

Attendance Policy 2026/27

Policy Statement

Blackpool Aspire Academy is committed to ensuring that pupils and families understand the absolute importance of full attendance at school. Pupils who attend school regularly make much better progress socially and academically. Absence has a detrimental effect on a pupils' academic progress; indeed, it is the greatest determinant of under-achievement at all phases. Poor attendance or sporadic absences may also be an indicator of underlying issues that need resolving either inside or outside of the academy. Absence may also mean that a young person is more vulnerable to safeguarding risks. As such, our academy invests time and money in working with families to make pupil attendance a top priority. As a school, we take our duty to safeguard children and our mission to challenge educational and social disadvantage seriously. Securing great attendance for all pupils is at the heart of our work. We work tirelessly to create a culture in our academy where pupils want to attend and we see great attendance as a benchmark of our positive culture.

Working together to improve school attendance (DfE, May 2022, updated 2026, p.8).

Expectations

Children should be present, on time, every day the school is open, unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. Permitting absence without a good reason is an offence by the parent or carer. Every half-day absence has to be classified by the school (not by the parents or carers) 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 unavoidable reasons such as genuine illness where medical evidence is provided.

'Unauthorised' absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no permission has been given. These include:

- Truancy before or during the school day
- Absences which have never been reported by parents or carers or properly explained
- Children who arrive to school after the register has closed (9.15am).
- Extended term time absence such as holidays
- Parents or carers keeping children off school unnecessarily

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, amended 2024, Reg. 6 & Reg. 7. Headteachers may only grant leave of absence in exceptional circumstances

If there are problems that affect a pupil's attendance we will investigate, identify and strive in partnership with home and pupils to resolve these problems as quickly and efficiently as possible. We will adopt a clearly, focussed, approach aimed at returning the pupil to full attendance at all times.

This policy is underpinned by the following legislation and guidance:

- ❖ Working together to improve school attendance July 2026
- ❖ The Education Act 1996 and 2002
- ❖ Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026
- ❖ School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024
- ❖ Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024
- ❖ The Equality Act 2010
- ❖ Education (Information about Individual Pupils) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024

Roles and Responsibilities

Working together to improve school attendance (DfE, 2024/26, p.12).

The Academy will:

- Ensure that attendance is everyone's business.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the registration procedures, registration regulations and education law.
- Complete electronic or paper registers accurately at the beginning of each morning and afternoon session.
- Complete electronic registers at the beginning of each lesson.
- Communicate to parents/carers the importance of contacting school early on the first day of absence.
- Follow up on any non-attendance with no contact on the first day of absence with a phone call and / or home visit
- Display attendance rates around the Academy and reward good and improved attendance of all students.
- Promote the role of the form tutor/class teacher in monitoring and rewarding good attendance for students in their form.
- Challenge attendance that is less than good and set targets for attendance as outlined in the attendance action plan.
- Intervene when poor attendance / punctuality becomes a problem and before it becomes a habit.
- Deal sympathetically with any problem a student may have which is causing attendance / punctuality to decline and always stay in regular contact with parents / carers
- Promote positive staff attitudes to students returning after absence.
- Work actively with children and families to emphasise the benefits of high attendance; instilling and reinforcing good attendance habits.
- Consult with all members of the Academy community and the Pupil Welfare Officer (PWO) service in developing and maintaining the whole Academy attendance policy.
- Ensure regular evaluation of attendance procedures by Senior Leaders and the Academy Council.
- Communicate a clear and transparent process around the management of attendance to families, following the Academy's staged attendance response plan.
- Report to the Academy Council each term.
- Work towards ensuring that all students feel supported and valued. We will send a clear message that if a student is absent, she/he will be missed.
- Have in place procedures that will allow absentees to catch up on missed work without disrupting the learning of others.
- Not grant extended leave during term time and will automatically refer to the local authority to fine.

