



Archbishop Temple  
Church of England High School

# Attendance Policy

Agreed by Governing Board, July 2024  
Policy will be reviewed by JBA, May 2025

## **Contents**

### **1 Introduction**

### **2 Responsibilities and expectations**

2.1 Families

2.2 School (including contact information for attendance-related matters)

2.3 Lancashire County Council

### **3 Types of absence**

3.1 Authorised absences

3.2 Unauthorised absences

3.3 Persistent Absence (PA)

3.4 Leave during term time

3.5 Religious absence

3.6 Participation in sporting events

3.7 Participation in performances

3.8 Attending and Interview

3.9 Part-time Timetables

### **4 Registration**

4.1 Attendance registration

4.2 Late arrival

4.3 Punctuality

### **5 School attendance procedures**

5.1 First day of absence

5.2 Attendance concerns

5.3 Pupils with medical needs who have difficulty attending school

5.5 Promotion of good attendance

5.6 Use of penalty notices

5.7 Our School Strategies

### **6 Alternative provision and use of directions**

### **7 Mental Health and Wellbeing and Attendance**

### **8 Notifications school must submit to the local authority**

8.1 Admissions

8.2 Leavers

8.3 Pupils who fail to attend

8.4 Children missing education

### **Appendix: School attendance and the law**

Parents and carers

Schools

# 1 Introduction

Archbishop Temple Church of England High School believe that attendance is the essential foundation for positive outcomes for all pupils. Our ethos of Faith, Nurture and Service supports a calm, orderly, safe and supportive environment. We promote the benefits of high attendance, to enable and encourage all pupils to achieve their potential and 'Sine God's Light'. Pupils receive regular rewards for attendance (further details of this are outlined in our Behaviour Recovery Policy).

For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and every child should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless they have an unavoidable reason to be absent. Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning.

Absence or late arrival also disrupts teaching routines and so may affect the learning of others in the same class.

Government research shows a direct link between attendance and attainment and good attenders also make better progress socially, learn to work with others, and are better prepared for the transition to secondary school and, eventually, higher education, training and employment.

It is very important therefore that you make sure that your child attends regularly and this policy sets out how together we will achieve this.

Our attendance target this year is **97%**, but all pupils should strive to achieve 100% attendance.

	<b>100%</b>	<b>Perfection!</b>
<u>4</u> days of school off each year	<b>98%</b>	<b>Impressive!</b>
<u>7</u> days of school off each year	<b>96%</b>	<b>Good</b>
<u>9</u> days of school off each year	<b>95%</b>	<b>Nearly there!</b>
<u>11</u> days of school off each year	<b>94%</b>	<b>Needs to improve</b>
<u>20</u> days of school off each year	<b>90%</b>	<b>Concerns – persistent absence</b>
<u>30</u> days of school off each year	<b>85%</b>	<b>Serious concerns</b>

## 2 Responsibilities and expectations

The Department for Education have produced a 'Summary Table of Responsibilities for School Attendance' which summarises the responsibilities of parents, schools, governing bodies and local authorities. This is based on the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance'. Full documents can be found using the links below:

[Summary Table of Responsibilities](#)

[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)

### 2.1 Families

Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure that their child receives an education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational needs they may have. By deciding to register your child at Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, parents and carers have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends regularly. (see appendix for details of how the law applies to school attendance and how "parent" is defined in law).

Parents and pupils should know the times the school day starts and finishes and when the register closes (see section 4, below); the processes for requesting leave (see section 3.4, below); and the process for informing school of the reason for unexpected absence (as follows).

If your child is going to be absent, parents must inform school as soon as possible and at the latest by 8.15 am on the first day of absence either via the ClassCharts app; using the [contact enquiry form](#) with the subject title 'Attendance'; or by calling school on 01772 717782.

Parents must also ensure that school has up-to-date contact information for themselves and a minimum of two emergency contacts.

Pupils' responsibilities depend upon their age, maturity and capability but they too must do their best to attend school regularly and punctually.

School contact information for other attendance-related matters is given below at the end of section 2.2.

### 2.2 School

#### Head Teacher

- Lead on giving attendance a high profile.
- Ensure there are designated staff with day-to-day responsibility for attendance matters and protected time allocated to discharge those responsibilities.

