



# Attendance Policy

Last reviewed	November 2025 Implementation 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026
Review cycle	Annually
Next Review	November 2026

## Introduction

This policy has been written to adhere to the relevant Children Acts, Education Acts, Regulations and Guidance from the Department for Education in addition to guidance from the Local Authority. Parents/carers have the legal responsibility for ensuring their child's regular attendance and failure to do so is a criminal offence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

At The Lanes Primary School, we are committed to providing a full and enriching education for every pupil. We believe that regular school attendance is essential for academic achievement, personal development, and future success. Pupils are expected to attend school every day, and on time, if they are fit and healthy.

We actively encourage good attendance through clear procedures and strong partnerships with families. By working together, we aim to remove barriers and ensure every child feels supported and able to attend school regularly.

We believe that the most effective way to promote attendance is by fostering positive attitudes towards school. That's why we strive to make The Lanes a happy, safe, and rewarding place to learn—where every pupil feels valued

Our school values guide everything we do:

Respect – We value and celebrate differences, creating an inclusive environment for all.

Aspiration – We encourage every child to aim high and pursue excellence in all they do.

Responsibility – We promote accountability and help pupils understand the importance of their actions.

Pride – We celebrate successes and support our children to be proud of themselves and others.

Resilience – We support pupils in overcoming challenges and developing perseverance.

Kindness – We ensure our children are kind to each other and our staff provide positive role models.

We also recognise that some pupils may be unable to attend due to ill health. In these cases, we are committed to providing the best possible support to help them stay connected to their learning.

Regular attendance is vital for your child's future. Pupils who miss school frequently may fall behind in their learning and face challenges in future lessons or formal assessments. Good attendance also demonstrates reliability to future employers and may reduce the risk of involvement in antisocial behaviour. Research shows that children who attend school regularly are more likely to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.

Under the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 1995, the Governing Body are responsible for making sure the school keeps an attendance register that records which pupils are present at the start of both the morning and the afternoon sessions of the school day. This register will also indicate whether the absence was authorised or unauthorised.

We adhere to national guidelines in relation to school attendance (Please see the Department for Education's (DFE) Working Together to improve School Attendance statutory paper 2024).

## School Attendance

Regular school attendance is crucial for educational success. Our attendance policy is designed to support pupils, parents, staff, and Governors in promoting and maintaining excellent attendance, which is vital for academic achievement and personal growth. Through this policy we aim to:

- **Create the Foundation for Lifelong Habits:** Regular attendance promotes discipline and commitment, establishing a foundation for lifelong habits of responsibility and punctuality.
- **Provide consistent Learning:** Excellent attendance allows pupils to fully engage with the curriculum, enhancing their understanding and academic progress.

- **Enable Social Development:** Regular school attendance supports the development of social skills and helps students build and maintain friendships, contributing to emotional growth
- **Reduce Learning Gaps:** Regular school attendance reduces the risk of falling behind, ensuring that pupils do not miss out on key lessons and activities that could lead to learning gaps.
- **Increase Confidence:** Being present and participating regularly in class boosts pupil's confidence in their abilities and encourages active participation in school life.
- **Enable strong Child-Adult Relationships:** Regular attendance at school allows students to build strong, trusting relationships with all staff members, which can positively impact their motivation and academic success.
- **Ensure all stakeholders have a clear understanding of our school tiered approach;** universal provision in place for promoting excellent attendance, support for families where a pupil is at risk of persistent absence and the targeted support in place for families where attendance is causing a concern.

### Definitions

In the context of school attendance and education in the UK, the terms "Persistent Absence," "Risk of Persistent Absence," and "Severe Absence" are used to describe different levels of irregular attendance by pupils. These terms are important for tracking and addressing attendance issues.

#### **Persistent Absence (PA):**

**Definition:** Persistent Absence is a term used to describe a level of pupil's absence from school that is considered to be a significant cause for concern.

**Threshold:** In England, a pupil is considered to be persistently absent when they have an attendance rate of 90% or below. This means they have missed 10% or more of their school sessions.

#### **Risk of Persistent Absence:**

**Definition:** The term "Risk of Persistent Absence" refers to a situation in which a pupil's attendance is at a level that suggests they are at risk of becoming persistently absent.

**Threshold:** While there is no specific threshold for "Risk of Persistent Absence," it is typically used to describe students whose attendance is consistently low and becoming a concern, as the school communicates to parents in days, we identify 10 days or more as Risk of PA and we will follow internal school procedures.

#### **Severe Absence (or Severe Persistent Absence):**

**Definition:** The term "Severe Absence" or "Severe Persistent Absence" is used to describe the most serious cases of non-attendance.

**Threshold:** Particular focus and support will be provided to pupils who are absent from school more than they are present (those missing 50% or more of school). These severely absent pupils may find it more difficult to be in school or face bigger barriers to their regular attendance and as such are likely to need more intensive support across a range of external agency partners.

#### **Authorised absence**

An absence is classified as authorised when a child has been away from school for a legitimate unavoidable reason and the school has received notification from a parent or carer. For example,

- if a child has been unwell and the parent telephones the school to explain the absence. In line with ensuring the safeguarding of our pupils remains a priority at The Lanes, for all authorised absences of 4 days or more a home visit will be conducted by two members of school staff. Alongside ensuring the safety of the child we will also offer support and connectivity for child and family. This is referred to as a Safe and Well check at The Lanes.
- An absence for sickness for which the school has granted leave.
- Medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall during school time, for which the school has granted leave.
- Religious or cultural observances for which the school has granted leave.

