**1. Introduction** Ensuring high attendance at The Acorns School is vital for improving student outcomes, safeguarding, and supporting reintegration into mainstream education or post-16 pathways. Many students at The Acorns School face significant barriers to attendance, including mental health issues, social and emotional difficulties, and previous disengagement from education. This strategy outlines a proactive, supportive, and structured approach to improving attendance.

**2. Key Principles**

* A trauma-informed and relationship-based approach to attendance.
* A proactive rather than punitive strategy.
* Individualised support for students and families.
* Multi-agency collaboration to address barriers to attendance.
* Clear expectations and robust tracking systems.

**3. Attendance Monitoring and Tracking**

* Daily registers taken promptly during morning and afternoon sessions.
* Attendance officers to follow up on any unexplained absences immediately.
* Weekly attendance reports reviewed by the senior leadership team.
* Termly analysis of attendance data to identify trends and interventions.

**4. Early Intervention and Prevention**

* **Baseline Assessments:** Conduct attendance risk assessments upon admission.
* **Attendance Agreements:** Individualised attendance plans created with students and parents.
* **Keyworker Support:** Designated staff members to provide pastoral support and home visits where needed.
* **Flexible Learning Options:** Adapted timetables for students with significant barriers.

**5. Parental Engagement**

* Regular communication with parents/carers through phone calls, meetings, and home visits.
* Parenting workshops to provide strategies for supporting attendance.
* Recognition for families showing improvements in attendance.
* Clear guidance on legal responsibilities regarding attendance.

**6. Incentives and Positive Reinforcement**

* **Recognition Systems:** Certificates, vouchers, and privileges for improved or sustained attendance.
* **Peer Mentoring:** Older students with good attendance supporting those struggling.
* **Personalised Motivators:** Tailored incentives based on student interests.

**7. Multi-Agency Collaboration**

* Close working relationships with social services, CAMHS, youth offending teams, and educational psychologists.
* Attendance action meetings for students with persistent absence.
* Engagement with Early Help services to provide wraparound support.

**8. Addressing Persistent Absenteeism**

* **Home Visits:** Regular check-ins for students with attendance concerns.
* **Reintegration Support:** Gradual return plans for long-term absentees.
* **Targeted Interventions:** Access to ELSA and counselling.
* **Legal Action:** As a last resort, liaising with the local authority for enforcement measures.

**9. Staff Training and Development**

* Regular CPD sessions on trauma-informed approaches to attendance.
* Training in de-escalation techniques and mental health awareness.
* Sharing best practices and case studies to improve engagement.

**10. Reviewing and Evaluating the Strategy**

* Termly attendance review meetings with key stakeholders.
* Student and parent voice feedback to refine strategies.
* Annual report on attendance trends, successes, and areas for improvement.

**11. Conclusion** This strategy aims to create a culture where attendance is valued and supported through positive relationships, early intervention, and multi-agency collaboration. By prioritising a supportive and student-centred approach, we can improve attendance outcomes and enhance student well-being and academic success.