



CHS South

S003

Attendance Policy

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Prosperre Learning Trust (*Previously CHS Learning Trust and Piper Hill Learning Trust*) is a Multi Academy Trust. Registered in England and Wales - number 10872612
Registered Office: Piper Hill High School, Firbank Road, Wythenshawe, M23 2YS

The Prosperre Learning Trust has a number of Trust-wide policies which are adopted by all schools/academies in the Trust to ensure an equitable and consistent delivery of provision.

The Trust Board has responsibility for the operation of all schools/academies and the outcomes of all students however responsibility is delegated to the Local Governing Body of each school via the Scheme of Delegation.

Within our policies reference to:

- Governing Body / Governors relates to the members of the Local Governing Body representing the Trust Board.
- School includes reference to school, academy or free school unless otherwise stated.
- Headteacher includes reference to Headteacher, Principal or Head of School of the school, academy or free school.

1. Introduction

1.1 Regular school attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential.

1.2 CHS South believe that regular school attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who are able to realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.

1.3 CHS South values all pupils. As set out in this policy, we will work with families to identify the reasons for poor attendance and try to resolve any difficulties in a trauma-informed, inclusive manner.

1.4 CHS South recognise that attendance is a matter for the whole school community. Our Attendance Policy should not be viewed in isolation; it is a strand that runs through all aspects of school improvement, supported by our policies on admissions, safeguarding, anti-bullying, child protection, safeguarding and behaviour and inclusive learning. This policy also takes into account the Human Rights Act 1998, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Race Relations Act 2000.

2. Legal Framework

2.1 Legal proceedings are a statutory intervention used by the local authority against the parents of registered pupils who fail to attend regularly at school. Parents whose children are on a school register and fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child(ren), may be guilty of an offence under Section 444(1) or 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996 and the authority may take enforcement action through the courts to secure regular attendance.

2.2 Legal proceedings are not used as a punishment to parents for their pupil's absence from school; they are a supportive measure intended to make parents realise the importance of attendance and to avoid further absence from school.

2.3 Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act states that parents must ensure that children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. A prosecution can take place against any person who has parental responsibility for the child's education or who has care of the child. Parents have a legal duty to make sure that their children are properly educated. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly and arrive on time. If you allow your child to be absent from school without good reason, the school will not authorise the absence, you may be committing an offence, and you could be issued with a penalty notice or prosecuted.

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

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

2.6 The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2013, require schools to take an attendance register twice a day, once at the start of the morning session and then again during the afternoon session.

2.7 The register must record whether the pupil was:

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

3. Safeguarding

3.1 Every pupil should be able learn in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. We respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn and participate in all school activities in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

3.2 Attending school regularly promotes the welfare and safety of children whilst they are not in the care of their parents/carers. Safeguarding is about offering early help and support to children and families and difficulties with attendance and lateness may be signs that something is worrying the child or that there are difficulties within the family. Poor or irregular attendance, persistent lateness, or children missing from education may be considered a safeguarding matter if this places a child at risk of harm.

3.3 Safeguarding the interests of each child is everyone's responsibility and within the context of this school; safeguarding and promoting the welfare and life opportunities for children encompasses: Attendance, Behaviour Management, Health and Safety, Access to the Curriculum and Anti-bullying, protecting children from abuse and neglect, online safety, radicalisation and extremism, FGM and CSE.

3.4 More information on safeguarding and the protection of children can be found in the schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

3.5 In order to allow us to safeguard the children in our care it is important that parents and carers provide the school with their current contact details and provide at least three other contact numbers in case of emergency.

3.6 It is also important for parents inform the school of any specific vulnerability in relation to their child or home circumstances.

4. Categorising absence

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

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

4.3 Parents must advise the school by telephone on the first day of absence and provide the school with an expected date of return. This should be followed up in the form of a written note from the parent/carer, though verbal explanations may be acceptable where this is considered appropriate.

4.4 Absence will be categorised as follows (underlined):

4.5 Illness Parents may be asked to provide medical evidence to allow the head teacher to authorise absence where appropriate. This will usually be in the form of an appointment card, prescription etc.