Only the Headteacher can decide on whether an absence is authorised or not. Sometimes, even if absence is supported by parent, an absence will be unauthorised.

### Unauthorised absence

An absence is classified as unauthorised when a child is away from school without the permission of the school even if the absence is supported by the parent. For example,

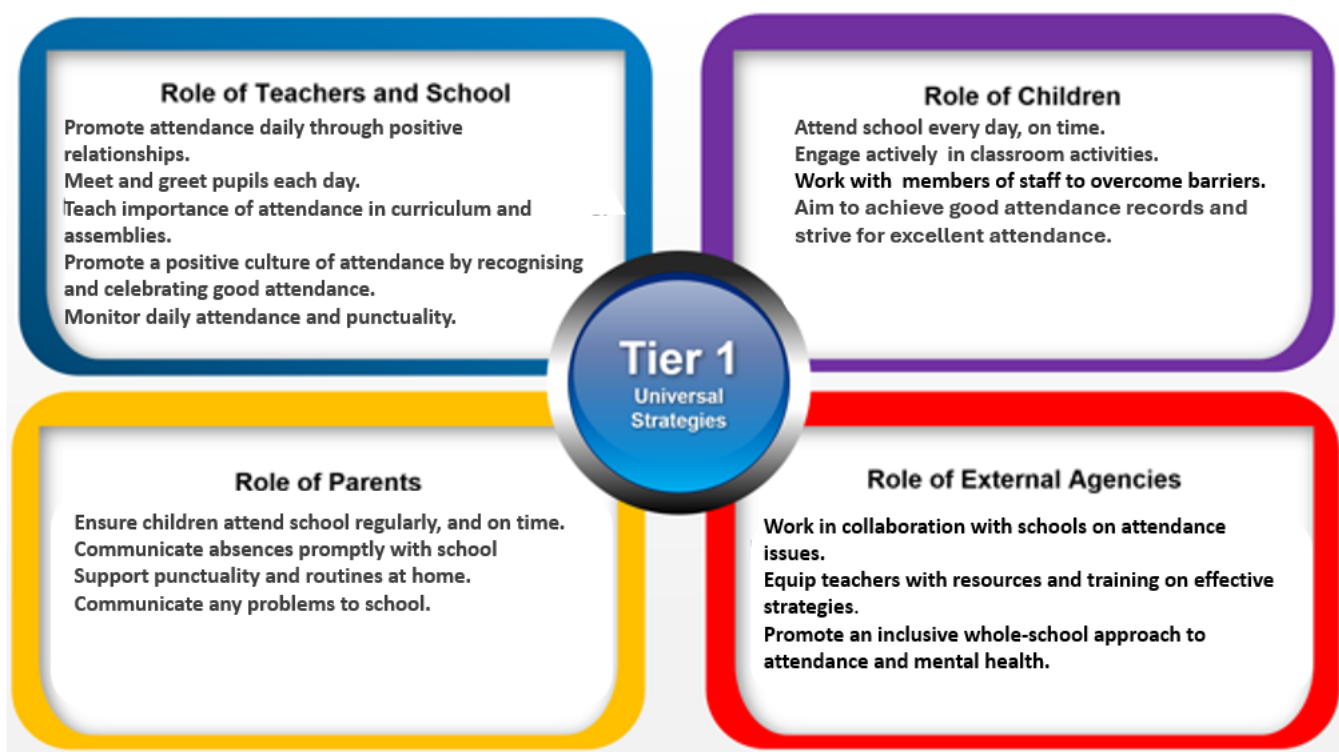
- Parents keeping children off school unnecessarily or without reason.
- Absences which have never been properly explained.
- Arrival at school after the register has closed.
- Absence due to shopping, looking after other children or birthdays.
- Absence due to day trips and holidays in term-time which have not been agreed.
- Leaving school for no reason during the day.