- Take overall responsibility for ensuring the school confirms to statutory requirements regarding attendance.
- Consider each request for leave against the school's criteria, decide whether some, all, or none of the leave will be authorised and notify parents of this decision.
- Where there is uncertainty regarding an absence, make the decision whether or not to authorise an absence, or to request further evidence to support the decision-making process.
- Provide regular reports to the governing body on school attendance, including persistent absence and vulnerable groups.

### **Attendance lead and other staff with designated responsibilities for attendance**

- First day response: contact parents if a reason for absence has not been provided and record this information accordingly. Contact emergency contacts if parents cannot be reached.
- Update attendance registers.
- Regularly monitor and analyse data to identify pupil, class and whole school attendance concerns and to target attendance improvement support for those who need it most, particularly vulnerable groups.
- Regularly communicate pupil attendance and punctuality levels to parents.
- Work with children and parents to remove barriers to regular and punctual attendance, using parenting contracts where appropriate.
- Involve external agencies to support children and parents as appropriate to better understand and address the issues causing attendance concerns.
- Promote regular attendance through the school newsletter, website and displays and ensure the school's attendance policy is readily accessible.
- Use projects and strategies to improve attendance and punctuality for groups, classes or the whole school (eg incentive and reward schemes, certificates, traffic light letters).

### **All school staff**

- Provide a welcoming atmosphere for children and a safe learning environment.
- Be aware of factors that can contribute to poor attendance and punctuality.
- Adhere to the procedures in place within school to promote good attendance.
- Promote the link between attendance and educational attainment to pupils and parents.

- Complete attendance registers in accordance with the legislation and under the direction of the head teacher.
- Discuss attendance concerns at an early stage with children and parents.
- Raise any concerns about attendance with the attendance lead and/or head teacher.

### **Governors**

- Ensure compliance with The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, as amended.
- Agree an attendance policy and review it annually.
- Agree targets for attendance at Archbishop Temple Church of England High School.
- Where the school is not meeting its attendance targets, or when the governors believe there is cause for concern, instigate a review of school's attendance procedures.
- Authorise the head teacher (or other designated person) to make decisions regarding leave of absence requests.
- Work with the head teacher in establishing equitable and consistent criteria against which leave requests will be considered.

Schools are bound by a range of attendance legislation and guidance; please see the appendix for further details.

### **School attendance contacts**

Mr C Houldgreaves, Attendance Officer: contact for parents to notify school of a pupil's absence and for day to day enquiries about attendance.

Mrs J Banner, Assistant Headteacher Behaviour & Attitudes: senior leader responsible for the strategic approach to attendance in school.

Mrs R Parkinson, Miss B Murphy, Miss E Keel, Miss S Porter, (Heads of Year) Mrs D Martin, (Pastoral Support Officer) Mr T Haslam, (Behaviour Manager), Mr C Houldgreaves, (Attendance Officer): support for specific and more serious attendance concerns.

The staff named above can be contacted on using the [contact form](#) on our school website or by phone on 01772717782.

## **2.3 Lancashire County Council (the local authority)**

### **School Attendance Support Team**

Each school has a named contact in the School Attendance Support Team who can advise schools on attendance related matters, and with whom termly Targeting Support Meetings will be held. For mainstream nursery, primary and secondary schools this will be a School Attendance Support

Worker (SASW); for special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) this will be a School Attendance Consultant (SAC).

### **School Attendance Legal Team (SALT)**

Following requests from schools for legal interventions in the event of failure to attend school regularly, the SALT undertakes enforcement processes, including penalty notices, prosecutions, parenting orders, education supervision orders and school attendance orders.

### **Children Missing Education (CME) Team**

The CME team ensures the local authority fulfils its statutory duty to identify children in their area who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. For further information see section 7, below, regarding notifications schools must submit.

## **3 Types of absence**

Every half-day absence from school is classified by the school as either authorised or unauthorised. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required from parents/carers. As a school, we will always work with parents (and other agencies, as appropriate) to understand the reasons underlying absence.

### **3.1 Authorised absences**

Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a good reason like illness, medical/dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, emergencies or other unavoidable causes.

### **3.2 Unauthorised absences**

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable. If school has followed its attendance procedures and a pupil continues to have unauthorised absences, the school may see seek advice from the local authority School Attendance Support Team or request legal interventions from the School Attendance Legal Team. Examples of unauthorised absences are:

- Parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily.
- Truancy during the school day.
- Absences which are not explained satisfactorily.
- Children who arrive at school after the register has closed.
- Days off for shopping, birthdays or looking after other children.
- Day trips and holidays in term time which have not been agreed by the head teacher.