4.6 Medical/Dental Appointments Parents are advised where possible to make medical and dental appointments outside of the school day. Where this is not possible, pupils must attend school for part of the day. Parents must show the appointment card to school.

4.7 Other Authorised Circumstances This relates to where there is cause for absence due to exceptional circumstances.

4.8 Excluded (No alternative provision made) Exclusion from attending school is counted as an authorised absence. The child's class teacher/form tutor/Head of Year will make arrangements for work to be sent home.

4.9 Parents who need to take their child out of school during term time due to exceptional circumstances must send a written request to the head teacher. Retrospective requests will not be considered and therefore will result in the absence being categorised as **unauthorised**.

4.9.1 All requests for leave of absence will be responded to in writing outlining the conditions of leave granted.

4.9.2 If a pupil fails to return and contact with the parents has not been made or received, school may take the pupil off the school's roll in compliance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2013. This means that the child will lose their school place.

4.9.3 If the permission to take leave is not granted and the parent takes their child out of school the absence will be **unauthorised**. In such cases the school may request the local authority issue a Penalty Notice or consider other legal sanctions including prosecution in the magistrates' court.

4.10 Religious Observance CHS South acknowledges the multi-faith nature of British society and recognises that on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods or weekends and this necessitates a consideration by written request by the parent of authorised absence.

4.11 Study Leave Study leave may be granted for Year 11 pupils approaching GCSE examinations. School will offer in school study programmes during this period to reduce absence levels.

4.12 Traveller Absence It is expected that Traveller children, in common with all other children, are to attend school as regularly and as frequently as possible.

4.12.1 To protect Traveller parents from unreasonable prosecution for non-attendance, the Education Act 1996, section 444(6), states that a Traveller parent is safe from prosecution if their child accrues 200 attendances (i.e. 200 half days) in the year preceding the absence. This applies only when the family proves it is engaged in a trade or business that requires it to travel and when the child is attending school as regularly as that trade permits.

4.12.2 When in or around Manchester, if a family can reasonably travel back to their Base School (see below) then the expectation is that their child will attend full-time.

4.12.3 CHS South will be regarded as the base school if it is the school where the child normally attends when they are not travelling. However, the pupil must have attended in the last 18 months. Traveller children can register at other schools temporarily while away from their base school, in such cases, the pupil's school place at CHS South will be kept open for them whilst travelling. This is to protect them from unfairly losing their place at their school of usual attendance.

4.12.4 CHS South can only effectively operate as the child's base school if it is engaged in on-going dialogue with Traveller families. This means that parents must:

- advise of their forthcoming travelling patterns before they happen; and
- inform the school regarding proposed return dates

4.12.5 CHS South will authorise absence of Traveller children if we are satisfied that a family is travelling for work or trade purposes and has given indication that they intend to return.

4.12.6 Traveller children will be recorded as attending an approved educational activity when:

- The child is on roll and attending another visited school
- Undertaking supervised educational activity under the jurisdiction of another Local Authority's Traveller Education Service
- The child is undertaking computer based distance learning that is time evidenced

4.12.7 Where Traveller children are registered pupils at a school and are known to be present either at a site (official or otherwise) or in a house and are not attending school, the absence will be investigated in the same way as that for any pupil and appropriate statutory action may be undertaken.

4.13 Late Arrival Registration begins at 8.45am, pupils arriving after this time will be marked as present but arriving late. The register will close at 9.15am pupils arriving after the close of register will be recorded as late, (code U) this is not authorised and will count as an absence for that school session and statutory action may be taken where appropriate.

4.13.1 On arrival after the close of register, pupils must immediately report to the school office to ensure that we can be responsible for their health and safety whilst they are in school.

4.13.2 The absence will only be authorised if a satisfactory explanation for the late arrival can be provided, for example, attendance at a medical appointment.

4.13.3 The absence will be recorded as **unauthorised** if the pupil has arrived late without justifiable cause.

4.14 Unauthorised absence - Absence will not be authorised unless parents have provided a satisfactory explanation and that it has been accepted as such by the head teacher.