### Our Procedures

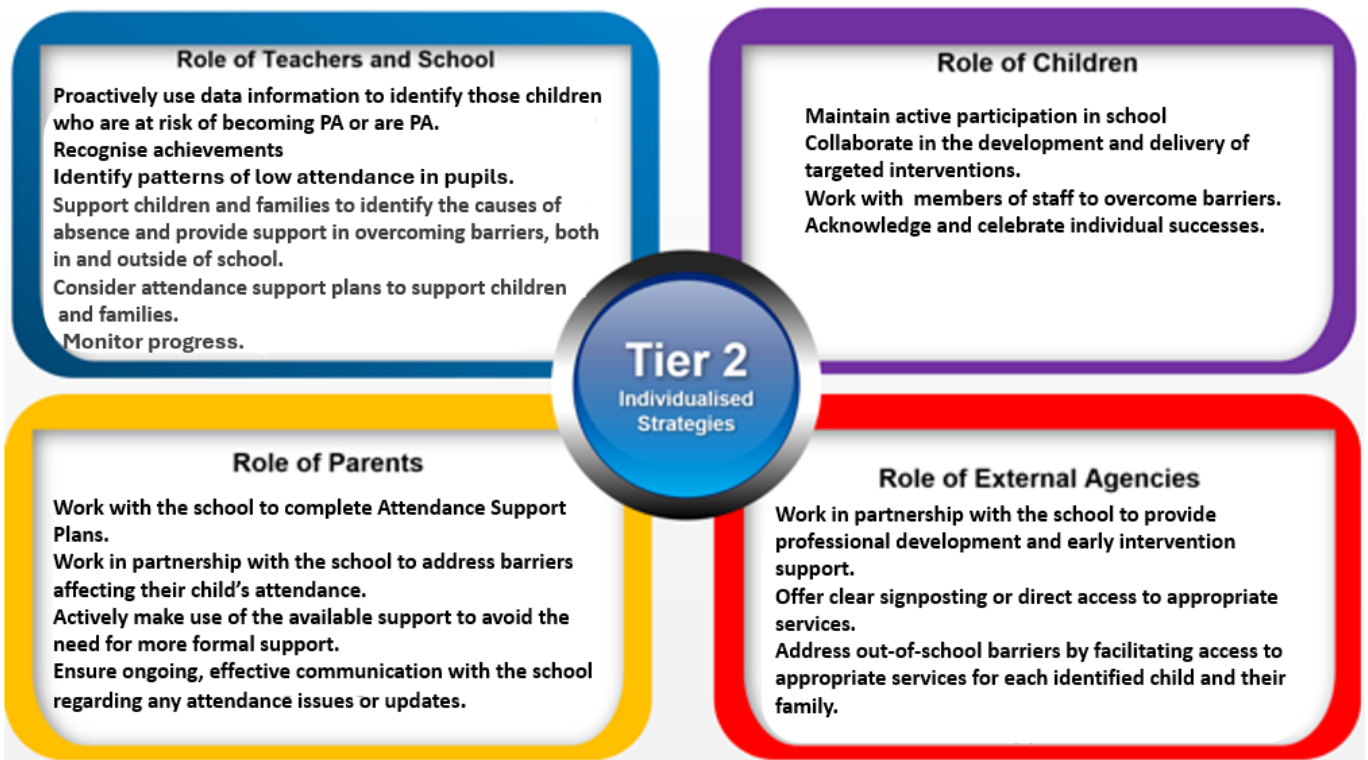
To guarantee a comprehensive approach to attendance, at The Lanes we implement a Multi-Tiered System of Support. A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for school attendance involves three tiers of intervention, with roles for teachers, the school, pupils, parents, and external agencies – including the Local Authority. The system aligns with the Department for Education's (DFE) "Working Together to Improve School Attendance" statutory paper 2024.

Our school will undertake to follow the following procedures to support good attendance:

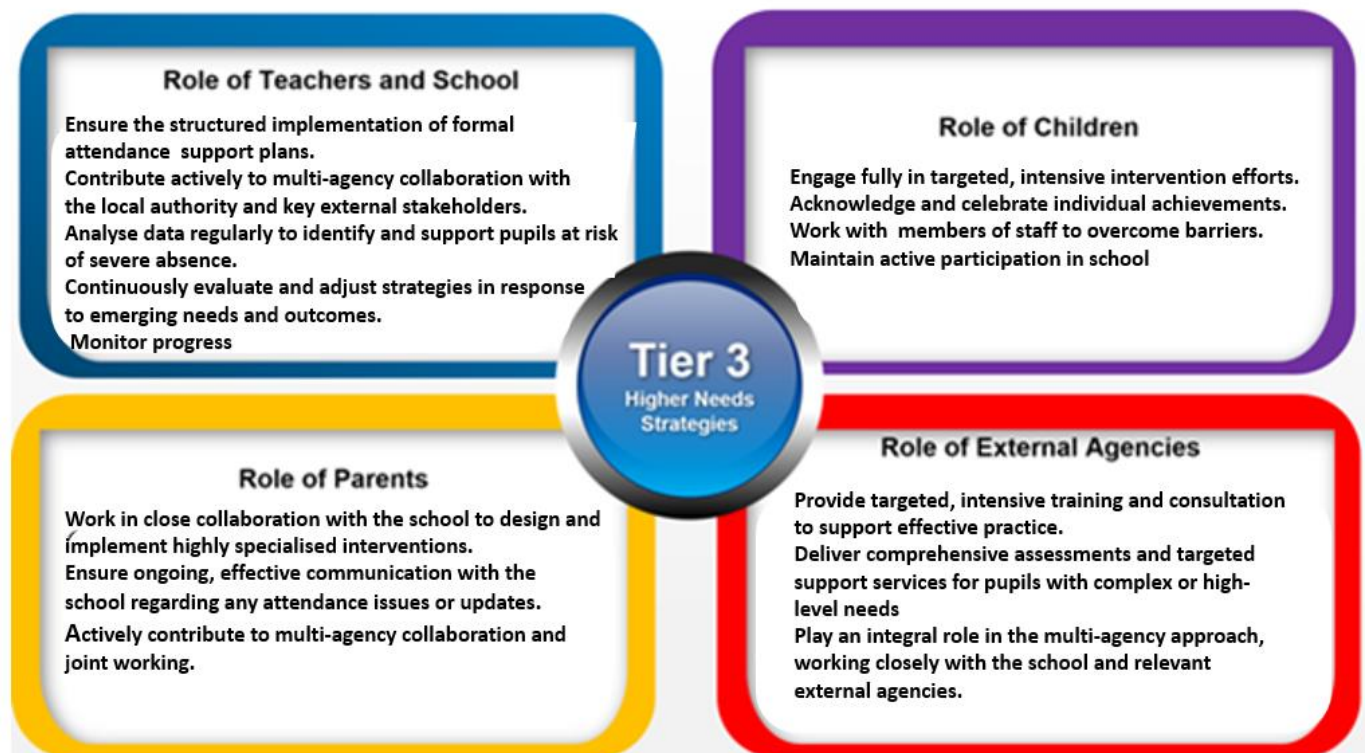
#### Tier 1 - Universal Approach: Establishing a baseline universal attendance approach that benefits all pupils.



