promoted to pupils and their parents/carers.
- Regularly review the school's Attendance Policy and ensure the required resources are available to fully implement the policy.
- Ensure that the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and other attendance related legislation is complied with.

- Agree school attendance targets and, where appropriate, link these to the performance management of senior leadership within the school.
- Monitor the school's attendance and related issues through termly reporting at Governing Body Meetings.
- Ensure that attendance data is reported to the local authority or Department for Education as required and on time.
- Ensure that there is a named senior leader to lead on attendance.
- Ensure that the school has clear systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site.
- Ensure that there are procedures for collecting and analysing attendance data frequently to identify causes and patterns of absence.
- Ensure that data is understood and monitored to devise solutions and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.
- Regularly review attendance data, discuss, and challenge trends, and help school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Ensure school staff receive adequate training on attendance.

8.3. The school leadership team will:

- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents/carers to ensure a partnership approach to high attendance is maintained.
- Recognise the importance of good attendance and, alongside good behaviour, make it a central part of the school's vision, values, ethos, and day to day life.
- Have an effective whole-school culture of high attendance which is underpinned by clear expectations, procedures, and responsibilities.
- Have a designated senior leader with overall responsibility for championing and improving attendance in school.
- Have a clear vision for attendance improvement.
- Have a clear process for data analysis, evaluation and monitoring.
- Ensure all teaching and non-teaching staff know the importance of good attendance, are consistent in their communication with pupils and parents/carers and receive the training and professional development they need.
- Set high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils and communicate these regularly to pupils and parents/carers through all available channels.
- Visibly demonstrate the benefits of good attendance throughout school life, through displays, assemblies, praise and rewards.
- Monitor and analyse weekly attendance patterns and trends and deliver intervention and support in a targeted way to pupils and families.
- Provide regular attendance reports to other relevant leaders and class teachers or tutors to facilitate discussions with pupils.
- Conduct thorough analyses of half-termly, termly, and full year data to identify patterns and trends.
- Benchmark attendance data (at whole school, year group and cohort level) against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement.
- Devise specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data.

- Monitor through data, the impact of school wide attendance efforts including any specific strategies implemented and use this information to evaluate approaches or inform future strategies.
- Provide data and reports to support the work of the board or governing body.
- Monitor the implementation of the Attendance Policy and ensure that the policy is reviewed regularly.
- Ensure that the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and other attendance related legislation is complied with.
- Return school attendance data to the Department for Education as required and on time.
- Ensure that systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site are implemented.
- Develop a multi-agency response to improve attendance and support pupils and their families.
- Use the standard documents to support a move to legal proceedings should that be necessary.

8.4. The Attendance Team will:

- Monitor registration on a daily basis.
- Receive calls and messages from parents/carers regarding pupil absence.
- Contact parents/carers regarding pupil absence.
- Identify absence trends or concerns and raise these with the appropriate members of staff.
- Discuss attendance concerns with parents/carers and liaise with relevant members of staff.
- Take the lead on raising the profile of attendance throughout the school, including improving attendance and reducing persistent absence.
- Monitor absence and attendance regularly.
- Identify any absence trends or concerns and liaise with the appropriate members of staff.
- Contact parents/carers where attendance concerns have been identified and provide support to improve their child's attendance.
- Support pupils to improve their attendance.
- Work with outside agencies, including the local authority, where appropriate to improve attendance of individual pupils.
- Provide data to the Headteacher, senior leaders, including those for safeguarding, LAB Members and the trust on a regular basis.
- Build strong relationships with families.
- Provide support for pupils and families.
- Provide families with information and signposting to services in the local area.
- Liaise with a range of external services such as housing and Social Care.
- Arrange and attend regular meetings with families.

8.6. Teachers and Support Staff will:

- Be pro-active in their approach to promoting good attendance to pupils and their parents/carers, which includes forming positive relationships with families.
- Endorse a whole school culture that promotes the benefits of high attendance.
- Treat all pupils and parents/carers with dignity and model respectful relationships to build positive relationships between home and school to help promote good attendance.

- Ensure that the school's teaching and learning experiences encourage regular attendance and that pupils are taught the value of high attendance for their own personal progression and achievement.
- Ensure that they fully understand and are up to date with the school's Attendance Policy, legislation and government guidance, and that they will speak to another member of staff or seek support if they are unsure how to deal with an attendance issue.
- Understand the importance of good attendance and that absence is almost always a symptom of wider circumstances.
- Understand the law and requirements of schools including on the keeping of registers.
- Understand the school/trusts' strategies and procedures for tracking, following up and improving attendance.
- Understand the processes for working with other partners to provide more intensive support to pupils who need it.
- Ensure that they follow the correct systems for recording attendance and registers are recorded accurately.
- Communicate with parents/carers on a regular basis about attendance.
- Contribute to strategy meetings and interventions where they are needed.
- Work with external agencies to support pupils and their families who are struggling with regular attendance.