Families will:

- Encourage their child to attend the academy daily, be punctual and inform the academy immediately if their child is absent.
- Inform the academy of any hospital appointment in advance unavoidably scheduled during school time via the attendance email – attendance@aspire.fcat.org.uk which is also listed on the school website.
- Inform the academy of any problems which might affect their child's attendance
- Cooperate with the academy if their child's attendance / punctuality is unsatisfactory

- Make requests for special leave of absence for their child during term time by emailing the attendance email – attendance@aspire.fcat.org.uk

Students will:

- Always attend the academy unless prevented by a specific illness or unavoidable circumstances.
- Always arrive to the academy and lessons on time.

Targets, attendance and punctuality

The target for all students is to achieve 100% attendance and 100% punctuality. The minimum expectation for all pupils is attendance over the academic year of 96%.

Attendance during one academic year	Equivalent days	Equivalent sessions	Equivalent weeks	Equivalent lessons
97%	6 days	12 sessions	1 week	36 lessons
95%	9 days	18 sessions	2 weeks	54 lessons
90%	19 days	38 sessions	4 weeks	114 lessons
85%	29 days	58 sessions	6 weeks	174 lessons
80%	38 days	76 sessions	8 weeks	228 lessons
75%	48 days	96 sessions	10 weeks	288 lessons
70%	57 days	114 sessions	11.5 weeks	342 lessons

All pupils are expected to arrive at school no later than **8.35am**. If a pupil arrives between **8:36 am and 9am** they will enter via the **late gate** and have their name taken for a **lunchtime detention**. If pupils arrive **after 9am** they must enter through D Block into the **Ready Room** where they will remain for the rest of the session in order not to disturb lessons in the main building. Pupils arriving after 9am will receive a **1-hour detention that evening**. If a pupil arrives after **9:15am** without a good reason, this will count as one whole session of unauthorised absence (i.e., half a day).

If a pupil is **late 2 times (between 8.36am and 9am)** within the space of 1 week, then a **1 hour after school detention** will be served on the **Friday** of that week. If a pupil is **late 2 times (after 9am)** within the space of 1 week, then a **2 hour after school detention** will be served on the **Friday** of that week.

We understand that sometimes there are genuine reasons as to why pupils may be late to school. If this is the case, we encourage you to contact the school on **01253 353155** so we are made aware of these.

The impact of poor attendance on academic progress

If your child misses' school on a regular basis, they are damaging their future life choices. Every school day counts. When a child misses school regularly, it has a serious impact on their education and can limit their future opportunities. National research shows a clear link between poor attendance and lower academic achievement. Just **19 days of absence** over the course of a school year can, on average, result in a **drop of one full grade at GCSE** across all subjects.

Consistently missing school means pupils fall behind in their learning, find it harder to keep up with the curriculum, and often struggle with gaps in knowledge. These gaps can affect confidence, motivation, and exam performance.

Key facts:

- Pupils with attendance below **90%** are classed as **persistently absent**, and nationally, this group performs significantly worse at GCSE compared to their peers.
- Good attendance is strongly linked to better **GCSE results**, which in turn open doors to college, apprenticeships, and future careers.
- Missing just a day or two each fortnight may not seem like much, but it adds up to a month of missed learning over the school year.
- Regular attendance is not just about academic success, it's also about building routines, resilience, and relationships that prepare young people for life beyond school.

Unplanned Absence

Parents/ Carer's must notify the academy of the reason for an absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 8:30am or as soon as practically possible by calling **01253 353155 option 1** or by emailing attendance@aspire.fcat.org.uk.

We will mark absence due to illness as authorised unless the academy has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness, or the student is under attendance monitoring (below 95% attendance). If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, the academy may ask the student's family to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence.

We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily. If the academy is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and families will be notified of this in advance.

The Headteacher will not authorise for any of the following reasons:

- Term-time holidays (including visiting family abroad)
- Study leave
- Trivial illnesses
- Looking after the house or waiting for workmen/deliveries etc
- Looking after siblings, including dropping them off at school or nursery
- Helping with housework or a family business
- Being unhappy or not getting on with other students in school
- Being up late the night before

We understand that pupils may be ill on occasions and when this is the case we accept that they should be kept at home and away from school.