- Days that exceed the amount of leave agreed by the head teacher.

It is the head teacher's responsibility to decide if an absence is authorised or unauthorised. Hence, if there is any ambiguity relating to an absence, school may request further evidence from parents before an absence is authorised. This may be in the form of a prescription, appointment card or similar. Parents should not ask their doctor (GP) to provide "sick notes" to excuse absence.

Whilst any child may be off school because they are ill, sometimes they can be reluctant to attend school for other reasons. If your child is reluctant to attend school it is better to speak to school as soon as possible to resolve the issue, rather than trying to cover up their absence, or give in to pressure to let them stay at home. As a school, we will always work with parents (and external agencies as appropriate) to understand and address the reasons behind absence.

### **3.3 Persistent Absence (PA)**

Persistent absence is when a child misses 10% or more of their schooling across the school year for whatever reason, authorised and unauthorised (including illness, exclusion, holiday, etc). **This equates to 20 days of absence.** Absence at this level will damage any child's educational prospects and we expect parents' fullest support and co-operation to address this.

At Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, we monitor all absence thoroughly, therefore any pupil whose attendance indicates they are likely to reach the PA threshold will be prioritised and parents will be informed of this promptly. Pupils who are persistent absentees are tracked and monitored carefully and the attendance procedures below (section 5) will be followed. **Pupils in the bracket of PA will not be allowed to attend school trips/visits unless these form part of compulsory GCSE coursework/fieldwork.**

### **3.4 Leave during term time**

**By law, maintained schools are expected to restrict leaves of absence to specific circumstances set out in regulation 11 of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. Taking a child out of school in term time will affect their education and progress as much as any other absence. Any leave of absence requests must be approved by the head teacher. If leave is being requested for a holiday or extended leave abroad, approval should be obtained before making any bookings. Generally, the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.**

Leave of absence in term time **will not** be granted unless:



- a request for leave has been made in advance by a parent with whom the pupil normally resides (using the form available on the [school website](#), and
- the head teacher considers that leave of absence should be granted due to the **exceptional circumstances** relating to the request.

Due to the need to evidence exceptional circumstances, parents are advised to provide school with any relevant information regarding their request at the point of application if they believe the circumstances are exceptional.

In considering the request school will also consider other factors such as:

- The timing of the requested leave, eg when a pupil is just starting at school or during assessment periods.
- A pupil's attendance record already includes unauthorised absence.
- Attendance is already a concern, or could become a concern, as a result of taking leave.
- Other periods of leave which the pupil may have had, either during the current or previous academic year.

Any period of leave taken without the agreement of the school, or in excess of that agreed, will be classed as unauthorised and may attract legal sanctions such as a penalty notice.

In certain circumstances, as outlined in regulation, parents risk losing their child's place on the school roll if leave is taken and the criteria governing removal from roll are met (see appendix).

Specific circumstances for leaves of absence are outlined below:

### **3.5 Religious absence**

School will authorise one day of absence per religious festival, eg Eid, and this will be marked as code R in the register. The day authorised will be that set aside by the religious body of which the parent is a member.

Parents must request any additional leave in advance and this can only be authorised if the head teacher agrees that exceptional circumstances apply; this would be marked in the register as code C.

### **3.6 Participation in sporting events**

Parents can request leave of absence for their child to take part in regional, national and international sporting events. However, as always, granting leave is at the head teacher's discretion and she/he will need to discuss with you the length and frequency of the absence(s) requested and how learning will continue if absence occurs, eg the sports club or association providing an approved education tutor.

Leave for a sporting activity that has been approved by the school and supervised by someone authorised by the school can be marked in the register as code P.

Permission for your child to leave early or arrive late in order to attend coaching and training sessions is also at the discretion of the head teacher and is unlikely to be approved if it would occur regularly.

### **3.7 Taking part in a regulated performance or employment abroad: in line with a licence issued by a local authority or Justice of the Peace or a body of persons approval (BOPA)**

Parents of a child performer can request leave from school for their child to take part in a performance. A local authority licence must be obtained before a child can take part in a performance. Before a licence is granted, school will be consulted and head teachers must be satisfied that the leave will not have a negative effect on the child's education.

Where the licence specifies the dates that the child is to be away from school, the head teacher should authorise those days. However, where the licence does not specify dates, it is at the discretion of the head teacher to authorise the leave request.