8.7. Parents and Carers will:

- Ensure their child attends school regularly.
- Communicate effectively with the school to identify reasons for absence and strategies to support improved attendance and punctuality.
- Support their child by working together with the school and any other agencies to address any barriers to attendance.
- Ask the school for help if their child is experiencing difficulties.
- Inform the school of any change in circumstances that may impact on their child's attendance.
- Support the school; take every opportunity to become involved in their child's education, form a positive relationship with school and acknowledge the importance of children receiving the same messages from both school and home.
- Avoid taking their child out of school during term-time. Where this is unavoidable, and in exceptional circumstances, parents/carers will need to complete a Term Time Request for Absence Form prior to the absence.

9. MONITORING ATTENDANCE

Specific measures to monitor attendance must be embedded and regularly checked to ensure the safeguarding of all pupils through specific and tailored interventions. These include:

- Registering pupils accurately and efficiently – recording within the first 5 minutes of every lesson / session on Arbor. In the event this system is down, a paper register must be sent to the attendance office immediately.
- Setting attendance targets for individual pupils and specific groups, in line with national and trust expectations.
- Monitoring the attendance of vulnerable groups in relation to local and national figures for all pupils.

- Using Pupil Premium funding to address persistent absence and severe absence of disadvantaged pupils and regularly monitoring the impact of such interventions.
- Ensuring a multi-agency approach is in place for all pupils with severe absence.
- Working collaboratively with the School Attendance Support Team.
- Regularly monitoring pupil attendance and punctuality, reporting overall absence, persistent absence rates and severe absence rates for all pupils to the Local Advisory Board and East Midlands Academy Trust (EMAT).
- Persistently monitoring low attending pupils over time to ensure rigorous intervention strategies are provided and demonstrate positive impact.
- Reporting school attendance statistics to parents/carers, local authority and DfE as appropriate.

9.1. Internal Truancy

All pupils are expected to attend lessons as set out on their individual timetables. If a pupil does not attend each lesson the teacher will mark the register with an absent mark (N).

All teaching staff ensure that registers are recorded accurately and will change the absence (N) to a late mark (L) if a child arrives after the register is taken. A comment will be recorded as an attendance comment on Arbor as to why they are late.

The Attendance Team monitor and track all 'N' marks to lessons. They will analyse patterns of attendance to see if a pupil has been absent since the start of the school day (this will be picked up by the first-day response team) or if they have been attending other lessons and are absent for just one lesson during the school day. This would indicate possible internal truancy.

The Attendance Team will locate in the school site, any pupils who are absent to lessons but were registered at the start of the school day and liaise with heads of year, the mental health hub staff and other school teams.

Truancy will be dealt with through the behaviour policy. Please see the behaviour policy for more details.

If we are unable to locate a pupil

In the event that an absent pupil cannot be located following the checks made by the Attendance Team, a member of the safeguarding team will be notified that the pupil is missing. The safeguarding team will liaise with the parent/carer by telephone to inform them that their child has not attended their class and has not been located in the school. This telephone call is not to alarm the parent/carer, but to identify if there are any reasons for the absence, and to clarify the next steps to ensure the pupil's safety. Where necessary, the Police and/or other agencies will be contacted to support in locating the pupil. When the missing pupil is located, a phone call will be made home to notify the parent or carer by the same member of staff who made the original call, and clarify with the parent/carer, the next steps in response to the pupil's absence.

9.2. Absence and attendance codes

National absence and attendance codes enable schools to record and monitor attendance and absence in a consistent way and comply with regulations. They are also used for collecting statistics through our school census system. The data helps schools, trusts, local authorities and the Government to gain a greater understanding of the level of, and the reasons for absence.

Details of the attendance codes can be found in Appendix B and Government guidance (*Working together to improve school attendance*) regarding school attendance can be found by clicking the following link:

[Guidance on attendance codes \(Pages 76 – 92\)](#)

9.3 Using Attendance Data

We regularly monitor and analyse attendance and absence data to identify pupils or cohorts that require support with their attendance and put effective strategies in place. We will work collaboratively with parents/carers, local authorities, and other partners when absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe.

We monitor and analyse weekly attendance patterns and trends to deliver intervention and support in a targeted way to pupils and families. This looks at individual pupils, cohorts and groups (including their punctuality) across the school.

Attendance and punctuality analysis is used to provide regular attendance reports to class teachers or tutors to facilitate discussions with pupils and to leaders (including any special educational needs coordinators, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium leads). Pupils who need support are identified and staff efforts are focused on developing targeted actions for these individuals or groups.

Half-termly, termly, and full year data is analysed and monitored to identify patterns and trends of pupils and cohorts. This data is benchmarked (at whole school, year group and cohort level) against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement.

Specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance or punctuality are identified through data. The impact of school wide attendance efforts, including any specific strategies implemented, are monitored and the findings are used to evaluate approaches and inform future strategies.

Specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance or punctuality are identified through data. The impact of school wide attendance efforts, including any specific strategies implemented, are monitored and the findings are used to evaluate approaches and inform future strategies.

Strategies used to improve attendance at Prince William School include –

- Close monitoring of attendance by a dedicated team of attendance officers.
- Targeted interviews held with form tutors, heads of year, attendance officers, or the senior team for both student and parent/carer.
- Close partnership with the local authority Education Inclusion Partner.
- A structured approach to communications with a planned series of letters and meetings prior to any outside agency action.
- The use of video calling to ensure that students are absent and safe.
- The provision of a breakfast club and extensive extra-curricular opportunities to encourage attendance at school.
- A range of rewards for high or improved attendance including a rewards event each term, canteen vouchers for good attendance, prizes and certificates in the learning award assemblies each term, an annual attendance prize, and half-termly rewards for students from particular cohorts.

Additional support from the SEND department and the lead teacher for promoting the outcomes for disadvantaged students.

10. SUPPORT SYSTEMS

We recognise that poor attendance can be an indication of other issues in a pupil's life. This may be related to problems at home and/or in school. Parents/carers should make the school aware of any difficulties or changes in circumstances that may affect their child's attendance and/or behaviour in school, for example, bereavement, divorce/separation, incidents of domestic abuse. This will help the school identify any additional support that may be required.

We also recognise that some pupils may need more additional support to attain good attendance, for example, some pupils with special educational needs, pupils with physical or mental health needs and looked after children.

The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance (see appendix C). These include:

- Discussion with parents/carers and pupils
- Convening attendance panels
- Attendance contracts
- Attendance report cards
- Referrals to support agencies – Early Help
- Learning Mentors
- Pupil Voice activities
- Friendship groups
- PSHE support
- Family learning
- Reward systems
- Time limited part-time timetables
- Additional learning support
- Behaviour support
- Inclusion units
- Reintegration support packages via our Family Support Workers

All support offered to families will be child-centred and planned in discussion and agreement with parents/carers and pupils. Where parents/carers fail or refuse to engage with the support offered and further unauthorised absence occurs, the school will consider the use of legal sanctions.

11. ATTENDANCE LEGAL INTERVENTION

Where voluntary support has not been effective and/or has not been engaged with, we will work with the local authority to put formal support in place in the form of an attendance contract or an education supervision order; issue a fixed penalty notice where support would not be appropriate or has not been successful or engaged with and it is likely to change parents'/carers' behaviour; intensify support through statutory children's social care involvement where there are safeguarding concerns, prosecute parents/carers where all other routes have failed or are not deemed

appropriate. This could include making the case for a community or parenting order where the parent/carer is convicted to secure engagement with support.

Fixed Penalty Notices

Penalty Notices will be considered when:

- A pupil is absent from school and the absence has not been authorised by the school
- A pupil has accrued a number of unauthorised absences following written warnings to improve
- An excluded child is found in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason.

Fixed penalty notices can be issued to each parent liable for the attendance offence or offences, which should usually be the parent or parents with day-to-day responsibility for the pupil's attendance.

A Penalty Notice is a fine of £160 if it is paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days of the notice being issued.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. Penalty Notices will be used in accordance with the Local Authority.

See the following government guidance for more information: [School attendance and absence: Legal action to enforce school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance-and-absence-legal-action-to-enforce-school-attendance)

Attendance Contracts

An attendance contract is a formal voluntary written agreement between a parent/carer and the school to address irregular attendance at school or alternative provision.

The aim from the outset is for the parent/carer(s), the pupil where they are old enough, and the school to work in partnership. The contract will outline attendance targets and will detail agreed actions that will help to achieve the target. The contract will be reviewed regularly.

It is important to note that while an attendance contract is used as an alternative to prosecution, parents/carers who do not engage with the contract and/or fail to carry out agreed targets identified in the contract may be subject to future prosecution. Furthermore, evidence of failure to engage with the attendance contract can be used as evidence in subsequent prosecution.

Education Supervision Orders (ESOs)

Where a formal attendance contract has not been successful, an Education Supervision Order (ESO) is used as an alternative to provide formal legal intervention without criminal prosecution. Where there are safeguarding concerns, children's social care services will be involved in the ESO.

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/carer(s) to ensure the pupil receives an efficient, full-time, suitable education. For the duration of the ESO, the parent's/carer's duties to secure their child's education and regular attendance are superseded by a duty to comply with any directions given by the local authority under the ESO.