If no contact is received from the parents/carers of an absent pupil on the first morning of absence we will:

- Contact home by telephone, text message or a home visit.
- Send out the attendance officer to complete home visits where appropriate
- After five days of absence the Assistant Headteacher in charge of Attendance will incorporate the student in the weekly discussion with the PWO.
- After a maximum of 10 days absence, the Assistant Headteacher will ask the PWO or the Police to call at the student's home. The aim of this being to identify and resolve the difficulties that are preventing the student from attending the Academy or to

safeguard the student. The parents/carers will be made aware of the legal requirements regarding Academy attendance.

Additionally, moving forward, FCAT have made the decision that we will **not be sending pupils home unattended**. If a pupil is unwell and needs to go home, we ask that they make this known to a member of staff. The attendance office will then make contact home. They will need to be collected by an adult whose contact details are on our school system. If a pupil is too ill to be in school, it is important that there is an adult at home to care for them.

Medical and dental appointments

These should be **made outside academy hours**. Any urgent medical and dental appointments will only be authorised on sight of the appointment card. If the absence is authorised, families must ensure they collect the pupil from visitors' reception as no pupil will be allowed out of the academy unaccompanied unless there is prior agreement with the academy. Families must also ensure that the pupil is aware of the appointment and is ready waiting at the authorised time. It is not the responsibility of the academy to inform pupils of appointments. In emergency situations, we will ensure the pupils is aware of the appointment. In any other circumstances, the pupil has to make their own way to reception at the authorised time.

Leave of absence during term time

Leave of absence during term time is not permitted. Any extended absence from the academy will be counted as unauthorised and will normally lead to a fixed penalty notice from the local authority in line with the national framework for penalty notices. Local authorities may choose to prosecute in instances of repeated or prolonged leave of absence.

Home Visits

Home visits are taken by the academy for a number of reasons and not purely for safeguarding reasons. A visit will commence following 2/3 consecutive days of absence. If a pupil is off ill, a home visit may be undertaken to check in with the family as well as offer avenues of support for those pupils who may be experiencing barriers to attending school. Collaboration with families to limit school absence is the best way to address any concerns and it is important to notice that these actions are undertaken without judgement with the overall aim of meeting the best interests of the pupil.

If parents and carers are experiencing difficulty in getting pupils to school

Parents and carers should contact the pupils head of year (list at bottom of policy) or the attendance team by email (attendance@aspire.fcat.org.uk). The head of year and attendance team are the people in school who will usually know pupils the best and will be able to suggest strategies if the problem persists. There may be a revised timetable with later/earlier starts and the employment of our Bridge provision, which is used to aid transition into mainstream lessons. However, both of these strategies are only intended to be used as short-term measures and not for an extensive period of time.

Religious leave of absence

For a day set aside exclusively for religious observance by the religious body the parent(s)

belongs to, pupils will be granted one day for each occasion of religious observance with a maximum of three days over one academic year. As a rule, 'a day set apart for religious observance' is a day when the pupil's parents would be expected by the religious body to which they belong to stay away from their employment in order to mark the occasion. These absences, if granted, will be recorded as authorised using the 'R' code. These are the codes as stipulated by the Department for Education and whilst absence is authorised, it does count against the child's attendance. This is the DfE national policy.

Encouraging high attendance

Aspire Academy rewards students for high attendance by:

- Awarding achievement points for 100% attendance in a term
- Providing students with achievement certificates for 100% attendance
- Providing students with achievement certificates for improved attendance
- Making attendance part of every formal school report sent home to parents and carers

Attendance Monitoring Procedures

Attendance will be monitored daily and patterns of absence will be investigated promptly. Families will be contacted if attendance falls below expectations. Early Help support may be offered, and where attendance continues to be a concern, referrals to the Local Authority may be made.