**Tier 2 – Internal individualised Strategies and Early Help Support: Tailoring strategies to individual needs and providing early help support for persistent attendance challenges.**



**Tier 3 - Higher Needs Strategies Support: Furnishing specialised support for pupils, young people, and families with complex attendance requirements, including access to external agency support when necessary.**



In line with tiered approach, at The Lanes we will also provide the following:

### **Universal**

- Half Termly excellent and most improved awards at celebration assembly
- Rewards for 100% and 97%+ attendance each term
- Raise the profile of attendance for all stakeholders across the school environment E.g., school banner on front gates.
- Staff on the playground welcoming pupils in at the start of the day (This includes managing late gate).
- Our school promotes excellent attendance through a relational approach linked to our behaviour policy and developing positive relationships with pupils and families.
- We will provide opportunities for explicitly teaching the importance of attending school every day (curriculum and assemblies).
- We have a rigorous and robust system in place for first day absences of our pupils, please see: the first day contact section of this policy.
- Home visits are conducted in instances of no contact and in relation to a safe and well check as previously mentioned above.

### **Targeted**

- We will use our first day absence procedures.
- We will complete home visits.
- We will send letters home to inform parents of attendance concerns.
- We will support through informal and formal meetings (identifying push and pull factors with families and Attendance Support plans are implemented).
- We will provide interventions to support families, working with external agencies, e.g. Early Help and specific work provided in school through intervention and support.
- Attendance is an integral part of weekly SLT meetings for pupils at risk of Persistent Absence (PA) or who are currently PA. Further exploration of attendance issues are identified, reviewed and actions put in place at half termly Inclusion Team Meetings.
- Fines will be issued in line with the National Framework for penalty notices.

Our intention will be to work together to support families and prevent persistent absence.

### **Specialist (Persistent Absence)**

School will use formal approaches that support and challenge in line with the National Framework for penalty notices. Formal Attendance Support plans, Team Around the Family approach, external agency support, interventions to support the pupils and the family.

### **Responsibilities**

All members of school staff have a responsibility for identifying trends in attendance and punctuality. The following includes a more specific list of the kinds of responsibilities which individuals might have:

Name of Staff Member	Roles and Responsibilities
Emma Langon/Liz Ireland/Jo Gosling	Attendance Champions
Attendance officer	Jo Gosling
Pete Wilkes	Safeguarding Leader (DSL)
Anna Hodkin	Deputy Head Teacher, DSL
Andy Barker	Governor for School Attendance.
Leah Wignell	Meadow Lane Leader/DSL

Rachel Darke	EYFS Leader/DSL
Natasha Williams	Pastoral and Behaviour Lead / DSL

### **Class teacher**

Class teachers at The Lanes are responsible for:

- The day-to-day attendance of pupils in their class.
- They will be the first port of call for issues arising from attendance
- Providing academic and emotional support to pupils who may be experiencing attendance challenges and identifying the root causes and addressing them proactively, can help improve attendance.
- Setting Expectations: Teachers can set clear expectations for attendance and punctuality in their classrooms. This includes communicating the importance of regular attendance for learning and academic progress.
- Monitoring the daily attendance of their pupils. They should maintain accurate attendance records, noting both present and absent students.
- Promoting punctuality - pupils to arrive at school on time each day. Punctuality is essential for a smooth start to the school day and minimises disruptions in the classroom.
- Taking Immediate Action: When a child is absent without prior notification or a valid reason, teachers should take immediate action. This may involve contacting the school's inclusion team or designated staff member to report the absence.
- Identifying Barriers: Teachers should be alert to potential barriers to attendance, such as bullying, health issues, or family problems. Identifying these barriers and reporting them to school staff can lead to effective interventions.
- Implementing School Policies: Teachers should adhere to and implement the school's attendance policies and procedures.
- Collaboration: Collaborating with other school staff, such as the inclusion team, the attendance champions and administrators, is essential for addressing attendance concerns effectively. Teamwork ensures a coordinated approach to supporting pupils.
- Safeguarding: Teachers should be aware of safeguarding protocols and report any concerns related to a child's safety or well-being promptly to a member of the Safeguarding Team.
- Liaising with families in the first instance of any attendance concerns.
- Role Modelling: Teachers can serve as role models by demonstrating punctuality and a commitment to their own professional responsibilities.

