Attendance Policy ISP School Whitstable



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by:

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1.1 Vision:

This policy reflects the vision and aims of ISP School, Whitstable by:

- Encouraging school adults, parents and children to maximise the learning experience in order that all children can reach their full potential.
- Froviding clear procedures for involving parents relating to school attendance.

1.2 Principles:

We are committed to providing an education of the highest quality for all our children. We believe high attainment and future success depends on good attendance allowing each child to experience the full school offer.

We expect all school adults to support and promote excellent school attendance by acting as role models and to work hard to provide a learning environment in which all children are eager to learn, feel safe and valued and enjoy coming to school.

Sometimes a child's absence or lateness may not be their fault and in these circumstances it is our policy to be supportive of the child and not to make them feel guilty or inadequate. Also, at times we have to give allowances for religious beliefs and individual family circumstances.

We believe it is essential to regularly remind parents of the importance of good attendance and its links to child attainment. The Education Act 1996 clearly states that the prime responsibility of parents/carers is to ensure that their children attend school regularly.

1.3 Aims

- To create a culture in which good attendance is accepted as the
- To demonstrate that good attendance and punctuality is valued by the school.
- ** To maintain and develop effective communication regarding attendance between home and school.
- To work with our other schools to share good practice in order to improve practice and policy.
- Act early to address patterns of absence.

1.4 Roles and Responsibilites

Role of the Proprietor and Governing Body

The Proprietor and Governing Body will:

delegate powers and responsibilities to the Head Teacher to ensure all

- school adults are aware of and comply with this policy;
- nominate a link governor to visit the school regularly, to liaise with

the Coordinator and to report back to the Governing Body;

- ensure that the attendance policy is carried out;
- ask questions about trends and what is being done to prevent persistent poor attenders;
- immonitor termly progress;
- take responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- take responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents;

Role of the Deputy Head

The Deputy Head will:

- in Ensure all school adults, children and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- * Oversee the daily monitoring of school attendance;
- monitor attendance according to gender, age, ethnicity, first language, eligibility for Free School Meals and special educational needs:
- target intervention and support to those children that have been highlighted as poor attenders or have been highlighted through monitoring and data analysis around attendance;
- have in place a system for parents to report a child's absence;
- report the attendance figures and progress to the Governing Body;
- remind parents of their commitment to this policy;
- publicise good attendance during assemblies, newsletters and the termly report to the Governing Body;
- introduce rewards and incentives to encourage punctuality to lessons and positive attendance;
- organise training for school adults on the use and understanding of attendance codes and authorised and unauthorised attendance;
- work closely with the link governor and First Day Contact person -

School administrator;

- Work closely with the leadership team and class teams who will have the role of family liaison for those children who struggle to maintain high attendance
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- † annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

Role of the School administrator:

The Responsibilities for attendance are shared between the Senior Leadership Team and the school administrator. They will be jointly responsible for:

- implementing the policy with the Head Teacher;
- monitoring individual and class attendance on a daily basis;
- keeping the Head Teacher informed of attendance figures and trends;
- tontacting parents regarding concerns about their child's attendance First day response call
- Liaise with the leadership team and class teams who will then contact /arrange home visits for any child where there is cause for concern
- tompiling attendance data for the Head Teacher, the Governing Body and any meetings with the Local Authority (LA);
- ensuring registers are completed in a timely way and are kept up to date
- tontacting parents if they have not reported their child's absence by 9-30 a.m.
- Note if any of those who have not arrived in school are on the 'concerns list'- liaise with DSL's
- * sending an email/ text/ letter if no contact is made;
- to continuing to contact the parents throughout the day until contact is made;
- tontacting the key worker if a child is on the school's pupil concerns list and no reason has been given for the child's absence;
- informing the Head Teacher of trends in absence

Role of School Adults

School Adults will:

- tomply with and implement this policy
- * set an example of punctuality and good attendance;
- monitor class and individual attendance patterns;
- inform the School Administrator of any concerns about attendance;
- † emphasise the importance of punctuality and good attendance;
- it discuss individual child attendance at parent-teacher meetings

Role of the Nominated Governor

The Nominated Governor will be Toni reedman - Director of Education. They will:

- work closely with the Head Teacher and the coordinator;
- the ensure this policy and other linked policies are up to date;
- ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of this policy;
- report to the Governing Body every term;
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

Role of Parents

Parents are responsible for:

- ensuring that their children are punctual and know the importance of good attendance;
- informing the school on the first day of absence;
- informing the school of any changes to their contact details;
- it collecting their children on time
- supporting the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure smooth running of the school

Role of Children

Children are responsible for:

- in arriving at school on time;
- * knowing the value of good attendance;
- taking part in questionnaires and surveys

1.5 Dealing with Trends in Attendance

When there is a pattern of poor attendance then the following procedure will take place:

- Parents are invited to attend an informal meeting with the Head Teacher/Deputy Head to explain their child's repeated absence.
- Support will be offered if there are underlying reasons for the absence.
- if not, then the situation will be monitored for improvement.
- if there is no improvement then appropriate action will be taken.

1.6 Dealing with Lateness

The School Administrator and school adults monitor lateness and inform:

- The Deputy Head of patterns of lateness;
- in Parents of the school's concerns;

1.7 Absence

Holidays during term time - With effect from August 2024 the Department of Education has updated Attendance Regulations and under The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, the school is not permitted to approve any term time holidays. In the past, Penalty Notices have not been issued but under the new framework the school may be compelled to issue Penalty Notices or refer to the Local Authority who may decide to prosecute.

Religious Observance - a maximum of three days absence is allowed for religious observance.

Medical, Dental or Hospital Appointments - we encourage these appointments to take place out of school time in order not to disrupt the child's education.

1.8 Raising Awareness of this Policy

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- the school website
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parentteacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- it school events
- immeetings with school personnel
- tommunications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of half term newsletters
- Head Teacher reports to the Governing Body

Children who struggle to attend school

Children are sometimes reluctant to attend school. Any problems with regular attendance are best sorted out between the school, the parents/carers and the child. If a child is reluctant to attend, it is never better to cover up their absence or to give in to pressure to excuse them from attending. This gives the impression that attendance does not matter and may make things worse. If there are any concerns it is always best to work with school adults to try to resolve the issues to then support the pupil to attend school well

EBSA - Emotionally based School Avoidance

Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) is a term used to describe children and young people (CYP) who experience challenges in attending school due to negative feelings (such as anxiety). EBSA is commonly associated with emotional and physical distress, and a reluctance to attend school, which can lead to reduced attendance and further anxiety regarding school.

Some of our pupils suffer from EBSA and we have trained all of our staff to recognise this. Communication is kept open with all parents and carers and regular visit are carried out to see the pupils. Staff understand the attendance challenges and will support the anxieties that our children have, whilst promoting family wellbeing.

Authorised and Unauthorised absence

Every half-day absence has to be classified by the school, (not by the parents), as either AUTHORISED or UNAUTHORISED. This is why information about the cause of each absence is always required, preferably in writing.

Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a reason such as: genuine illness, medical and dental appointments, religious observance and traveller children travelling for occupational purposes.

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no "leave" has been given.

This includes:

- h parents keeping pupils off school unnecessarily
- truancy before or during the school day
- habsences which have never been properly explained

Parents/Carers are expected to contact the school office on 01227 771172 at an early stage and to work with the staff in resolving any problems together. If difficulties cannot be sorted out in this way, then school will request Local Authority support, (if appropriate the Social Worker).

It is not usually appropriate for the school to authorise absences for shopping, looking after other children, day trips etc. Leave may, however, be granted in an emergency (e.g. bereavement) or for medical appointments which must be in school time.