4.14.1 Examples of unsatisfactory explanations include:

- A pupil's/family member's birthday
- Shopping for uniforms
- Having their hair cut
- Closure of a sibling's school for INSET (or other) purposes
- "Couldn't get up"
- Illness where the child is considered well enough to attend school
- Family holidays

5. Deletions from the Register

5.1 In accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2013, pupils will only be deleted from the register when one of the following circumstances applies:

- The school is replaced by another school on a School Attendance Order
- The School Attendance Order is revoked by the local authority
- The pupil has ceased to be of compulsory school age
- Permanent exclusion has occurred and procedures have been completed
- Death of a pupil
- Transfer between schools
- Pupil withdrawn to be educated outside the school system
- Failure to return from an extended holiday after both the school and the local authority have tried to locate the pupil
 - A medical condition prevents their attendance and return to the school before ending compulsory school-age
 - In custody for more than four months (in discussion with The Youth Offending Team)
 - 20 days continuous unauthorised absence and both the local authority and school have tried to locate the pupil
 - Left the school but not known where he/she has gone after both the school and the local authority have tried to locate the pupil

5.2.1 CHS South will follow Manchester City Council's Children Missing Education Protocol when a pupil's whereabouts is unknown.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

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

As such, the Governing Body will:

- Ensure that the importance and value of good attendance is promoted to pupils and their parents
- Annually review the school's Attendance Policy and ensure the required resources are available to fully implement the policy
- Identify a member of the governing body to lead on attendance matters

- Ensure that the Registration Regulations, England, 2013 and other attendance related legislation is complied with
- Agree school attendance targets and submit these to the Local Authority within the agreed timescale each year and where appropriate link these to the Performance Management of Senior Leadership within the school
- Monitor the school's attendance and related issues through termly reporting at Governing Body Meetings
- Ensure that attendance data is reported to the Local Authority or Department for Education as required and on time
- Ensure that there is a named senior manager to lead on attendance
- Ensure that the school has clear systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site
- Ensure that there are procedures for collecting and analysing attendance data frequently to identify causes and patterns of absence
- Ensure that data is understood and used to devise solutions and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions

6.2 The Leadership Team will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents
- Ensure that there is a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance; with good teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve
- Monitor the implementation of the Attendance Policy and ensure that the policy is reviewed annually
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the Attendance Policy and adequately trained to address attendance issues
- Ensure that the Registration Regulations, England, 2013 and other attendance related legislation is complied with
- Ensure that there is a named senior manager to lead on attendance and allocate sufficient time and resource
- Return school attendance data to the Local Authority and the Department for Education as required and on time
- Report the school's attendance and related issues through termly reporting to the Governing Body and on a half termly basis to the lead governor for attendance
- Ensure that systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site are implemented
- Ensure that attendance data is collected and analysed frequently to identify causes and patterns of absence
- Interpret the data to devise solutions and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions
- Develop a multi-agency response to improve attendance and support pupils and their families
- Document interventions used to a standard required by the local authority should legal proceedings be instigated

6.3 Department Heads/Pastoral Staff/Form Tutors will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents
- Contribute to a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance; with good teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve

- Comply with the Registration Regulations, England, 2013 and other attendance related legislation
- Implement systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site
- Analyse attendance data to identify causes and patterns of absence
- Contribute to the evaluation of school strategies and interventions
- Work with other agencies to improve attendance and support pupils and their families
- Document interventions used to a standard required by the local authority should legal proceedings be instigated

6.4 Request that Parents will:

- Talk to their child about school and what goes on there. Take a positive interest in their child's work and educational progress
- Instil the value of education and regular school attendance within the home environment
- Encourage their child to look to the future and have aspirations
- Contact the school if their child is absent to let them know the reason why and the expected date of return. Follow this up with a written explanation.
- Try to avoid unnecessary absences. Wherever possible make appointments for the Doctors, Dentists etc. outside of school hours
- Ask the school for help if their child is experiencing difficulties
- Inform the school of any change in circumstances that may impact on their child's attendance
- Support the school; take every opportunity to get involved in their child's education, form a positive relationship with school and acknowledge the importance of children receiving the same messages from both school and home
- Encourage routine at home, for example, bed times, home work, preparing school bag and uniform the evening before
- Not keep their child off school to go shopping, to help at home or to look after other members of the family
- Avoid taking their child out of school during term-time, where this is unavoidable, and only in exceptional circumstances send a written leave request to the Head Teacher.