### **Administration Staff/Attendance officer**

Administration staff are responsible for:

- Data Analysis: collect and analyse attendance data to identify trends and patterns. They use this information to pinpoint areas of concern, such as high levels of persistent absence, frequent lateness, or particular year groups or demographic groups with attendance challenges.
- Safeguarding: aware of safeguarding protocols and report any concerns related to a pupil's safety or well-being promptly to a member of the safeguarding team.
- Taking Immediate Action: When a pupil is absent without prior notification or a valid reason, Administration Staff should take immediate action. This may involve contacting the school's attendance officer or member of the safeguarding team to report the absence.
- Implementing School Policies: Administration staff should adhere to and implement the school's attendance policies and procedures, including sending attendance letters to families.

### **Headteacher**

The Headteacher at The Lanes is responsible for:

- Promoting a Positive Culture: Senior staff actively promote a positive school culture where regular attendance is recognised, and pupils feel motivated to attend school regularly.
- Monitoring and Reporting: They monitor attendance data regularly, analysing trends and patterns. Senior leaders use this data to identify pupil's at risk of poor attendance and to measure the impact of attendance improvement strategies.
- Setting Expectations: Senior leaders establish clear expectations for staff regarding attendance monitoring, recording, and intervention. They ensure that staff understand their roles in promoting regular attendance.

- **Recognising Attendance:** They may implement incentives and recognition programmes to recognise pupils and reinforce a positive attendance culture.
- **Enforcing Policies:** Senior Leaders enforce attendance policies consistently and fairly, addressing unauthorised absences promptly. They communicate the consequences of poor attendance to pupils and parents.
- **Safeguarding:** The Headteacher is alert to safeguarding concerns related to attendance. They collaborate with the safeguarding team to address any child protection issues arising from attendance concerns.

### **Attendance Champions**

The role of the Attendance Champions in improving pupils' attendance in schools is critical in ensuring that students attend school regularly and achieve their educational potential.

The Attendance Champions are responsible for:

- **Developing and Implementing Attendance Policies:** Attendance Champions work closely with school leadership and staff to develop and implement effective attendance policies and procedures.
- **Early Intervention:** Recognising that early intervention is crucial, Attendance Champions identify pupils at risk of poor attendance. They collaborate with teachers, parents, and support staff to address attendance issues as soon as they arise.
- **Supporting Families:** Attendance Champions work closely with parents and guardians to build positive relationships and engage them in improving their child's attendance. They may conduct home visits, organise meetings, and provide guidance on strategies to promote regular attendance.
- **Providing Resources:** Attendance Champions may connect families with resources and services that can help alleviate attendance-related challenges, such as housing support, counselling, or healthcare services.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Attendance Champions continuously monitor attendance records and report attendance data to school leadership, governing bodies, and local authorities as required. They ensure that accurate records are maintained.
- **Interventions and Incentives:** Attendance Champions design and implement interventions and incentives to motivate pupils to attend school.
- **Staff Training:** Attendance Champions provide training to school staff on effective attendance monitoring, reporting, and intervention strategies. They ensure that all staff members understand their roles in promoting attendance.
- **Legal Compliance:** Attendance Champions are knowledgeable about legal requirements related to attendance, including regulations governing authorised and unauthorised absences. They ensure the school complies with these regulations.
- **Safeguarding:** Attendance Champions are vigilant for safeguarding concerns related to attendance. They recognise signs of neglect or abuse and report them to the safeguarding team or authorities as necessary. Our Attendance Champion is also our Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- **Community Engagement:** Attendance Champions may collaborate with community organisations, social services, and local authorities to address attendance issues within the broader community context.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Attendance Champions regularly evaluate the effectiveness of attendance strategies and interventions. They adapt their approaches based on data and feedback to achieve sustained improvements in attendance rates.
- **Promoting a Positive School Culture:** Attendance Champions contribute to creating a school culture where attendance is valued, and students feel motivated and supported to attend regularly.

### **Parents**

Parents/Carers are responsible for:

- **Ensuring excellent attendance of their child at school.**
- **Communicating with School:** Establish open lines of communication with our school. Inform the school office promptly if your child is going to be absent due to illness or other reasons. This helps the school keep accurate attendance records.
- **Setting Expectations:** Clearly communicate your expectations about attendance to your child. Emphasise the importance of attending school regularly and on time.
- **Monitor Progress:** Keep track of your child's progress and attendance. Be aware of any sudden changes in attendance patterns that may signal underlying issues.
- **Seek Support if Needed:** If your child is facing challenges that affect attendance, such as health issues or academic struggles, seek support from the school, healthcare professionals, or relevant agencies.

- Collaborate with the School: Work collaboratively with the school to address any attendance issues. Explore support services or interventions if necessary.