Any absence authorised for the child to take part in a performance will be recorded as **code C1**.

Parents wishing to apply for a performance licence should go the Lancashire County Council [Child performance licences webpage](#).

### **3.8 Attending an interview**

Where an application has been made in advance by the parent/carer who the child normally lives with, to enable the pupil to attend an interview for employment, or admission into another educational institution or for future employment leave will be authorised and record as code J1.

### **3.9 Part-time timetables**

A **temporary, time-limited** part-time timetable: where the pupil is of compulsory school age, both the parent who the pupil normally lives with and school agree the pupil should temporarily be educated on a part-time basis for exceptional reasons and have agreed the times and dates when the pupil will be expected to attend school as part of that timetable. Code C2 will be utilised.

## 4 Registration

### 4.1 Attendance registration

Morning registration is between 8.20am-8.50am.

Afternoon registration is between 12.05pm and 12.35pm.

The school day starts at 8.20am. Pupils are expected to be on the premises at that time and that is when the registration period starts (ie when the register is taken and remains open).

When the attendance register has been taken it remains open until 8.50am in the morning and 12.35pm in the afternoon.

School finishes at 2.50pm.

### 4.2 Late arrival

Pupils who arrive in school any time after 8.50am must go straight to the school office at the main entrance to sign in and give a reason for their lateness.

Pupils who arrive after the register has been taken (8.20am or 12.05pm) but before it is closed (8.50am-12.35pm), will be marked as code L. This is classed as late but present for the session (i.e. the morning or afternoon).

Pupils who arrive after the register has closed and without a valid reason for being late (such as attending a dental or medical appointment) will be marked as code U, which for statistical purposes, is classified as an unauthorised absence.

### 4.3 Punctuality

Poor punctuality is not acceptable. If your child misses the start of the day, they can miss work and do not spend time with their class teacher getting important news and information for the day. **Our form time curriculum is designed to ensure pupils are suitably educated on issues surrounding safeguarding, behaviour and school culture and ethos, as well as supporting our PSHE curriculum.** Pupils arriving late also disrupt lessons, which can be embarrassing for the child and can in turn, encourage absence. Being 10 minutes late every day throughout the academic year is the same as missing two weeks of school.

If your child is often late you will be asked to meet with a member of the pastoral team to discuss ways to improve punctuality, but you can approach us at any time if you are having problems getting your child to school on time.

Persistent lateness after the register has closed may result in further action, as outlined below, under section 5.

## **5 School attendance procedures**

### **5.1 First day of absence**

If your child is absent and we have not heard from you, we will contact you on the first day of absence to find out what the reason is and when your child is expected to return. If we are unable to make contact, we will approach your emergency contacts and, if necessary, make a home visit. Please note that such home visits may be unannounced.

### **5.2 Attendance concerns**

Parents are expected to contact school at an early stage and to work with us in resolving any attendance problems together; this is nearly always successful. However, if concerns persist, school will use the following procedures and interventions, as required, to support parents in improving their child's attendance and/or punctuality:

- Telephone calls and/or letters to make parents aware of school's concern about their child's attendance.
- Invitation to meetings to discuss concerns with our attendance lead and/or head teacher.
- Parenting contracts to identify barriers to regular attendance, ways to overcome these and agree targets for improvement.
- Incentive and reward schemes for individual pupils, if appropriate.
- The Early Help Assessment (EHA) process and/or referral to other agencies and services, including School Nurses and Primary Mental Health Workers, if appropriate.
- For unauthorised absences, request legal interventions by the local authority, such as penalty notices, prosecution or other attendance-related court orders.

At any stage, we may seek advice from advice from the local authority School Attendance Support Team.

### **5.3 Pupils with medical needs who have difficulty attending school**

Archbishop Temple Church of England High School is committed to supporting pupils with medical conditions. We understand it is not good practice to penalise pupils for their attendance record if absences are related to their medical condition, e.g. hospital appointments. We therefore take a fair and considered approach to attendance, working with parents to ensure reasonable adjustments are made. We understand our obligations to support families with attendance and consider both the Equality Act (2010) and The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child when taking action.

Government guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (see appendix) emphasises the role of governing bodies in ensuring that pupils with medical conditions are able to fully access education in the same way as other pupils. A key element of this responsibility is reducing the amount of time missed by these pupils, whether their condition is short or long term.