All other absences and holiday requests

DfE regulations regarding absence no longer permit holidays to be taken during term time. Head Teachers are not to authorise any leave or absence from school unless the circumstances are 'exceptional' relating to a 'one off' isolated situation. Any such request must be submitted in good time in writing

1.9 Information about individual school targets

The school has adopted the following attendance targets:

Any attendance which falls below 95% is enough to set off initial concerns records. Attendance of less than 90% should become a cause for concern.

2.0 Attendance

Each Local authority (Kent and Medway) will have a single point of contact (SPOC) for schools to discuss all attendance issues. They will meet with our attendance leaders, if needed, who are all part of the Senior Leadership Team, to discuss whole school data and hold targeted conversations across the year. The focus of conversations will be to support schools in building attendance capacity, strategies, and to provide specific cohort interventions around attendance. The Attendance Support Team can offer advice and guidance.

2.1 Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority or DfE if updated, and as a minimum annually by Carole Cox, Head Teacher. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Chair of Governors and policy updates discussed at Governing Body meetings.

2.2 Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our child protection, Safeguarding policy and behaviour policy.

Appendix 1: Attendance codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's guidance on school attendance.

Important Changes to Attendance Codes

Attendance codes are changing from the 19 August 2024 so this will come into effect for the new academic year 2024/2025.

This is a list of attendance codes that come into effect 2024/2025.

Code	SIMS Description	DfE Description / Explanation	
/	Present (AM)	Present for school morning session	
\	Present (PM)	Present for school afternoon session	
В	Attending any other Approved Education Activity	Attending any other approved educational activity. Not to be used for Virtual learning	
С	Other authorised circumstances	Leave absence for exceptional circumstance	
C1	Leave of absence – regulated performance	Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad.	
C2	Leave of absence – Temporary part- time timetable	Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable	
D	Dual registered	Dual registered to another school	
Е	Suspended or excluded without alternative provision	Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision	

G	Family holiday (not agreed)	Unauthorised absence as pupil on a family holiday, not agreed, or is taking days more than an agreed family holiday
I	Illness	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)
J1	Leave of absence – Interview for employment or transfer to another educational institution	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution
K	Alternative provision provided by LA	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority
L	Late (before registers closed)	Late arrival before the register closed
M	Medical or dental appointment	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending a medical or dental appointment
N	No reason yet provided for absence	Reason absence not yet established
0	Absence in other or unknown circumstance	Absence in other or unknown circumstance
Р	Participating in sports activity	Participating in sports activity
Q	Unable to attend – lack of access arrangements	Unable to attend the school because of lack of access arrangements
R	Religious observance	Religious observance
S	Study leave for public examination	Study leave for public examination
T	Traveling with parent for occupational purposes	Traveling with parent for occupational purposes
U	Late (after registers closed)	Late (after registers closed)
V	Attending an educational visit or trip	Attending an educational visit or trip
W	Attending work experience	Attending work experience

X	Not required to attend non-compulsory school age pupil	Not required to attend-non-compulsory school age pupil	
Y1	Unable to attend – Transport not available	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being provided	
Y2	Unable to attend – widespread travel emergency	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel	
Y3	Unable to attend – unavoidable partial closure	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed.	
Y4	Unable to attend – unavoidable full closure	Unable to attend due to the whole schools' site being unexpectedly closed	
Y5	Unable to attend – criminal justice detention	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention	
Y6	Unable to attend – Public Health Guidance / Law	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law	
Y7	Unable to attend – Unavoidable other than Y1-Y6	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause.	
Z	Pupil not on roll	Prospective pupil not on admission requester	
#	Planned whole school closure	Planned whole school closure	

This is a list of codes where a reason will be required with the attendance code:

Code	SIMS Description	DfE Description / Explanation
В	Educated off-site (not Dual-Reg)	Attending any other approved educational facility.
K	Alternative provision provided by the LA	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority
Y7	Unable to attend – Unavoidable other than Y1-Y6	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause.