Where parents persistently fail to comply with the directions given under the ESO, they may be guilty of an offence and the local authorities may prosecute under Section 444 (1) Education Act

1996, in the Magistrates Court for persistent non-compliance with the Order and parents/carers (upon conviction) will be liable to a fine of up to £1,000.

Prosecution

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.

It is important that parents/carers realise their own responsibilities in ensuring their child's attendance at school. Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 states that if a parent/carer fails to ensure the regular school attendance of their child, the child is a registered pupil at a school and is of compulsory school age, then they are guilty of an offence.

The school will provide the local authority with evidence required for a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 and will appear as a prosecution witness if required by the court.

A parent/carer found guilty of this offence can be fined up to £2500 and or be imprisoned for a period of three months.

Parenting Orders

Parenting orders are an ancillary order that 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.

12. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The implementation of this policy is carried out by the Headteacher, the Deputy Head Teacher and the Attendance Officer. Changes will be recommended to Governors and ratified by the Full Local Advisory Board.

The policy is published on the school's website and is shared with parents/carers with any initial information when pupils join the school. Parents/carers are reminded of it at the beginning of each school year and when it is updated.

Appendix A – Term Time Absence Request Form

Request for a leave of absence during term time

Student's Name _____ Class/Tutor Group _____

Student's Address _____

Date of first day of absence _____ Date of return to school _____

Number of school days that your child will be absent from school _____

If a student fails to return within ten school days following the anticipated date of return and no reason is provided, there may be grounds (under some circumstances) to delete your child's name from the Admissions Register and register them as a Child Missing Education.

Please detail the exceptional circumstance for which you are requesting leave of absence.

I understand that if the absence request is not authorised and the holiday is taken, the Headteacher may request that the Local Authority issue a Fixed Penalty Notice. I understand that a Penalty is issued to each parent for each child taken out of school and that this is a fine of £80 if paid within the first 21 days which increases to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days. I understand that if I do not pay this it may result in legal action.

Name(s) of Parent / Carer (s) making application:

Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms Forename _____ Surname _____

Address

Signed _____ Dated _____

Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms Forename _____ Surname _____

Address

Signed _____ Dated _____

Please ensure you are giving at least seven days' notice of the proposed absence,

retrospective applications cannot be authorised.

For school to complete and copy retained: AUTHORISED / UNAUTHORISED (please circle)