School will seek advice and support from the LA, health professionals, commissioners and other support services to ensure that children with medical conditions receive a full education. When education is to be provided at an alternative location, this should always be done via the use of a direction (please see section 6, below).

When a pupil has been absent from school for an extended period, the head teacher, the class teacher and other support services will work with the family to ensure that a smooth reintegration is achieved.

#### **5.4 Pupils refusing to attend school**

At Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, we believe that every child has a right to a full-time education, and we would not accept "school refusal" as a reason for non-attendance. In such cases, we will work with parents to identify the reasons why a child may be reluctant to attend school. We may request advice from the School Attendance Support Team and, with consent, make referrals to other external partners such as the Children and Family Wellbeing Service or Primary Mental Health Workers, as appropriate, to try to ensure the correct support is secured for the child and their family.

#### **5.5 Promotion of good attendance**

School will promote and incentivise attendance by acknowledging and rewarding good attendance by all pupils and efforts to improve attendance by individual pupils who have additional needs or challenging circumstances.

#### **5.6 Use of penalty notices**

In accordance with the Lancashire code of conduct, we may request that the local authority issue penalty notices for unauthorised absence. **Penalty notices and further action such as prosecution, are in line with the National Framework to protect a pupil's right to an education. ([Link to website for further information](#)).** This includes:

- Leave of absence which is taken without a prior request being made.
- Leave taken after a request has been declined.
- Days taken in excess of an agreed period of leave, without good reason.

- Other unauthorised absence that meets the required threshold, including sessions marked as late after the register has closed (code U).

The code of conduct for penalty notices and information and FAQs for parents can be found on the Lancashire County Council [education penalty notice webpage](#).

## 5.7 Our School Strategies


Archbishop Temple Church of England High School believe pupils should be rewarded for meeting expectations and this includes attending school. Specific attendance related rewards have been designed to be inclusive whilst further promoting good attendance.

We also believe communication with parents and carers is invaluable so attendance issues are highlighted at the earliest stage to engage families and overcome any barriers they may be experiencing.

All staff have a responsibility in relation to attendance so our school have developed guidance for our school community, on how attendance concerns should be addressed:

<b>Pupils of Concern</b>			
Attendance drops below 97%			
Form Tutor discussion and log on ClassCharts. Email sent to parents. Refer to CHO and HOY.			
Attendance drops below 93%			
Form Tutor discussion and log on ClassCharts. Second email sent to parents. Refer to CHO and HOY.			
Attendance drops below 90%			
First letter of concern			
Improvement YES	<b>Improvement NO</b>		
Letter of acknowledgement (CHO)	<b>Second letter of concern. Meeting with HOY (face to face/phone call/teams as appropriate).</b>		
	Improvement YES	<b>Improvement NO</b>	
	Letter of acknowledgement (CHO)	<b>Parenting contract surrounding attendance in school</b>	
	Improvement YES		<b>Improvement NO</b>
	Letter of acknowledgement (CHO)		<b>Penalty Notices (maximum 3)</b>
<p><b>Failure to engage in support or interventions/no improvement in attendance/persistent or severe absence may result in a parent order, supervision order, school attendance order, or prosecution.</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.gov.uk">School attendance and absence: Legal action to enforce school attendance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p>			

Further details on how our school can provide support for pupils is outlined in our Referral Pathway for Early Help in School.

 <b>Archbishop Temple</b> Church of England High School										
Referral Pathway for Early Help in School										
Safeguarding										
CAMHS <i>(Evidence of previous interventions must be provided)</i>					Support from external agencies CANW/Key/Child Support etc. Early Help Assessment <i>(Evidence of previous interventions must be provided)</i>					
Zones of Regulation			ELSA support		Educational Psychologist			Specialist Teacher Referral		
Young Carers Self-referral and Community Prescribing also possible	Compass Bloom (EMHP) KBR Low mood/mild anxiety	PMHW KBR Advice can be sought about anything to do with CAMHS via a link meeting	TYS Team KBR Fearless Program for low self-esteem and friendship issues in KS3	CFWS KBR Link meetings to ask for support with EHA interventions	PPP for parents Self-referral possible	Young People's Coaching KBR Self-esteem, sleep, friendship support for KS4	School Nurse Self-referral possible or referral form on Firefly	School Counsellor SHU – 6-week program Relationship Issues (Mediation, friendship issues, loss or separation)	Talking Therapy KBI – 6-week program Trauma (CIA, Panic attacks, anxiety and stress)	
Pastoral Support Interventions Anxiety/Anger/Worry/Sleep (Group or individual work)			Chaplain		Boxall Profile Assessment to pinpoint behavioural, emotional and social difficulties			Mindfulness . breathe 4-week program		
Heads of Year Monitoring and liaison with parents. Promoting self-help via approved websites. Information sharing with the Pastoral Team										
Form Tutors Check ins with pupils. Liaison with parents.					Peer Support from Pupil Support Teams Wellbeing Ambassadors, Anti Bullying Ambassadors					