Children Missing Education Statutory Guidance (DfE, 2025).

Category	%	Action	Days and weeks missed	% Chance of attaining 5 Grades 5-9
Tier 1 -100% Attendance	100%	Names of these students will be displayed on attendance boards around school Pupils celebrated during success assemblies & Attendance voucher draw. Celebration event at the end of each full term End of year rewards trip	0 days 0 weeks	94.8%
Tier 2 – Excellent attendance	99.9 to 98%	End of year rewards trip	3 days	
Tier 3 – Risk of underachieving	97.99 to 97%	Text home informing parents their child's attendance has fallen below 98%. Attendance monitored by form tutor during attendance morning in form	5 days/ 1 week	74.3%

Tier 4 – Risk of underachieving	96.99 – 95%	Form tutors to call home for two students fortnightly. Parents sent link to attendance video on school website and invited to discuss attendance at parents evening.	7.5 days/ 1.5 weeks	
Tier 5 – serious risk of underachieving	94.99- 93%	Stage 1 intervention process will commence. Letter 1 is sent home to inform parents that attendance has fallen below national expectations, and the consequences associated with this. Heads of Year/Heads of Faculty to make calls home. SEND team to make phone calls for SEN students to address any barriers. Parents sent link to attendance video on school website and invited to discuss attendance at parents evening.	12.5 days/ 2.5 weeks	60.4%
Tier 6 – serious risk of underachieving	92.99 – 90%	Stage 1 process continued. Letter 2 is sent home (serious risk of underachieving). Stage 1 support meeting with parent and attendance manager (SENCo to support with SEN students). Parents informed of the risks of becoming permanently absent. Priority 1 listing for calls if absent.	3 weeks/ 15 days	34.7%
Tier 7 – Extreme risk of underachieving	89.99% and below	Stage 2 intervention process will commence. Letter 1 is sent home. Weekly monitoring by attendance team & daily communication with home for absence. Stage 2 process continued for no improvement Letter 2- Attendance panel meeting letter invite sent home. Attendance panel meeting takes place to complete an attendance contract (PWO involvement if appropriate). There will be a review period of 3 weeks. If there is still no improvement, then stage 3 letter is sent home, and this can lead to PWO involvement and a fixed penalty notice.	4 weeks/ 19 days+	26.7%

Legal Action

In line with the Education Act 1996, the Education (Penalty Notices) Regulations 2007 (as amended), and the Department for Education's School Attendance Guidance (2022), the school works in partnership with the local authority to take legal action where a pupil's unauthorised absence meets the threshold set out in national guidance. When a pupil accrues **10 sessions** (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within any rolling **10-school-week period**, the school must consider whether a penalty notice is appropriate. Penalty notices are issued by the local authority and carry a fine of **£80** if paid within 21 days, rising to **£160** if paid within 28 days. If the fine is not paid, the case may be referred for prosecution under **Section 444 of the Education Act 1996**. A maximum of two penalty notices per parent, per child, can be issued within a three-year period. Further offences may result in direct prosecution.

While legal action is a last resort, it forms part of a wider approach to securing attendance, and will only be taken when support has been offered but concerns persist.

Contact details of Attendance Team

Attendance email – attendance@aspire.fcat.org.uk

Attendance number – 01253 353155 (option 1)