## **Pupils**

Pupils also play a significant role in attending school regularly and ensuring their educational success

Pupils are responsible for:

- Commitment to Learning: Pupils should recognise the value of education and commit to attending school regularly. They can understand that attending school is essential for gaining knowledge, skills, and opportunities for the future.
- Punctuality: Pupils should strive to arrive at school on time each day. Being punctual helps them settle into the daily routine and ensures they do not miss important instructions or activities.
- Positive Attitude: Maintaining a positive attitude towards school and learning can make attending school a more enjoyable experience. Pupils should be open to new experiences and willing to engage in classroom activities.
- Responsibility: Pupils can take responsibility for their own education by completing homework and assignments on time. They should also ensure they have the necessary materials and supplies for school.
- Peer Relationships: Building positive relationships with peers can make school a more welcoming place. Pupils should be friendly, respectful, and inclusive in their interactions with classmates.
- Participation: Actively participating in classroom activities, discussions, and group work can enhance a child's learning experience and motivation to attend school.
- Problem-Solving: Encourage pupils to develop problem-solving skills to address any challenges they may encounter at school.
- Healthy Lifestyle: Maintaining a healthy lifestyle through proper nutrition, regular exercise, and adequate sleep contributes to overall well-being and can reduce the risk of illness-related absences.
- Attendance Awareness: Pupils can develop awareness of the importance of attendance and its impact on their education. They should aim to achieve good attendance records and strive for excellent attendance.
- Seeking Support: If a child is facing challenges that affect attendance, such as bullying or academic difficulties, they should seek support from teachers, school staff, or trusted adults.

## **Registration**

The school gates open at 8.35am at Meadow Lane and 8.45am at Cator Lane. At 8:45am at Meadow Lane and 8.55 at Cator Lane, the registers will be taken. Pupils must be in the classroom by 8.45am at Meadow Lane and 8:55am at Cator Lane, this gives plenty of time for all pupils to come into their classroom and be ready to learn when lessons start. All class registers must be completed by 8.55am at Meadow Lane and 9.05am at Cator Lane. Registers will be taken again in the afternoon after lunch – 1pm at Meadow Lane and 1.15 at Cator Lane. A full day counts as 2 sessions. Each class teacher has the responsibility for marking the attendance register at the beginning of the morning and afternoon session. All attendance records are documented using Arbor. Attendance registers are legal documents, and these must be kept secure and preserved in line with the relevant retention schedule.

## **Lateness**

Pupils who are persistently late after the close of registers soon fall behind with their learning.

Any pupil who comes into school after 8.55 at Meadow Lane and 9.05am at Cator Lane will be marked as late. Records are kept of those pupils who are late; this is documented on the electronic register for each pupil (Attendance code L).

Any pupil who arrives for school later than 9.05 at Meadow Lane and 9.15am at Cator Lane will be marked as late after close of register (Attendance code U). This is an unauthorised absence for the whole session and will affect your child's overall attendance percentage and can be used to calculate absence thresholds for legal decision making.

As a school, we regularly monitor persistent lateness and will support and communicate with parents/carers to address this.

## **Medical Absence**

Every effort should be made to arrange medical appointments outside school hours. If it is necessary for a

pupil to be out of school for this reason, the pupils should be returned to school directly after the appointment. Parents/carers may be asked for a letter/appointment card or documentation of the appointment prior or straight after to ensure that it is marked as a medical absence.

### **Reporting Absence**

Parents are asked to make contact as soon as possible on the first day of absence, by telephone call or e-mail - informing the school of the reason for the absence and/or nature of any illness. They are also asked to inform the school if there is a likely return date. Parents are expected to call each day following the first day of absence to update school. Absences are noted as either authorised or unauthorised. If no contact has been made, the first day calling procedures will be followed to establish a reason for absence.

### **First Day Contact**

Where a pupil is absent from school and we have not received any contact from the parent/carer, then we initiate a first day contact process. Office staff check all the registers each morning to identify those pupils who are absent without explanation and, as a safeguarding requirement, make contact with the parents/carers of these pupils by telephone.

We have a rigorous and robust system in place for first day absences of our pupils:

Parents/carers must inform the school by 8:55am each day if their child is going to be absent through one of the following methods:

Phoning the school office and leaving a message on: 0115 9138558 for the Cator Lane Site and 0115 9190644 for the Meadow Lane Site

Emailing the school on [office@thelanes.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@thelanes.notts.sch.uk)

Once the register is closed at 9.15am, the office staff will identify any pupils who we have no reason for their absence and a first text message will be sent to parents/carers to remind them they need to contact the school office.

**For pupils who walk to school, a phone call will be made immediately to parents/carers.**

**Where necessary, the Headteacher may use their discretion and advise that text messages be sent outside the allotted times.**

### **1st Text Message**

*“Your child has been recorded as absent today. Please contact the school office to let us know why. Thank you.”*

If no contact is made by 9.30am as a result of the first text message, school will make a phone call to the parent/carer of the pupil. If contact cannot be made to the parent/carer, school will call all available contacts of the pupil.

If no contact can be made through calling the parent/carer and all other available contacts, a second text message will be sent out to inform parents/carers that if contact is not made by 11:30am, this will trigger a safe and well home visit.

### **2nd Text Message**

*“We have tried unsuccessfully today to contact you regarding your child’s absence. If we do not hear from you before 11.30am, we will conduct a safe and well home visit. Thank you”.*

If contact has still not been made by 11:30am, the office will inform all DSL’s and SLT, and a home visit will be conducted.

**Where necessary, the Headteacher may use their discretion and advise that text messages be sent outside the allotted times.**

### **If no contact can be made from a home visit:**

A home visit letter will be left at the house requesting contact as soon as possible.

If the pupil has a social worker, they will be informed that the pupil has not been in school today and that they have not been seen when a home visit was carried out.

If contact is not made, Social Care will be contacted for advice and to request a safe and wellbeing check. The police will also be contacted if required. Professional advice to be followed.