Retired Codes no longer in use after 19th August 2024

Code	SIMS Description	DfE Description / Explanation
П	Family Holiday (agreed)	Authorised absence due to agreed family holiday.
J	Interview	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances – not counted in possible attendance
Y	Unable to attend due to an exceptional circumstance	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances – not counted in possible attendance

Appendix 2. Pupils, parents and school expectations of absent children.

1. All pupils

Parents are expected to:	Schools are expected to:	Academy trustees and governing bodies are expected to:	Local authorities are expected to:
Ensure their child attends every day the school is open except when a statutory reason applies.	Have a clear school attendance policy on the school website which all staff, pupils and parents understand.	Take an active role in attendance, support their school(s) to prioritise attendance, and work together with leader to set out whole school cultures.	Have a strategic approach to improving attendance for the whole area and make it a key focus of all frontline council service.
Notify the school as soon as is possible when their child is unexpectedly absent	Develop and maintain a whole school culture that promotes the benefit of good attendance.	Ensure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties. Use data to understand patterns of attendance, compare with local	Have a school attendance support team that works with all schools in their area to remove area wide barriers to attendance.
(e.g sickness) Only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and do	Accurately complete admission and attendance registers.	schools, identify areas of progress and where greater progress is needed. Ensure staff receive training on attendance.	Provide each school with a named point of contact in the school attendance team wo can support with queries and advice.
so in advance.	Have a robust daily process to follow up absences.	attendance.	Offer opportunities for all schools to share effective practice
Book any medical appointments around the school day where possible	Regularly monitor data to identify patterns and trends and understand which pupils and pupil cohorts to focus on.		
	Have a dedicated senior leader with overall responsibility for championing and improving attendance.		

2. Pupils at risk of becoming persistently absent

Z. i upiis at risk	or becoming persistently absent		
Parents are	Schools are expected to:	Academy trustees and governing	Local authorities are expected to:
expected to:		bodies are expected to:	
Work with the local		Regularly review attendance data and	Hold a regular conversation with
school and local	pupils at risk of persistent absence.	help school leaders focus support on	every school to identify, discuss and
authority to help		the pupils who need it.	signpost or provide access to
them understand	Work with each identified pupil and		services for pupils who are
their child's	•		persistently absent or at risk of
barriers to	address the reasons for absence,		becoming so.
attendance.	including any in school barriers to		
	attendance.		Where there are out of school
Proactively engage			barriers, provide each identified pupil
with the support	Where out of school barriers are		and their family with access to
offered to prevent	<u> </u>		services they need in the first
the need for more	, ,		instance.
support.	the first instance and act as a lead		
	practitioner if attendance is the only		If the issue persists, and there are
	issue and/or the local threshold for		multiple needs, consider whether the
	formal Early Help is not met.		threshold for Early Help is met and
			facilitate access where it is.
			Regardless, take an active part in the
			multi-agency effort with the school
			and other partners. Provide the lead
			practitioner in cases where the
			threshold is met and all partners
			agree that a local authority service is
			best placed to lead. Where the lead
			practitioner is outside of the local
			authority, continue to work with the
			school and partners.

3. Persistently absent pupils

3. Persistently absent	Pupiis		
Parents are expected to:	Schools are expected to:	Academy trustees and governing	Local authorities are expected to:
		bodies are expected to:	
Work with the school and	Continue support as for	Regularly review attendance data and	Continue support as for pupils at risk
local authority to help	pupils at risk of becoming	help school leaders focus support on	of becoming persistently absent and:
them understand their	persistently absent and:	the pupils who need it.	
child's barriers to			Work jointly with the school to
attendance.	Where absence becomes		support options including attendance
	persistent, put additional		contracts and education supervision
Proactively engage with			orders.
the formal support offered	remove any barriers. Where		
 including any parenting 	necessary this includes		Where there are safeguarding
contract or voluntary	working with partners.		concerns, ensure joint working
Early Help plan to prevent			between the school, children's
he need for legal	Where support is not		services and other statutory
intervention	working, being engaged with		safeguarding partners.
	or appropriate, work with the		
	local authority on legal		Where support is not working, being
	intervention.		engaged with or appropriate, enforce
			attendance through legal
	Where there are		intervention (including prosecution
	safeguarding concerns,		as a last resort).
	intensify support through a		
	referral to statutory		
	children's social care.		
	Work with other schools in		
	the local area, such as		
	schools previously attended		