Appendix B – Attendance Codes

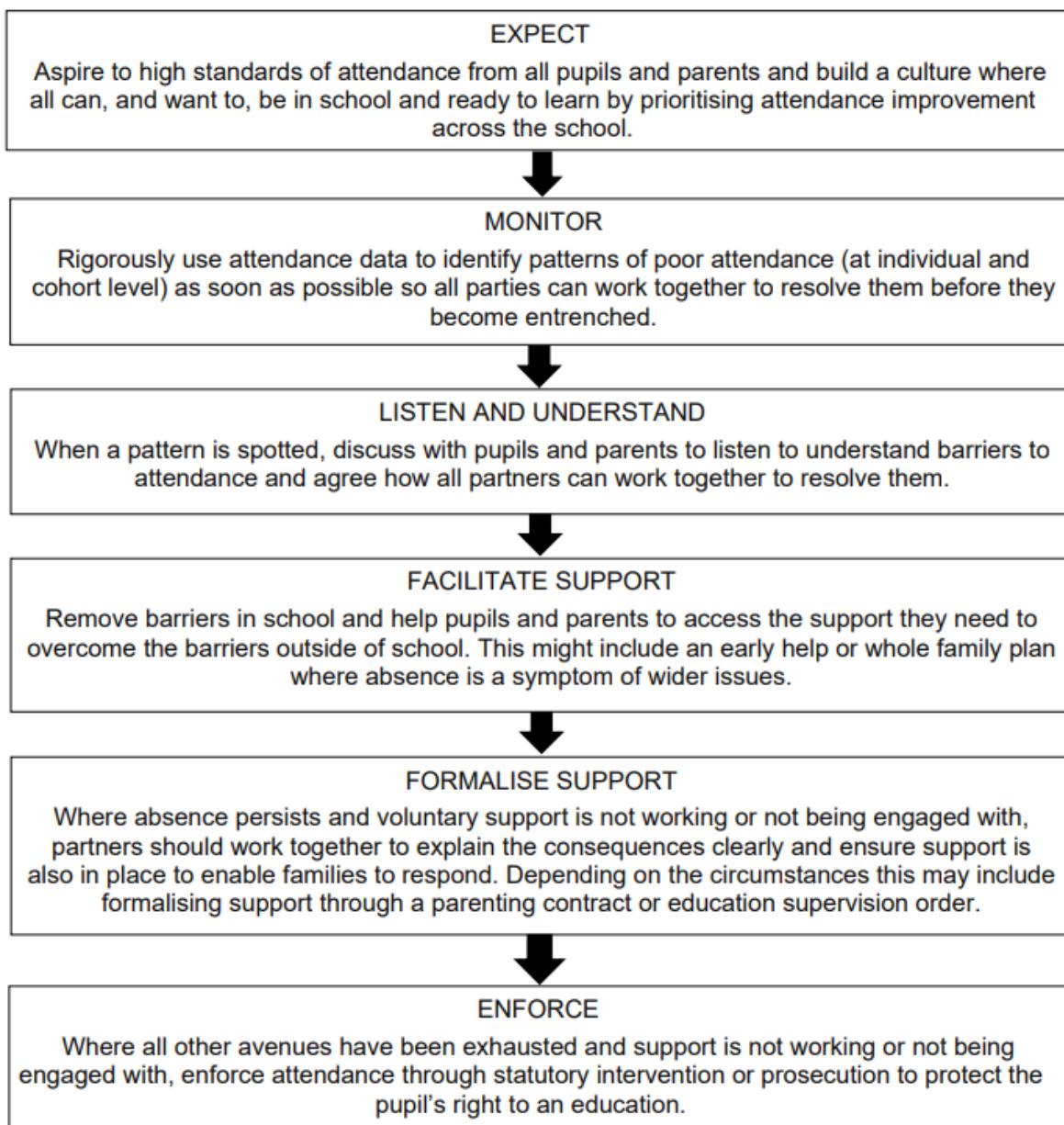
Table 1

| CODE | MEANING | TYPE |
|------|--|------------------------|
| / \ | Present at the school / morning \ afternoon | Present mark |
| B | Attending any other approved educational activity: - Alternative provision not arranged through the approved framework | Present mark |
| C | Authorised circumstance (see Table 2: The C code for breakdown). | Authorised Absence |
| D | Dual registered at another school. | Present mark |
| E | Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made. | Authorised Absence |
| G | Holiday not granted by the school or term-time leave not granted by the school. | Unauthorised Absence |
| I | Illness (not medical or dental appointment). | Authorised Absence |
| J1 | Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution. | Authorised Absence |
| K | Attending education provision arranged by the local authority: - Home tutoring - Approved framework for alternative provision - Blended learning. | Present mark |
| L | Late arrival before the registers have closed. | Present mark |
| M | Attended a medical appointment. | Authorised Absence |
| N | Reason for absence not yet established. | Unauthorised Absence |
| O | Absent in other or unknown circumstances. | Unauthorised Absence |
| P | Participating in a sporting activity. | Present mark |
| Q | Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements. | Not expected to attend |
| R | Religious observance. | Authorised Absence |
| S | Leave of absence for the purpose of studying for a public examination. Must be used sparingly with revision opportunities in school. | Authorised Absence |
| T | Parent travelling for occupational purposes, and the pupil has attended for at least 200 sessions in preceding 12 months. | Authorised Absence |
| U | Arrived in school after registration closed. | Unauthorised Absence |
| V | Attending an educational trip or visit. | Present mark |
| W | Attending work experience. | Present mark |
| X | Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school. | Not expected to attend |
| Y | Unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause (see Table 2: The Y code for breakdown). | Not expected to attend |
| Z | Prospective or previous pupil not on admission register. | Not expected to attend |

Table 2

| CODE | MEANING | TYPE |
|---|---|------------------------|
| The Y code: Unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause, is broken down into the following subcodes to provide better differentiation of the reason: | | |
| Y1 | Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available. | Not expected to attend |
| Y2 | Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel. | Not expected to attend |
| Y3 | Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed. For example, this may be due to damage or teacher strikes. | Not expected to attend |
| Y4 | Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed. For example, extreme weather, damage, no hot water, or heating. | Not expected to attend |
| Y5 | Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention. For example, in police detention, remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or detained under a sentence of detention. | Not expected to attend |
| Y6 | Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law, contrary to or prohibited by any guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of infection or disease. | Not expected to attend |
| Y7 | Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause. For example, an emergency has prevented the pupil from attending. The unavoidable cause must be something that affects the pupil, not just the parent. | Not expected to attend |
| The C code: Authorised Absence is broken down into the following subcodes to provide better differentiation of the reason: | | |
| C | Leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. | Authorised Absence |
| C1 | Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad. | Authorised Absence |
| C2 | Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable. | Authorised Absence |

Appendix C – Working Together to Improve Attendance



Working together to improve school attendance (DfE)

Appendix D – Template letters sent to parents/carers

Attendance Tier 2 Letter – Attendance below 95%

Dear XXX

At Prince William School we regularly review attendance to look for patterns of low or declining attendance. There is a clear link between attendance and achievement. DfE research shows that for every 17 days of school missed, GCSE results drop by one grade. Attendance is a critical factor in your child achieving their best grades.