7. Using Attendance Data

7.1 Pupil's attendance will be monitored and may be shared with the Local Authority and other agencies if a pupil's attendance is a cause for concern.

7.2 Each week the Attendance Administrator will provide all form tutors with attendance data for the previous week for each pupil within their form group. The list will be presented in numerical descending order with the highest attenders at the top; every pupil will be colour coded as indicated below

GREEN	pupils with attendance between 100% and 97%
AMBER	pupils with attendance between 96% and 94%
RED	pupils with attendance between 93% and 91%
PURPLE	pupils with attendance below 90%

7.3 The attendance data for the previous week will be included to allow the tutor to see if the situation is improving or not.

- 7.4 The Senior Leadership Team and Department Heads will receive a complete set of data.
- 7.5 Pastoral Leaders will receive a complete set of data for their year groups.
- 7.6 This pupil level data will be used to trigger school action as set out in the escalation of intervention (Appendix 1).
- 7.7 Attendance data will also be used to identify emerging patterns and trends to inform whole school strategies to improve attendance and attainment.
- 7.8 CHS South will share attendance data with the Department for Education and the local authority as required.
- 7.9 All information shared will be done so in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

8. Support Systems

8.1 School recognise that poor attendance is often an indication of difficulties and trauma in a child's life. This may be related to problems at home and/or in school. Parents should make school aware of any difficulties or changes in circumstances that may affect their child's attendance and or behaviour in school, for example, bereavement, divorce/separation, incidents of domestic abuse. This will help the school identify any additional support that may be required. It is expected that the child and their family work collaboratively with school to identify the anxiety based school avoidance resources most appropriate for support and to accept the support that is offered or advised.

8.2 CHS South also recognise that some pupils are more likely to require additional support to attain good attendance, for example, those pupils with special educational needs, those with physical or mental health needs, migrant and refugee pupils and looked after children.

8.3 The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance. Strategies used will include:

- Discussion with parents and pupils
- Attendance panels
- Parenting contracts
- Attendance report cards
- Referrals to support agencies
- Learning mentors
- Pupil Voice Activities
- Friendship groups
- PSHE
- Anxiety-based attendance avoidance materials
- Trauma-informed approaches
- Early help referral options
- Family learning
- Reward systems
- Time limited part time time-tables
- Additional learning support
- Behaviour support

- Inclusion resources
- Reintegration support packages

8.4 Support offered to families will be child centred, trauma-informed and inclusive; planned in discussion and agreement with both parents and pupils.

8.5 Where parents fail or refuse to engage with the support offered and further unauthorised absence occurs, CHS South will consider the use of legal sanctions.

9. Legal Interventions

9.1 Prosecution Where intervention fails to bring about an improvement in attendance, the Local Authority will be notified and legal action in the Magistrates' Court may be taken. The school will provide the Local Authority with evidence required for a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 and will appear as a prosecution witness if required by the court. This is to ensure that parents realise their own responsibilities in ensuring attendance at school and most importantly about returning children to education.

9.1.1 Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 states that if a parent fails to ensure the regular school attendance of their child if he/she is a registered pupil at a school and is of compulsory school age, then they are guilty of an offence.

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

9.1.3 Alternatives to Section 444 prosecution are Parenting Contracts, Penalty Notices or an Education Supervision Order.

9.2 Parenting Contracts (Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003) A Parenting contract is a voluntary agreement between school and the parent, it can also be extended to include the child and any other agencies offering support to resolve any difficulties leading to improved attendance.

9.2.1 The contract will outline attendance targets and will detail agreed actions that will help to achieve the target. The contract will be reviewed regularly.

9.2.2 The contract can be used as evidence in a prosecution should parents fail to carry out agreed actions.

9.2.3 Parenting Contracts will be used in accordance with Manchester City Council's Parenting Contract Protocol.

9.3 Penalty Notices (Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003) Penalty Notices will be considered when:

- A pupil is absent from school and the absence has not been authorised by the school
- A pupil has accrued unauthorised absence without reasons provided and/or accepted as exceptional by the headteacher/principal.