Assistant Headteacher Attendance – Mrs Sarah Elson

Attendance Officer – Mrs Kensi Robinson

Attendance Administrators – Mrs Katie Cornwell & Mr David Morley

Heads of Year

Year 7 – Laura Buchanan – l.buchanan@aspire.fcat.org.uk

Year 8 – Jordan Brown – j.brown@aspire.fcat.org.uk

Year 9 – Julie Lumber – j.lumber@aspire.fcat.org.uk

Year 10 – Peter Grihault – p.grihault@fcatt.org.uk

Year 11 – Daniella Kerr – d.kerr@aspire.fcat.org.uk

Attendance Codes

Code			
/ \	Present during morning and afternoon session	Pupils will not be recorded as present if they are not in attendance during morning registration/ Period 1. If a pupil were to leave the school premises after registration, they will be counted as attending for statistical purposes.	Attending (Present)
B	Educated off site	The pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is not a sporting activity or work experience.	Attending (Present)
K	Attending a provision arranged by the local authority	The pupil is attending a place, other than the school or any other school at which they are a registered pupil, for educational provision arranged by a local authority under section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996 (exceptional provision of education), section 42(2), or 61(1) of the Children and Families Act 2014 (special educational provision off site). A pupil attending provision arranged by the school rather than the local authority must be recorded using Codes P or B instead.	Attending (Present)
L	Arrived after registration had started but before it closed (within 30 minutes)	The pupil was absent when the register started being taken but arrives before the register is closed. If a pupil arrives after close of registration, then a U mark will be awarded.	Attending (Present)
P	Participating in a sporting activity	The pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is a sporting activity. The sporting activity must take place during the session for which it is recorded.	Attending (Present)
V	Educational visit or trip	The pupil is attending a place, other than the school or any other school at which they are a registered pupil, for an educational visit or trip arranged by or on behalf of the school and supervised by a member of school staff. The visit or trip must take place during the session for which it is recorded.	Attending (Present)
W	Attending work experience	The pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is work experience provided under arrangements made by a local authority or the school as part of the pupil's education. The work experience must take place during the session for which it is recorded.	Attending (Present)

Code			
C	Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance	All schools are able to grant a leave of absence at their discretion. A leave of absence should not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances. Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.	Authorised Absence
C1	Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking	All schools can grant leaves of absence for pupils to undertake employment (paid or unpaid) during school hours. Where the local authority have granted a licence for the pupil to take part in a performance regulated by section 37(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963.	Authorised Absence

	regulated employment abroad.		
C2	Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable	All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs. The school and a parent who the pupil normally lives with should agree that the pupil should temporarily be educated only part-time and have agreed the times and dates when the pupil will, during the period of temporary part-time education, be expected to attend the school.	Authorised Absence
D	Dual registered at another school	The law allows a pupil to be registered at more than one school. This code is used to indicate that the pupil is absent with leave to attend the other school at which they are registered. Code D can only be used for a pupil who is attending another school and is on the admission register of that school. The main examples of dual registration are pupils who are attending a pupil referral unit, a hospital school or a special school on a temporary basis.	Authorised Absence
E	Suspended or permanently excluded	The pupil is suspended from school or permanently excluded from school on disciplinary grounds, but their name is still entered in the admission register, and no alternative provision has been made for the pupil to continue their education. Where the pupil is attending alternative provision, for the session in question, schools should record this using the appropriate attendance code in regulation 10(3) Table 2 or if the pupil is attending another school at which they are a registered pupil, schools should record this using code D.	Authorised Absence
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	The pupil is unable to attend due to illness (both physical and mental health related). Schools should advise parents to notify them on the first day the child is unable to attend due to illness. Where illness absence is long-term or recurring, schools should work with families and other agencies to identify barriers to attendance and put support in place to address them.	Authorised Absence
J1	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution	The leave is to enable the pupil to attend an interview for employment or admission to another educational institution.	Authorised Absence
M	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending a medical or dental appointment	Schools should encourage parents to make appointments out of school hours. Where this is not possible, they should get the school's agreement in advance and the pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment.	Authorised Absence
R	Religious observance	The pupil is absent on a day that is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body the parent(s) belong to (not the parents themselves). If a religious body sets apart a single day for a religious observance and the parent applies for more than one day, the school may only record one day using this code; the rest of the time would need a leave of	Authorised Absence