XXXXX's attendance is now below 95% and XXXXX has missed XXXXX days of school. As such, XXXXX has fallen below the good attendance benchmark. We believe that if we work together, both parents/carers and school can have a significant impact on improving your child's attendance. In accordance with our Attendance Policy, we will monitor your child's attendance over the next six weeks. Please ensure your child attends school every day so that they can achieve their very best. We appreciate that every family's situation is unique and if you need any additional support from us please feel free to contact the attendance team at attendance@pws.emat.uk or call the school.

Kind Regards

Katie Burns and Zoey Boon - The Attendance Team

| Tier | Direction of travel |
|--|--|
| Tier 1 – universal | Attendance is high and improving or excellent – monitoring and congratulation letters as appropriate. Weekly messaging. Praise and rewards as appropriate. |
| Tier 2 – school intervention | Attendance is declining and of concern: attendance team reviews pattern of attendance. Tier 2 letter sent giving notice of 6 week review period for attendance to improve, though this can be less if this is not the case. School will speak with student and parent. Attendance team plan support and interventions. Consideration of home visit. |
| Tier 3 – senior team and parent meeting | Attendance continues to decline. Tier 3 letter requests parent meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss what needs to be done to support improvement. Absence only authorised if medical evidence is provided. Attendance closely monitored for 6 weeks. If improving, praise/reward given. |
| Tier 4 – formal parent contract meeting | Attendance does not improve. Tier 4 letter invites to formal parent contract meeting. Target set. School will monitor attendance weekly. 6 week review period given, but this may be less if attendance does not improve. |
| Tier 5 – consideration of external involvement | Attendance does not improve. Tier 5 letter informs of school's decision to refer to county for legal intervention unless there are significant exceptional circumstances. |

Attendance tier 3 letter - Request for parent meeting

Dear XXX

I am writing to advise you that your child's attendance is now XXXX which means XXXX has missed XXXXX days of school. This is below satisfactory attendance and has not improved since we last wrote to you sharing our concern.

Whilst we acknowledge there may be genuine reasons for this, we are concerned about the negative impact this is having on XXXX's education. In accordance with our attendance policy, we would like to invite you to meet XXXXX (HOY?) to discuss next steps to improve attendance, including how the school can support you.

Appointment date and time - _____

Review date - _____

All absence from now on will be recorded as unauthorised unless medical evidence is provided. If you wish to discuss this further, please contact the school attendance team at attendance@pws.emat.uk or by phoning school.

Yours Sincerely

Katie Burns and Zoey Boon - The Attendance Team

| Tier | Direction of travel |
|--|--|
| Tier 1 – universal | Attendance is high and improving or excellent – monitoring and congratulation letters as appropriate. Weekly messaging. Praise and rewards as appropriate. |
| Tier 2 – school intervention | Attendance is declining and of concern: attendance team reviews pattern of attendance. Tier 2 letter sent giving notice of 6 week review period for attendance to improve, though this can be less if this is not the case. School will speak with student and parent. Attendance team plan support and interventions. Consideration of home visit. |
| Tier 3 – senior team and parent meeting | Attendance continues to decline. Tier 3 letter requests parent meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss what needs to be done to support improvement. Absence only authorised if medical evidence is provided. Attendance closely monitored for 6 weeks. If improving, praise/reward given. |
| Tier 4 – formal parent contract meeting | Attendance does not improve. Tier 4 letter invites to formal parent contract meeting. Target set. School will monitor attendance weekly. 6 week review period given, but this may be less if attendance does not improve. |
| Tier 5 – consideration of external involvement | Attendance does not improve. Tier 5 letter informs of school's decision to refer to county for legal intervention unless there are significant exceptional circumstances. |

Attendance tier 4 letter – Parent Contract Meeting invitation

Dear

I am writing to advise you that your child's attendance is now XXXX which means XXXX missed days of school. This is below satisfactory attendance and will be having a detrimental impact of the progress that your child is making at school.

Because XXXX's attendance has not improved since we last met to discuss our concerns and in accordance with our attendance policy, we would like to invite you to a Parent Contract Meeting with XXXXXX (DHT) to investigate any remaining barriers to improving XXXXXX's attendance and to set a target. Please be aware that if XXXX does not meet this target, the school will refer the case to the Local Authority Education Inclusion Partnership for consideration of next steps which could result in a fast-track process where a member of the County team would set a target and review date, with a court date agreed if the target is not met. You may also be asked to attend an interview under caution dependant on the severity of your child's absence from school or previous dealings with the EIP.

If the time provided is not convenient, we will endeavour to arrange an alternative, although we may choose to meet with your child without you in attendance. If you are absent from the meeting, the target will be set and communicated to you.