9.3.1 A Penalty Notice gives the parent the opportunity to discharge themselves of their legal responsibility if a £120 fine is paid within 28 days, reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days of the date the Notice was issued.

9.3.2 Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

9.3.3 Penalty Notices will be used in accordance with Manchester City Council's Penalty Notice Protocol.

Appendix 1

Escalation of Attendance Interventions

GREEN pupils with attendance between 100% to 97%

- Parents will receive a letter home congratulating them on their child's good/excellent attendance.
- Pupils will be rewarded within the school's merit system.
- Pupils with this level of termly and annual attendance will receive a certificate of achievement and their names will be displayed on the school attendance notice/display board.
- The class teacher/form tutor will be responsible for all action at this level and will record all intervention and outcomes. Records will be copied to a member of the Senior Leadership Team/the Head of Year every fortnight/three weeks.
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team/the Head of Year will monitor the effectiveness of interventions. This will be used to review and inform whole school strategies and will also have links to performance management.

AMBER pupils with attendance between 96% and 94%

- Class teacher/Form tutor will speak to the pupil to:
 - Welcome the pupil back to school
 - Confirm with the pupil the reason for absence and offer any support that may be required
 - Update the pupil on other work they have missed and support any catch up required
 - Set an individual attendance target for the pupil using sessions rather than percentages that will see the pupil move to the band above
 - Agree a review date
- In addition, where unauthorised absence has occurred or attendance has not improved following the review with the pupil, a letter will be sent to parents advising of concern and outlining the parents' responsibilities
- Where improvement has not occurred following this intervention, parents will be invited to a meeting where the possible outcomes will be:
 - All parties confident that issues have been resolved and the attendance will improve.
 - Parenting contract agreed
 - Penalty Notice 15 school day monitoring period commences
 - Agree a review date
- Where parents fail to attend the meeting without a satisfactory reason and unauthorised absence has occurred, the penalty notice monitoring period will automatically commence.
- The class teacher/form tutor will be responsible for all action at this level and will record all intervention and outcomes. Records will be copied to a member of the Senior Leadership Team/the Pastoral Leader every fortnight/three weeks.
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team/the Pastoral Leader will monitor the effectiveness of interventions. This will be used to review and inform whole school strategies and will also have links to performance management.

RED pupils with attendance between 91% and 93%

- Head of Key Stage/Head of Department with a member of pastoral staff will speak to the pupil to:
 - Identify underlying home/school issues that may be causing the pupil's absence
 - Review the pupil's academic progress and make links to the pupil's attendance eg. If you attended all your classes you could achieve...
 - Make arrangements for the pupil to catch up on work they have missed
 - Implement a Pastoral Support Plan or review other existing pupil plan to include support to improve attendance
 - Set an individual attendance target for the pupil using sessions rather than percentages that will see the pupil move to the band above
 - Agree a review date

- In addition, where unauthorised absence has occurred or attendance has not improved following the review with the pupil, a letter will be sent to parents advising of concern and outlining the parents' responsibilities

- If improvement has not occurred following this intervention, parents will be invited to a meeting where the possible outcomes will be:
 - All parties confident that issues have been resolved and the attendance will improve.
 - Parenting contract agreed
 - Penalty Notice 15 school day monitoring period commences
 - Agree a review date

- Where parents fail to attend the meeting without a satisfactory reason and unauthorised absence has occurred, the penalty notice monitoring period will automatically commence.
- Where these interventions have already been implemented and have had unsatisfactory impact, the parent will be invited to an Attendance Panel where the possible outcomes will be:
 - Complete a CAF leading to multi agency support
 - Refer to the Local Authority to initiate legal proceedings
 - Where a parent fails to attend the meeting without providing a satisfactory reason, a minimum of two home visits with the purpose to engage with the parent will be carried out prior to referral to the Local Authority.
- The Head of Key Stage/Head of Department with a member of pastoral staff will be responsible for all action at this level and will record all intervention and outcomes. Records will be copied to a member of the Senior Leadership Team every fortnight/three weeks.
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team will monitor the effectiveness of interventions. This will be used to review and inform whole school strategies and will also have links to performance management.