School will do all it can to contact the pupil each day and continue to follow professional advice. On day 10 of no contact, school will contact Children Missing Education.

#### **Known Pupil Absence – Day 4 Procedure**

- Where there has been contact with the parent/carer, but a pupil has been absent for 4 days, a home visit will be undertaken on the 4<sup>th</sup> day to check on the wellbeing of the pupil and to see whether there is anything school needs to be aware of.
- If the pupil is not seen, the HT/SLT will undertake a risk assessment to decide on level of concern.
- School will contact social care or the police for advice and to request a safe and wellbeing check. Professional advice to be followed.

## Day 1 Absence Procedure

Parents/carers must inform the school by 8:55am if their child is going to be absent.

1) If no contact is made by the time registers close at 9.15am, a first message will be sent to parents/carers to remind them they need to contact the school office.

Absence is coded in the register.

Parents contact the school office with the reason for absence.

If no contact has been made by 9:30am, the police will be called.

For pupils who are registered to walk alone, a phone call will be made to the parent/carer by 9:15am.

**FOR PUPILS REGISTERED TO WALK**

2) If no contact is made by 9.30am as a result of the first text message, school will make a phone call to the

3) If contact cannot be made to the parent/carer, school will call all available contacts of the pupil.

4) If there has still been no contact, a second text message will be sent out to inform parents/carers that if contact is not made by 11:30am, this will trigger a safe and well home visit.

5) If contact has still not been made by 11:30am, the office will inform all DSL's and SLT. A home visit will be conducted

6) If no contact can be made from a home visit, a home visit letter will be left at the house requesting contact by the end of the school day.

7) If contact is not made, MASH will be contacted for advice and to request a safe and well being check. The police will be contacted if required. **Professional advice to be followed.**

If no contact is made on day 1, school will repeat steps 2 – 7 will be repeated over the next 9 days and **professional advice will be followed**

On day 10 of no contact, school will contact CME.

## **Children Missing Education**

In order to safeguard pupils who may be at risk of missing education it remains important for all staff in school to take swift action. This will include the need to liaise with the relevant colleagues in safeguarding/education within Nottinghamshire County Council for pupils who are to be removed from the admission register and include circumstances where the pupil:

- Has been taken out of school by their parents and the school has received written notification from the parent they are being educated outside the school system e.g., home education – this will be communicated with the elective home education team.
- Does not arrive at the school as part of an admission process and we are not aware of their whereabouts.
- Has ceased to attend school and no longer lives within reasonable distance of the school at which they are registered and has been discussed with the children missing officer (CMO) as they have not been registered at a new school.

### **Applications for Leave of Absence in Term Time**

In September 2013 the government introduced new regulations making it clear that Headteachers must not give approval for any leave of absence during term time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any requests for term time leave should be made on a Request for Leave of Absence form available from the school office and handed in 2 school weeks before the first date of the requested absence whenever possible. You must have received written authorisation before your child can be absent from school.

Parent/carers may be issued with a penalty notice fine or prosecution should leave of 5 days (10 sessions), or more be taken which is not authorised by the Headteacher, or where repeated incidents of leave in term time for less than 5 days (10 sessions) occur or where the unauthorised absence contributes to wider poor attendance that meets the legal threshold. (Attendance code G).