Appointment time and date - _____

Review date - _____

Yours Sincerely

Katie Burns and Zoey Boon - The Attendance Team

| Tier | Direction of travel |
|--|--|
| Tier 1 – universal | Attendance is high and improving or excellent – monitoring and congratulation letters as appropriate. Weekly messaging. Praise and rewards as appropriate. |
| Tier 2 – school intervention | Attendance is declining and of concern: attendance team reviews pattern of attendance. Tier 2 letter sent giving notice of 6 week review period for attendance to improve, though this can be less if this is not the case. School will speak with student and parent. Attendance team plan support and interventions. Consideration of home visit. |
| Tier 3 – senior team and parent meeting | Attendance continues to decline. Tier 3 letter requests parent meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss what needs to be done to support improvement. Absence only authorised if medical evidence is provided. Attendance closely monitored for 6 weeks. If improving, praise/reward given. |
| Tier 4 – formal parent contract meeting | Attendance does not improve. Tier 4 letter invites to formal parent contract meeting. Target set. School will monitor attendance weekly. 6 week review period given, but this may be less if attendance does not improve. |
| Tier 5 – consideration of external involvement | Attendance does not improve. Tier 5 letter informs of school's decision to refer to county for legal intervention unless there are significant exceptional circumstances. |

Attendance tier 5 – notification of referral to the Local Authority.

Dear

I am writing to advise that our review of 's attendance between XXX-XXX shows that unfortunately, your child's attendance has not improved as agreed during this period.

Whilst we do acknowledge any genuine illness and medical or authorised absences, XXXX's attendance is now XXXX which means that XXXX has missed XXXX days of school. In accordance with our Attendance Policy, we are referring this to the Education Inclusion Partnership at North Northamptonshire Council. I must advise you that they may wish to pursue a fixed penalty notice or legal proceedings.

If you wish to discuss this further, please phone me at the school or email attendance@pws.emat.uk.

Yours sincerely

Katie Burns and Zoey Boon - The Attendance Team

| Tier | Direction of travel |
|--|--|
| Tier 1 – universal | Attendance is high and improving or excellent – monitoring and congratulation letters as appropriate. Weekly messaging. Praise and rewards as appropriate. |
| Tier 2 – school intervention | Attendance is declining and of concern: attendance team reviews pattern of attendance. Tier 2 letter sent giving notice of 6 week review period for attendance to improve, though this can be less if this is not the case. School will speak with student and parent. Attendance team plan support and interventions. Consideration of home visit. |
| Tier 3 – senior team and parent meeting | Attendance continues to decline. Tier 3 letter requests parent meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss what needs to be done to support improvement. Absence only authorised if medical evidence is provided. Attendance closely monitored for 6 weeks. If improving, praise/reward given. |
| Tier 4 – formal parent contract meeting | Attendance does not improve. Tier 4 letter invites to formal parent contract meeting. Target set. School will monitor attendance weekly. 6 week review period given, but this may be less if attendance does not improve. |
| Tier 5 – consideration of external involvement | Attendance does not improve. Tier 5 letter informs of school's decision to refer to county for legal intervention unless there are significant exceptional circumstances. |

Appendix E – First Response Procedure

- Attendance staff will be supported each morning by office staff to complete daily attendance first response procedure
- All staff completing attendance first response procedure will be based in the same office
- AM registers will close at 9.00am
- PM registers will close at 12.40pm
- Check pupils who are absent against the absence line
- Pupils who are late will sign in at reception and reception staff will amend attendance codes on pupils arrival
- All staff completing daily first response procedure should suspend all other tasks until first response is complete
- Attendance contact for pupils attending alternative provision will be made by the attendance team
- Pupils attending alternative provision will be identified as vulnerable pupils and home visits will be carried out as outlined below
- All attendance contact should be completed and a list for home visits generated by 10.00am
- All attendance contact to be added as an attendance comment on Arbor
- Staff who complete first day contact will record the name of any pupil who requires a home visit, including the date and the number of days of absence
- ‘Vulnerable’ pupils are identified on Arbor as user defined groups (Social Care involvement, PP, SEND, LAC, vulnerable)
- Vulnerable lists to be reviewed weekly by the DSL team
- Any pupil who is open to Social Care or any ‘vulnerable’ pupil who is absent needs a home visit on day one and any subsequent day regardless if contact has been made
- Any pupil who is open to Social Care or any ‘vulnerable’ pupil who is absent where contact has been made needs a home visit on day 1 and any subsequent days of absence
- DSLs must be informed via My Concern if a home visit is required for any ‘vulnerable’ pupil, including any pupil open to Social Care
- The DSL must inform the social worker of any absence for children open to social care
- The attendance must be made aware of any pupil who has been suspended
- All actions following home visits must be updated on Arbor and / or My Concern by the Attendance Officer
- All home visits must be recorded on the home visit spreadsheet (on the same day) by the person who carried out home visits
- Attendance staff to work with pastoral leads to ensure the accuracy of registers and amend ‘N’ codes if required
- On arrival, the cover supervisor will provide supply / temporary staff with a pack which includes information and expectations on completing registers correctly