PURPLE pupils with attendance below 90%

- Pupils who have attendance below 90% are considered to be persistently absent from school. To ensure that intervention is focused and meets the needs of individuals, pupils will be grouped in to one of the following categories:
 - Looked After Children and Children on the Child Protection Register

- Special Educational Needs
 - School age parents/expectant parents
 - Long term non attendance
 - Parental support/needs eg parental drug use, young carers, domestic violence
 - School issues eg bullying, poor teacher/pupil relationship, curriculum issues
 - Offended or have an Anti Social Behaviour Order
 - English as an Additional Language
 - Ethnic minority
 - Mid Year Admissions
 - Gifted and Talented
 - Other
- Each grouping will have an identified member of staff who will:
 - Ensure that the pupil has already spoken to a member of staff at the stages preceding RED intervention (RED - AMBER intervention will occur in cases where the pupil has immediately fallen from GREEN into RED)
 - Obtain records of previous contact and interventions as set out in RED - AMBER and escalate accordingly
 - Ensure that weekly contact occurs with the pupil either individually or within a small group to address themed issues. This contact should also include the use of SEAL materials.
 - Ensure that weekly contact with the parents to discuss any arising issues and to provide feedback on their child's attendance, behaviour and academic progress.
 - Set an individual attendance target for the pupil that will see the pupil move to the band above.
 - Review existing plans and co-ordinate school resources to support the pupil's attendance and any additional needs
 - Be the key contact person for any external agency working with the pupil
 - Input into whole school strategies to address the needs of pupils within their group
 - Each identified member of staff will be responsible for all action at this level and will record all intervention and outcomes. Records will be copied to a member of the Senior Leadership Team and headteacher/principal every fortnight/three weeks.
 - Attendance will be a standing item on the agenda of the Senior Leadership Team meetings where the progress of these groups will be reported and the effectiveness of interventions measured. This will be used to review and inform whole school strategies and will also have links to performance management.
 - The headteacher/principal will report to the Chair of Governors/Governor for Attendance each half term and will report termly to the Governing Body.

Appendix 2

Manchester City Council Attendance in Education Toolkit COVID-19 School Attendance Policy Modification

Addendum to Attendance Policy for CHS South

Context: This addendum is for use as children return to school in September 2020 and during the risk of COVID-19 infection.

This is in place to ensure that as a school community, we work together to keep us all as safe as possible; physically and emotionally. Due to the challenges we face with regards to Bubble Groups, social distancing and hygiene, it is impossible for us to deal with behaviour in the same way and so we have made some temporary adjustments to our procedures.

Our attendance expectations are as follows:

To help keep ourselves, our friends and family safe, we:

- All pupils are expected to attend school each day, on time and in full school uniform, unless they are unwell and unable to attend school or are required to NOT attend school because of Covid 19 regulations.
- Parents / carers should inform the school of the circumstances of each absence using the telephone or school comms messaging.
- In cases of absence due to Covid 19 regulations parents / carers should provide specific details e.g. date when isolation starts / ends or dates when symptoms begin.
- Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will arrive to school between 8.35 and 8.45am. Late marks will be issued after 8.45am
- Year 9 pupils will arrive to school between 8.20 and 8.30am. Late marks will be issued after 8.30am
- Pupils will remain in their classroom with their class bubble whenever possible.
- Staff will provide regular reminders and guidance about safe practices in classrooms and around the school.
- All pupil movement around the building will be supervised by staff
- If a pupil has symptoms of Covid 19 while they are in school, their parents / carers will be contacted and arrangements made for the pupil to go home. Parents / carers will be asked to isolate their household and seek a test.
- Cases of Covid 19 amongst our pupils or staff will be reviewed by the Head teacher / Senior Leader in coordination with Public Health England (PHE). Decisions taken by the Head teacher / Senior Leader in coordination with PHE, will be reported to parents / carers of affected pupil.

