

Attendance

Reflecting on the autumn term and my return to my substantive position, I have received significant support from the school in my role as Senior Attendance Champion. The opportunities for Continuing Professional Development, a dedicated attendance team, and guidance from my line manager have all contributed to my ability to perform my duties effectively. The recent appointment of a full-time Family Liaison Officer has already made a positive impact by strengthening relationships with families, which has enabled us to implement more tailored interventions for those facing significant attendance challenges. Additionally, the provision of clerical support has enhanced the efficiency of the attendance team and bolstered the pastoral team's early intervention strategies.

During the first term, our primary objectives were to evaluate the existing attendance procedures at all levels within the school and to identify areas for improvement.

To achieve this, an internal attendance procedures document was developed that provides clear guidance on staff expectations and timing. This ensures a consistent approach across the school, enhancing the efficiency of our daily first response system. Additionally, teams were provided with structured guidance and scripts to facilitate early communication with parents, aimed at not only preventing students from becoming persistently absent (defined as having less than 90% attendance) but also celebrating improvement in attendance and punctuality to enhance parental engagement.

Weekly quality assurance processes are now in place to review every child's absence, which allows for the early identification of patterns and the timely intervention necessary to support both pupils and their families. This proactive approach is reflected in our attendance figures, with Ashton CSC achieving at present an attendance rate that is 0.6% above the FFT national average for secondary schools.

To further enhance attendance, trends and patterns throughout previous academic years were evaluated to identify specific periods of low attendance that warranted targeted improvement efforts. Data indicated a decline in attendance during November and the final week of December, prompting us to launch two initiatives: "No Days Off in November" and a form-time pizza party during the last week of term.

The pizza party initiative resulted in a notable increase in attendance rates, with figures rising by 1.7% from autumn 2023/24 to autumn 2024/25.

The "No Days Off in November" initiative, supported by several local businesses, allowed Ashton CSC to offer two Christmas hampers per year group as incentives for students who maintained perfect attendance throughout November. Families expressed immense gratitude for these hampers, which included all the ingredients

necessary for a traditional Christmas dinner. For many recipient families, this initiative not only provided a festive meal on Christmas Day but also ensured they could enjoy fresh, balanced meals in the days following the holiday—something that might not have been possible otherwise.

Overall year group % attendance

	Nov 24-25	Nov 23-24	Difference
Whole school	92.46	91.45	+1.01
Y7	96.01	92.96	+3.05
Y8	93.87	91.44	+2.43
Y9	91.21	89.75	+1.46
Y10	92.36	90.34	+2.02
Y11	89.57	93.20	-3.63

- All year groups apart from Y11 show improved attendance in Nov from previous year except Y11.

Number of students with 100% attendance compared to same year group

Current year	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22
Year 7	99		
Year 8	78	74	
Year 9	69	69	77
Year 10	89	66	74
Year 11	76	77	70

Number of students with 100% attendance compared to previous year groups

	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22
Year 7	99	74	77
Year 8	78	69	74
Year 9	69	66	70
Year 10	89	77	72
Year 11	76	69	77

Points to note:

- Number of current Y7 with 100% attendance in comparison to other year groups when they were in Y7 is high
- Year 8 slight increase by 4 students
- Year 9 and 11 very similar to their previous years
- Year 10 largest increase of 23 students from their previous years and large improvement from previous Y10 cohorts over the past 3 years.

The final priority of the term was to reduce the number of students arriving to school after registration has closed to ensure a reduction in missed learning.

	HT1 24-25		HT1 23-24		HT2 24-25		HT2 23-24	
	Pupils	sessions	Pupils	sessions	Pupils	sessions	pupils	sessions
Y7	1	3	3	4				
Y8	11	20	12	31				
Y9	15	22	27	71				
Y10	15	45	19	58				
Y11	22	68	3	3				
WS	64	158	64	167				

Half term 1 shows a decrease in U marks for all year groups except Y11.

Note: Use of U mark is more consistently applied in 24/25 and therefore a reduction in figures overall is a huge success.

Autumn term attendance overview

School has started off positively in comparison to FFT national statistics. Overall school attendance for the term is 0.6% above national average of 91.9%. This positive trend is evident across all year groups except Year 9 where the attendance is -0.3% below the national average. Infact two year groups are identified as significantly above the FFT national average in the Autumn term; year 7 +1.1%, year 8 +1.3% with year 10 joining that trend in the first week of the Spring term with a difference of 1.1%.

As a school we continue to be significantly above FFT national averages for males, FSM6 and SEND students.

Comparing autumn term attendance from 23/24 to 24/25 shows an improvement of 1.7%.