| No of days absence without contact | Pupils | Vulnerable pupils |
|---|--|--|
| Day 1 | Phone call home (If no contact is made by phone call, a text or email is sent). A home visit may be needed. | Home visit – daily (If no contact is made for 'vulnerable pupils', inform DSL immediately who will contact the relevant agency) |
| Day 2 | Phone call home (If no contact is made by phone call, a text or email is sent). A home visit may be needed. | |
| Day 3 | Home visit – daily until contact is made then as below | |

| No of days absence with contact | Pupils | Vulnerable pupils |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Day 1 | A home visit may be needed. | Home visit – daily |
| Day 2 | A home visit may be needed. | |
| Day 3 | A home visit may be needed. | |
| Day 4 | A home visit may be needed. | |
| Day 5 | A home visit will be made on the fifth day of absence and at regular intervals of no longer than 5 consecutive days | |

Appendix F: Content of EMAT Attendance emails and text messages

It may be useful for you to know what attendance figures mean for your child:

98% - 100% = Excellent

96% - 97% = Good

95% - below 96% = Satisfactory

91% - 94% = Of concern

Below 90% = Persistent absentee

| |
|---|
| 100% |
| Termly: Dear Parent/Carer of XXX We are delighted to celebrate that XXX achieved 100% attendance last term. We thank you for your continued support to ensure XXX attends school every day. |
| Weekly: Dear Parent/Carer of XXX We are delighted to celebrate that [NAME] achieved 100% attendance last week. We thank you for your continued support to ensure [NAME] attends school every day. |
| 98% - 100% Excellent |
| Dear Parent/Carer of XXX Your child's attendance last term was (98-100%), with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence. Attendance of over 98% is considered excellent attendance, so very well done – keep it up! |
| 96% - 97% Good |
| Dear Parent/Carer of XXX Your child's attendance last term was (96-97%), with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence. Attendance of 96-97% is considered good attendance, so very well done – keep it up! |
| 95% - below 96% Satisfactory |
| Dear Parent/Carer of XXX Your child's attendance last term was XX%, with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence. Attendance between 95% and below 96% is considered satisfactory attendance. Please ensure [NAME] attends school every day. |
| 91% - 94% Of concern |
| Messages will be sent termly and weekly |
| Termly: Dear Parent/Carer of XXX Your child's attendance last term was XX%, with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence. Attendance between 91%-94% is considered to be low and of concern. Please ensure [NAME] attends school every day. If there is anything we can help with to improve your child's attendance, please contact the school office. |
| Weekly: Dear Parent/Carer of XXX |

Your child's attendance this term so far is XX%, with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence.

Attendance between 91%-94% is considered to be low and of concern. Please ensure [NAME] attends school every day. If there is anything we can help with to improve your child's attendance, please contact the school office.

Below 90%

Messages will be sent termly and weekly

Termly:

Dear Parent/Carer of XXX

Your child's attendance last term was XX%, with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence.

Attendance below 90% means your child is persistently absent and this is of concern.

Please ensure [NAME] attends school every day. We will contact you to agree how we can work together to improve your child's attendance.

Weekly:

Dear Parent/Carer of XXX

Your child's attendance this term so far is XX%, with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence.

Attendance below 90% means your child is persistently absent and this is of concern. Please ensure [NAME] attends school every day. We will contact you to agree how we can work together to improve your child's attendance.

Appendix G – Tiered approach to attendance intervention

| Tier | Direction of travel |
|--|--|
| Tier 1 – universal | Attendance is high and improving or excellent – monitoring and congratulation letters as appropriate. Weekly messaging. Praise and rewards as appropriate. |
| Tier 2 – school intervention | Attendance is declining and of concern: attendance team reviews pattern of attendance. Tier 2 letter sent giving notice of 6 week review period for attendance to improve, though this can be less if this is not the case. School will speak with student and parent. Attendance team plan support and interventions. Consideration of home visit. |
| Tier 3 – senior team and parent meeting | Attendance continues to decline. Tier 3 letter requests parent meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss what needs to be done to support improvement. Absence only authorised if medical evidence is provided. Attendance closely monitored for 6 weeks. If improving, praise/reward given. |
| Tier 4 – formal parent contract meeting | Attendance does not improve. Tier 4 letter invites to formal parent contract meeting. Target set. School will monitor attendance weekly. 6 week review period given, but this may be less if attendance does not improve. |
| Tier 5 – consideration of external involvement | Attendance does not improve. Tier 5 letter informs of school's decision to refer to county for legal intervention unless there are significant exceptional circumstances. |