Due to the restrictions of 'Bubble Groups' being able to mix, references to time being spent in reflection by attending other classes will not apply at this time and all 'time-out' periods necessary will be taken within the Bubble Group.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, there are some changes with regards to the registering of attendance when absence is forced due to one of the issues outlined below. In such cases, attendance is not expected and the register will be marked with an X unless stated otherwise:

- pupils who are required to self-isolate as they, or a member of their household, has symptoms or confirmed COVID-19;
- pupils who are required to self-isolate because they are a close contact of someone who has symptoms or confirmed COVID-19;
- pupils who are required by legislation to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine – includes if a pupil is required to be in quarantine on arrival in or return to the UK;

- pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable in a future local lockdown;
- local lockdown - schools should follow PHE or DHSC guidance on what measures are necessary in the event of local lockdown;
- if a pupil tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. They should only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste. This is because these symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. Code X should be used for the period of self-isolation until the test. **After the pupil tests positive they should be recorded as code I (illness) until they are able to return to school.**

It is recognised and accepted that children and families may take time to adjust to a return to school and that there are additional considerations with regards to non-attendance given the impact that COVID-19 has had. As such, as a school, we are committed to ensuring that the following supportive steps are taken prior to exploring statutory action through the local authority:

Insert specific intervention actions that the school will take to address any attendance concerns linked to COVID-19 (add more actions as necessary).

- All school communications to parents / carers will include reference to the importance of school attendance and our safety measures to make attendance as safe as possible.
- Whenever possible, absence that is linked to COVID 19 concerns will be addressed in person by the attendance officer.
- Home visits will be made in cases where absence is not directly caused by illness or where concerns about Safeguarding arise.
- A range of staff with links to a pupil / family will be asked to make contact and explore steps that can be taken to facilitate a return to school.
- The school will provide distance learning materials to enable pupils who are at home to continue to study, keeping up with the curriculum being taught in school.
- Supportive agencies including the Young Persons Counselling Service, School Health, Early Help and food banks may be sign posted or referred to.
- Information about absences will be communicated to the Safeguarding team using CPOMS.

Appendix 3

Attendance Coding

School Attendance Guidance – Update for Schools August 2020

The summary guidance below should be used in conjunction with full government guidance available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance?utm_source=efab9e23-a174-45a6-8718-1f8a9f3c395e&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate.

- From the start of the autumn term 2020 pupil attendance will be mandatory and the usual rules on attendance will apply, including:
 - parents' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil
 - schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
 - the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.
- In recognition of the potential impact of COVID-19 on school attendance, a new category of non-attendance has been introduced – *not attending in circumstances related to*

<i>coronavirus (COVID-19).</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This category must only be used to record sessions that take place in the 2020 to 2021 academic year where a pupil does not attend because their travel to, or attendance at, school would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ contrary to guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) from Public Health England (PHE) and/or the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC); ➤ prohibited by any legislation (or instruments such as statutory directions) relating to the incidence or transmission of COVID-19.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools and local authorities can agree to set different term dates for different year groups – e.g. for ‘staggered starts’ or ‘induction days’. Code # can be used to record the year group(s) that is not due to attend. This is only acceptable where the school ensures that those pupils not attending on that day are still offered a full education over the school year.

School day and school year

The law regulating the school day and school year applies only to schools maintained by a local authority and special schools not maintained by a local authority. This law does not apply to academies and Free Schools.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every school day must have two sessions divided by a break in the middle of the day. The length of each session, break and the school day is determined by the school’s governing body.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools must meet for at least 380 sessions or 190 days during any school year to educate their pupils. If a school is prevented from meeting for one or more sessions because of an unavoidable event, it should find a practical way of holding extra sessions. If it cannot find a practical way of doing this, then it is not required to make up the lost sessions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is unacceptable for schools to shorten their school day or school week unless it is a direct action to support and enhance their pupils’ education.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools should organise the school day and school week in the best interest of their pupil cohort, to provide them with an appropriate full-time education.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools should also consider the potential impact of a shorter school week on parental choice as part of admissions and admission appeals processes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet a pupil’s individual needs. A part-time timetable must not be treated as a long-term solution. In agreeing to a part-time timetable a school has agreed to a pupil being absent from school for part of the week or day and therefore must record it as authorised absence.

Register Codes

The register coding below should be used from August 24th 2020.

