



Governor Link Visit Record

Governor Link Area		Attendance
Governor/s	Helen Robinson	
Staff	Jane Wainwright	
Date	10.06.24	

Agenda and findings

To discuss the whole school approach to improving attendance and to speak with some of the children to garner their opinions.

Discussion and challenge

Jane reported that attendance for Autumn, spring and summer one was 95.4% (inc nursery) which gives us a ranking of 90 out of 215 primary schools in Leeds that have submitted data to. The national figure for the same period was 94.4% so we are above expected levels. All schools will be required to submit data to the DFE commencing Sept 24 which will provide a centralised pool of accurate data which the school will use exclusively from Autumn 2024. This data allows schools to access data to a granular level and thereby easily highlight absentee trends and groups within the school community who need greater support.

We discussed, at length, ongoing areas of concern.

- As has been reported previously, early years attendance is a problem despite the school taking a harder stance on parents who simply choose not to bring their children in on designated days. I asked about approaches to encourage pre-school age attendance – Jane advised that school have no real locus here but, as we have a waiting list, it has been made clear that nonattendance will mean that places will be rescinded. This has had some effect, but this group's attendance is still problematic.
- Unauthorised absence rates are high but this reflective of the school's tough stance on this.
- Levels of persistent absenteeism is high. We currently have 74 persistently absent pupils out of whole school of 571. All the families are known to the SLT and safeguarding team, and some to the local authority, and work is continuing to try and remove barriers to attendance.
- EAL attendance is poorer for some groups, as is the attendance of children from Pakistani families. 25 of the 74 persistent absentees are from this group, however 15 of these are EYFS children. School continues to engage with families to improve lines of communication and to provide support where needed.

Having taken all this into account, our overall attendance is good. We consistently outperform schools within the Leeds West Cluster and city wide which is due in no small measure to the robust processes in place to chase up every absentee from day 1 as well as the school's ongoing commitment to removing barriers to attendance.

Following my discussions with Jane I had the absolute pleasure of speaking with a group of children from Year 2 and Year 6. They were an absolute credit to the school and were incredibly respectful of each other during our discussions. I asked about school's approach to encouraging attendance and they told me about Track It points, the Friday raffle and class attendance competitions. I asked why good attendance is important, they said being in class means you can learn and be with your friends. One pupil said sometimes when his alarm goes off, he would rather not get up but does because he knows his lessons will be exciting. I then asked how they felt about being in school; they were unanimous in opinion that they felt safe, happy and listened to. One Year 6 pupil said that they felt valued by the teachers and that they always had time to discuss any worries or concerns. A Year 2 pupil told me about their class "Worry Monster"; another explained about "Ask it Baskets" and the lunch time drop-in sessions where pupils can speak to teachers about any concerns. It was evident from our discussions that the children understood the importance of good attendance and could confidently speak about the school's approach. They were a delight!

Staff Signature

Governor Signature

H Robinson