and the schools of any siblings.		
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4. Severely absent pupils

4. Severely absent pur	JII 3		
Parents are expected to:	Schools are expected to:	Academy trustees and governing bodies are expected to:	Local authorities are expected to:
Work with the school and local authority to help them understand their		Regularly review attendance data and help school leaders focus support on the pupils who need it.	Continue support as for persistently absent pupils and:
child's barriers to			All services should make this group
attendance.	Agree a joint approach for all severely absent pupils with		the top priority for support. This may include a whole family plan,
Proactively engage with	the local authority.		consideration for an education,
the formal support offered			health and care plan, or an
 including any parenting 			alternative form of educational
contract or voluntary			provision.
early help plan to prevent			
the need for legal			
intervention.			

5. Support for cohorts of pupils with attendance lower than their peers

				,
Parents	are	Schools are expected to:	Academy trustees and governing	Local authorities are expected to:
expected to:			bodies are expected to:	
N/A		Proactively use data to identify	Regularly review attendance data and	Track local attendance data to
		cohorts with, or at risk of, low	help school leaders focus support on	prioritise support and unblock area
		attendance and develop strategies	the pupils who need it.	wide attendance barriers where they
		to support them.		impact numerous schools.
		Work with other schools in the local		
		area and the local authority to		
		share effective practice where		

6. Support for pupils with medial conditions or SEND with poor attendance

6. Support for pupils with medial conditions of SEND with poor attendance			
Parents are	Schools are expected to:	Academy trustees and governing bodies	Local authorities are expected to:
expected to:		are expected to:	
Work with the	Maintain the same ambition for	Regularly review attendance data and	Work closely with relevant services
school and local	attendance and work with pupils	help school leaders focus support on the	and partners, for example special
authority to help	and parents to maximise	pupils who need it.	educational needs, educational
them understand	attendance.		psychologists, and mental health
their children's			services, to ensure joined up
barriers to	Ensure join up with pastoral		support for families
attendance.	support and where required, put in		
	place additional support and		
Proactively engage	adjustments, such as an individual		
with the support	healthcare plan and if applicable,		
offered.	ensuring the provision outlined in		
	the pupils EHCP is accessed.		
	Consider additional support from		
	wider services and external		
	partners, making timely referrals.		
	. , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
	Regularly monitor data for such		
	groups, including at board and		
	governing body meetings and with		
	local authorities.		

7. Support for pupils with a Social Worker

7. Support for pupils with a Social Worker			
Parents are	Schools are expected to:	Academy trustees and governing bodies	Local authorities are expected to:
expected to:		are expected to:	
Parents are expected to: Work with the school and local authority to help them understand their child's barriers to attendance. Proactively engage with the support offered.	Know who the pupils who have, or have had, a social worker are. Understand how the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that they are experiencing, or have experienced, can have an impact on attendance — whilst maintaining a culture of high aspiration for the cohort. Provide additional academic support and make reasonable adjustments to help them, recognising that even when statutory social care intervention has ended, there can be a lasting impact on children's educational outcomes. Work in partnership with the local authority at a strategic and individual level, sharing data on attendance including, at an individual level, informing the pupils social worker if there are any	Academy trustees and governing bodies are expected to: Regularly review attendance data and help school leaders focus support on the pupils who need it.	Ensure that all children's social care practitioners understand the importance of good attendance for pupils educational progress, for their welfare and their wider development – and understand their role in improving it. Through the work of the virtual schools Heads, they should: • Undertake systemic monitoring and data sharing of the attendance of children with a social worker in their area: developing and implementing targeted cohort level interventions to improve attendance. • Provide advice, challenge and training to schools on how to promote and secure good attendance for children with a social worker. • Develop whole system approaches, with social care, to support the
	individual level, informing the pupils		approaches, with socia