**Key:**  
 In School support provided by the Pastoral Team  
 Support provided by the SEND team (SEMH)  
 External agency support (Level 2)  
 External agency support (Level 3)  
 Level 4

## 6 Alternative provision and use of directions

There is a range of circumstances when pupils might be required to access educational provision at a venue other than their main school. The main reasons are:

- Pupils who have been excluded, either for a fixed period of more than 5 days or permanently.
- Pupils unable to access provision at their main school for medical reasons.
- Pupils required to attend another venue for the purpose of improving behaviour, either on a temporary basis or with a view to making a permanent move to the alternative provision (via a managed move).

When a pupil is required to attend alternative provision for the purposes of improving behaviour, parents will receive a written direction or notice informing them of the alternative provision which their child is required to attend. Where a pupil is required to attend alternative provision for other reasons, the issuing of a written direction is considered best practice.

## 7 Mental Health and Wellbeing and Attendance

Archbishop Temple Church of England High School is committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing needs of all our pupils. Many children will experience normal but difficult emotions that make them nervous about attending school, such as worries about friendships, schoolwork, exams or variable moods. It is important to note that these pupils are still expected to attend school regularly. We have a range of support mechanisms in school, and work closely with external agencies to provide support and sign post pupils, parents and carers to help when it is needed. We continue to set and maintain high expectations for the attendance, engagement and punctuality of pupils who are anxious about attending school. It is important to recognise that, in many instances, attendance at school may serve to help with the underlying issue as much as being away from school might exacerbate it, and a prolonged period of absence may heighten their anxiety about attending in future. Support is available at **Children's Mental Health – Every Mind Matters**.

We recognise that there can be attendance challenges where a child has a social, emotional or mental health issue, particularly a severe issue for which the child is receiving clinical treatment. In these instances, school will work alongside parents to create a plan of reasonable adjustments to alleviate specific barriers to attendance. This may, in extreme circumstances, involve the use of a **temporary** part-time timetable. School will inform the LA where pupils are likely to miss more than 15 days of school and will work alongside them, with families to determine whether alternative provision should be provided by the LA, under section 19 of the Education Act 1996.

It may be necessary in the case of long term or repeated absences for the same reason, for school to seek medical evidence to assist in assessing the additional support required. If parents proactively seek out a note from a GP, this does not imply the need for an absence unless explicit.

Link to: **[Summary of responsibilities where a mental health issue is affecting attendance](#)**.

## 8 Notifications school must submit to the local authority

### 8.1 Admissions

All schools must notify the local authority within five days of adding a pupil's name to the admission register and must provide the local authority with all the information held within the admission register about



the pupil. This duty does not apply to pupils who are added to the admission register at the start of the school's youngest year unless the local authority also requests for such information to be provided (currently Lancashire does not).

## **8.2 Leavers**

All schools must notify the local authority when a pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register under any of the grounds prescribed in regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, as soon as the ground for removal is met and no later than the time at which the pupil's name is removed from the register. This duty does not apply where the pupil's name is removed after they have completed the school's final year, unless the local authority requests for such information to be provided (Lancashire currently does not).

Where a school notifies a local authority that a pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register, the school must provide the local authority with the required information as laid out in regulation.

In addition to submitting a notification about removal from roll, some circumstances also require school to make referral to other local authority teams such as the Elective Home Education team or the Children Missing Education team. Schools may also contact the School Attendance Support Team for advice on removing children from roll.

## **8.3 Pupils who fail to attend**

All schools (including academies) must inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 days or more. In Lancashire schools, this can be done via a variety of means and school can contact the School Attendance Support Team for further advice.

## **8.4 Children missing education (CME)**

Local authorities have a duty to put in place arrangements for identifying (as far as possible) those children of compulsory school age in their area who are not school registered or receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. Local authorities should trace those children and ensure they receive a full-time education.