		absence, and this is granted at the school's discretion as set out under Code C.	
S	Leave of absence for the purpose of studying for a public examination	Schools can grant leave of absence for a pupil to study for a public examination where the leave has been agreed in advance with a parent who the pupil normally lives with (or the pupil if they will be over compulsory school age by the time of the absence). Study leave should not be granted by default once tuition of the exam syllabus is complete and should be used sparingly. If schools do decide to grant study leave, provision must still be made available for those pupils who want to continue to come into school to revise.	Authorised Absence
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	The pupil is a mobile child and their parent(s) is travelling in the course of their trade or business and the pupil is travelling with them. A mobile child is a child of compulsory school age who has no fixed abode and whose parent(s) is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as to require them to travel from place to place. To help ensure continuity of education for pupils, when their parent(s) is travelling for occupational purposes in England, it is expected that the pupil should attend a school where their parent(s) is travelling and be dual registered at that school and their main school.	Authorised Absence

Code			
G	Holiday not granted by the school	The school has not granted a leave of absence and the pupil is absent for the purpose of a holiday. A school cannot grant a leave of absence retrospectively. If the parent did not apply in advance, leave of absence should not be granted.	Unauthorised Absence
N	Reason for absence not yet established	Schools must follow up all unexplained and unexpected absence in a timely manner. Every effort should be made to establish the reason for a pupil's absence. When the reason for absence has not yet been established before the register closes, the absence must be recorded with code N. Where absence is recorded as code N (reason not yet established) in the attendance register, the correct absence code should be entered as soon as the reason is ascertained, but no more than 5 school days after the session	Unauthorised Absence
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	Where no reason for the absence is established, or the school is not satisfied that the reason would be recorded using one of the codes statistically classified as authorised.	Unauthorised Absence
U	Arrived in school after registration closed	Where a pupil has arrived late after the register has closed but before the end of session, and either no reason for the lateness is established or the school is not satisfied that the reason would be recorded using one of the codes statistically classified as authorised. Schools should actively discourage late arrival, be alert to patterns of late arrival and seek an explanation from the parent. All schools are expected to set out in their attendance policy the length of time the register will be open, after which a pupil will be recorded as absent. This should be the same for every session and not longer than 30 minutes.	Unauthorised Absence

Code			
Q	Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements	Code Q is only used where a pupil is absent because the local authority has a legal duty to arrange home to school travel for the pupil and they have not done so (including where they are in the process of doing so but have not yet done it), or because the pupil has no choice but to attend a school that does not qualify for such travel arrangements and is more than walking distance from where they live.	Not a possible attendance
Y1	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available	The pupil is unable to attend because the school is not within walking distance of their home and the transport to and from the school that is normally provided for the pupil by the school or local authority is not available. Walking distance in relation to a child under the age of 8, means 2 miles, and for a child of 8 or above, means 3 miles. In each case measured by the nearest available route.	Not a possible attendance
Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel	The pupil is unable to attend the school because of widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national, or international emergency	Not a possible attendance
Y3	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed	Part of the school premises is unavoidably out of use and the pupil is one of those that the school considers cannot practicably be accommodated in those part of the premises that remain in use.	Not a possible attendance
Y4	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed	Where a school was planned to be open for a session, but the school is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to adverse weather), the attendance register is not taken as usual because there is no school session. Instead, every pupil listed in the admission register at the time must be recorded with code Y4 to record the fact that the school is closed.	Not a possible attendance
Y5	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention	The pupil is unable to attend the school because they are: • in police detention, • remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or • detained under a sentence of detention	Not a possible attendance
Y6	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law	The pupil is well enough to attend (otherwise Code I would have been recorded) but there are Government rules or guidance to limit the spread of infection or disease which say they should not attend their school.	Not a possible attendance
Y7	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause	An unavoidable cause, that is not covered by one of the other 'unable to attend' codes detailed above, is preventing the pupil from attending the school. This code should be used only where something in the nature of an emergency has prevented the pupil from attending the session in question. The unavoidable cause must be something that affects the pupil, not the parent. The fact that a parent has done all they can to secure the attendance of the pupil at school does not, in itself, mean the pupil has been prevented by unavoidable cause.	Not a possible attendance