8. Looked after and previously looked after children

Parents are	Schools are expected to:	Academy trustees and governing bodies	Local authorities are expected to:
expected to:	ochools are expected to.	are expected to:	Local admonties are expected to.
Work with the school and local authority to help them, understand the barriers to attendance – including the development of personal education plans. Proactively engage with the support offered.	Have high expectations for the cohort – with expert support and leadership provided by the designated teacher for looked after and previously looked after pupils. Work in partnership with the local authority virtual school head to develop and deliver high quality personal education plans for looked after children that support good attendance. Work directly with parents to develop a good home school links that support attendance. For previously looked after pupils this could include a discussion on use pf premium plus funding managed by the school.	Designate a member of staff to have responsibility for the promotion of educational achievement of looked after and previously looked after children. Monitor and review attendance of the cohort and consider how school policies, including behaviour policies, are sensitive to their needs and support good attendance.	Promote the educational achievement of looked after and previously looked after children – doing everything possible to minimise disruption to education when a pupil enters care. (LA that looks after the child:) Appoint an expert Virtual School Head (VSH) – will: • Monitor, report on , and evaluate the education outcomes of looked after children, including their attendance, as if attended a single school – wherever they live or are educated. • Ensure schools know when they have a pupil looked after by the authority on their role and that information is shared with the school on issues that may impact on their attendance. • Ensure that all looked after pupils have high quality, up to date, effective Personal

	Education Plans developed in partnership with schools, social workers and carers –
	including, where necessary,
	clear interventions and use of pupil premium plus
	funding to support good
	attendance.
	 Provide expert advice and information on the education
	of previously looked after
	pupils to schools and
	parents – including their
	attendance.

9. Monitoring

Parents:	Schools:	Academy trustees and governing bodies:	Local authorities:
Schools regularly update parents on their child's attendance.	The schools senior attendance champion will ensure all school based staff complete their attendance responsibilities in line with the schoolpolicy.	Ofsted considers governing bodies' efforts as part of inspections.	Ofsted may consider the local area partnership's approach to improving attendance of children with SEND as part of the SEND area inspection, and the local
authority have not delivered what they	The governing body or academy trust will hold the Head Teacher or Executive Leadership to account for		authority's approach to improving attendance for children with a social worker through inspecting local authority children's services.
are expected to they should discuss the case with the school and/or local	for compliance with regulatory and statutory requirements. They will review progress and provide		Ultimately in cases where a local authority has not met expectations or statutory duties the Local Government and social care

authority's	will help school leaders focus on	ombudsman or the secretary of
attendance	improvement efforts on the individual	state can consider a complaint.
support team)	pupils or cohorts who need it most	State can consider a complaint.
Support team)	and ensure that school staff receive	
	adequate training in attendance.	
	adequate training in attendance.	
	Ofsted will expect school to do all	
	they reasonably can to achieve the	
	highest possible attendance as part	
	of behaviour and attitudes	
	judgement. This includes, where	
	attendance is not consistently above	
	what could reasonably be expected,	
	that schools have a strong	
	understanding of the cause of	
	absence (particularly for sever or	
	persistent absence) and a clear	
	• <i>•</i>	
	strategy in place that takes the	
	account of those causes to improve	
	attendance for all pupils.	
	I litimataly in ages where a school	
	Ultimately, in cases where a school	
	has not met expectations or statutory	
	duties the secretary of state can	
	consider a complaint.	

❖ Taken from the DfE summary table of responsibilities for school attendance.