If a pupil has stopped attending and her or his location is unknown, schools must make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child jointly with the local authority, before deleting the pupil's name from the register. In such cases, school should undertake a home visit, prior to a referral being made to the local authority Children Missing Education team.

## **Appendix: School attendance and the law**

There are many pieces of legislation and government regulations and guidance that are relevant to school attendance and to children and their parents and carers. The list below relates to this attendance policy but is not exhaustive.

### **Parents and carers**

#### **Duty to ensure children receive education**

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 covers the duty of parents to secure the education of children in their care who are of compulsory school age and states:

*The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable—*

- (a) to his age, ability and aptitude, and*
- (b) to any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.*

#### **Offence if a child does not attend regularly**

Under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, if a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly, their parent is guilty of an offence.

The offence is absolute as the only defences available to the parent are those statutory defences listed within that section of the Act, ie:

- the child was absent with leave granted by the school;
- the child was prevented from attending by reason of sickness or any unavoidable cause;
- absence was on a day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which their parent belongs;
- that the school is not within statutory walking distance and that the local education authority has made no suitable transport arrangements or enabled the pupil to become registered at an alternative nearer school.

#### **Compulsory school age**

Section 8 of the Education Act 1996 establishes that a child becomes of compulsory school age on the start date of the term following her/his fifth birthday, or that day if her/his fifth birthday falls on the day term starts.

A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June in the academic year in which he/she reaches the age of 16 or if he/she reaches 16 after the last Friday in June but before the start of the new school year.

## **Legal definition of "parent" in relation to attendance**

The law requires that all "parents" are held responsible for their child's attendance. This definition can include any person who has care of the child. Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 states:

*Meaning of "parent".*

*(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, "parent", in relation to a child or young person, includes any person—*

*(a) who is not a parent of his but who has parental responsibility for him, or*

*(b) who has care of him.*

Thus, the definition of "parent" means all natural parents, whether they are married or not, and includes any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility and/or care for a child or young person.

## **Schools**

### **Attendance and absence registration codes**

Working together to improve school attendance, DfE, 2024, explains which codes schools should use to record attendance in their registers, and specifies the DfE's expectations of schools and local authorities with respect to school attendance.

### **Data protection**

Schools must ensure that personal data is handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. See Archbishop Temple Church of England High School's Privacy Notice for information about how personal data will be used.

### **Duty for schools to include attendance information in reports for parents**

The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005

### **Duty for schools to notify the local authority when pupils join or leave school**

Regulation 12 of The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

### **Duty for maintained schools to publish attendance data**

What maintained schools must publish online, DfE guidance

### **Duty for schools to report attendance concerns about individual pupils to the local authority**

Regulation 12 of The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

### **Duty for schools to report attendance data to Government**

Section 537A of the Education Act 1996 and

Complete the school census, DfE guidance for schools and local authorities on what data government requires

### **Duty for schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of children**

Keeping children safe in education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges, DfE, regularly updated

### **Leave in term time \***

September 2013 amendment to The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

\* This regulation does not apply to academies, though many adopt this as good practice.

### **Legal interventions**

Parents/carers commit an offence if a child who is on a school roll fails to attend regularly and those absences are recorded by the school as unauthorised.

Legal interventions are available under the following Acts, Guidance and Regulations:

- Section 444 of the Education Act 1996
- Section 36 of the Children Act 1989
- Section 23 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007
- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013
- School attendance parental responsibility measures 2015

### **Pupils experiencing social, emotional or mental health issues**

Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools, DfE, 2023

### **Pupils with health needs who cannot attend school**

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions: Statutory guidance, DfE, 2015

### **Pupils with individual needs and specific barriers to attendance**

When considering the individual needs of pupils and families who have specific barriers to attendance, schools should be mindful of their obligations under the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#). Schools may wish to refer to the [Technical Guidance for Schools in England](#), published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, which outlines the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 for schools.

### **Regulations regarding participation in performances**

[The Children \(Performances and Activities\) \(England\) Regulations 2014](#)

### **Regulations regarding removal from roll**

[Regulation 8 of The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

### **Regulations regarding the school day and number of sessions**

[The Education \(School Day and School Year\) \(England\) Regulations 1999](#)

### **Requirement for state-funded mainstream schools to deliver a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023.**

[Minimum expectation on length of the school week: information note](#)