Pupil is in attendance

Student Category	Definition	Register Code
Present	Pupil arrives for school for registration. If a pupil leaves school after	/ am

	registration, they would still be counted as present for statistical purposes.	\ pm
Late	Pupil arrives for school during registration.	L
Off-site educational activity	Pupil is present at an off-site educational activity approved by the school and supervised by someone authorised by the school.	B
Dual-registered	Pupil not expected to attend the session as they are scheduled to attend another school at which they are registered.	D
Interview with prospective employers or another educational establishment	Pupil is attending an interview with prospective employers or another educational establishment.	J
Participating in a supervised sporting activity	Pupil is attending a sporting activity that has been approved by school and is supervised by someone authorised by the school.	P
Educational visit or trip	Pupil is attending an approved visit or trip including residential activity organised by the school or at a supervised trip of a strictly educational nature arranged by an organisation approved by the school.	V
Work experience	Pupil in their final two years of compulsory education and attending school-approved work experience activity.	W

Pupil is absent for an authorised reason

Absence authorised by the school	Pupil is absent for an exceptional circumstance that is approved on request by the head teacher.	C
Excluded but no alternative provision made	Pupil is still on the admission register but no alternative provision has been put into place. Alternative provision must be arranged from the sixth day of any fixed or permanent exclusion.	E
Holiday authorised by the school	Pupil is absent where a holiday is considered to be an exceptional circumstance and covering an agreed period of days by the head teacher.	H
Illness – not medical or dental appointments	Pupil is absent due to an illness preventing attendance. If the authenticity of illness is in doubt, schools can request parents to provide medical evidence to support illness.	I
Medical or dental appointments	Pupil is absent due to a medical or dental appointment. Parents should be encouraged to make these appointments out of school hours. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time.	M
Religious observance	Pupil is absent due to a period of time set aside by the religious body that requires observance.	R
Study leave	Pupil is absent due to an agreed period of study leave – granted only to Year 11 pupils.	S
Gypsy, Roma & Traveller absence	Pupil is absent due to travelling for occupational purposes and this is agreed with the school.	T

Pupil is absent for an unauthorised reason

Holiday not authorised by the school in excess of any agreed period	If a school does not authorise a leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday or the child is kept away for longer than was agreed.	G
Reason for absence not yet provided	This code should not be left on a pupil's attendance record indefinitely; if a reason is provided, the register should be amended to reflect the correct code. If no reason for is provided after a reasonable amount of time it should be replaced with code O.	N
Unauthorised absence	Pupil is absent for a reason not approved.	O
Arrived for school after registration	Pupil arrives for school after the register is closed.	U

Pupil is absent due to circumstances related to COVID-19

Not attending in circumstances related to COVID 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils who are required to self-isolate as they, or a member of their household, has symptoms or confirmed COVID-19; • pupils who are required to self-isolate because they are a close contact of someone who has symptoms or confirmed COVID-19; • pupils who are required by legislation to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine – includes if a pupil is required to be in quarantine on arrival in or return to the UK; • pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable in a future local lockdown; • local lockdown - schools should follow PHE or DHSC guidance on what measures are necessary in the event of local lockdown. • if a pupil tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. They should only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste. This is because these symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. Code X should be used for the period of self-isolation until the test. After the pupil tests positive they should be recorded as code I (illness) until they are able to return to school. 	<p>X – this code is not counted as an absence in the School Census.</p> <p>I</p>
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Pupil is not in attendance due to school-led reasons – these codes are not counted as a possible attendance in the School Census

Not required to be in-school	Used to record sessions that non-compulsory school age children are not expected to attend.	X
Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unavoidable partial or full school closure; • transport provided by the school/LA is unavailable and school is not in walking distance; • a local or national emergency has resulted in widespread disruption to travel; • the pupil is in custody; detained for a period of less than four months (if the school has evidence from the place of custody 	Y

	that the pupil is attending educational activities then they can record those sessions as code B.	
Pupil not on admission register	This code is available to enable schools to set up registers in advance of pupils joining the school.	Z
Planned whole or partial school closure	This code should be used for whole or partial school closures that are known or planned in advance. Includes up to five non-educational days to be used for curriculum planning/training; and use of schools as polling stations.	#