### **Addressing Attendance Concerns**

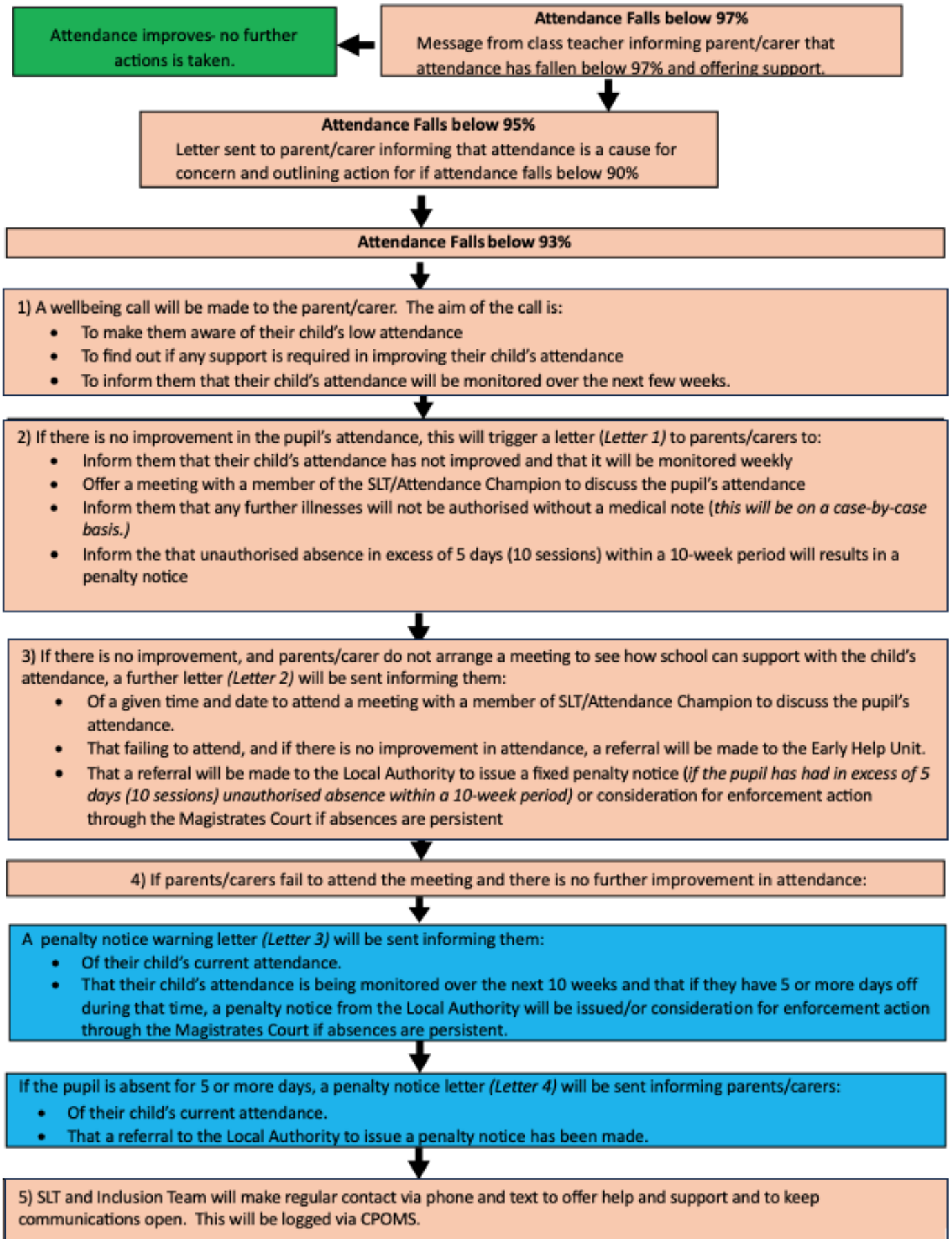
The Lanes Primary School expects attendance of at least 97%. It is important for pupils to establish good attendance habits early on in their school career. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and the governors to support good attendance and to identify and address attendance concerns promptly. We rely upon parents to ensure their child attends school regularly and punctually and therefore where there are concerns regarding attendance parents are always informed of our concerns.

At The Lanes, we are relentless in our pursuit of excellence for pupils. A vital part of our role in ensuring we make every day count for the pupils of our school is the robust approach taken to breaking down barriers that may lead to poor attendance of our pupils.

**If a pupil's attendance does not improve and absences are unauthorised this may lead to consideration of further action, which includes the issue of penalty notice fines, or other statutory action.**

Please see below for our full Attendance Procedure:

## Attendance Procedure



### **National framework for penalty notices**

The new National threshold for consideration of legal action is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. A school week means any week in which there is at least one school session. This can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence, including lates after close of register (Attendance code U) and unauthorised leave in term time (Attendance code G / O). If your child's absence falls into this category, the school will decide if further offers of support is likely to improve the situation or if a request for legal action should be submitted to the Local Authority.

The new costs and process is outlined below:

- **First Offence** - The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: **£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.**
- **Second Offence (within 3 years)** -The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: **£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.**
- **Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)** - The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented **straight to the Magistrates' Court.**

### **Term time holidays**

Pupils should not be taken out of school during term time unless it is unavoidable. Schools are required to consider requests for leave of absence in term time and should only approve the leave if there are exceptional circumstances. If a request for leave is denied and the pupil is absent for 5 days (10 sessions) or more then the school is expected to refer the case to the LA. The LA will issue a penalty notice with no requirement for a formal warning to be issued. Penalty notices can also be issued where a pupil is absent for repeated incidents of unauthorised leave in term time that fall below the 5-day threshold. In every case, the request for the Penalty Notice comes in from the school to the LA for the process to be completed.

### **Refusal to Attend**

Where a pupil refuses to attend school, parents must contact the school office to inform them on the first day of absence. Parents should explain that their child is refusing to attend; school will aim to work with parents to support their child in returning to school. In the first instance an appointment should be made with the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or Attendance Champion to see if reasons for the refusal to attend can be identified and addressed.

School will then work with parents to offer to support. This may include:

- Home visits
- Nurture support
- Referral to outside agencies

### **Changing Schools**

It is important that if families decide to send their child to a different school that they inform the school as soon as possible.

A pupil will not be removed from the school roll until the following information has been received and investigated:

- The date the pupil will be leaving the school and starting the next.
- The address of the new school.
- A new home address if appropriate.

The pupil's school records will then be sent to the new school within 5 working days.

In the event that the school has not been informed of the above information, the family will be referred to the local authority.

### **Review**

This Attendance Policy will be reviewed annually by the school's governing body to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with statutory requirements. Any amendments will be communicated to staff, parents, and carers as necessary.

## Appendix 1 – Leave of Absence Request and Decision Form



### APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

Overleaf is the required application form for requesting permission for your child to be absent from school during term time. Before completing the application form, please read these notes carefully.

As parents, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child attends school regularly. Holidays should only be taken during the school holiday period. As a rule, no requests for holidays will be granted.

Please note that the school policy, in accordance with guidance from the Department for Education is that leave of absence requests may only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

The Headteacher will not, under any circumstances, authorise leave of absence of more than 10 days in one academic year.

Leave of absence requests must be made **12 days prior** to when the intended leave is due to commence. This must be in writing using the form overleaf. Permission will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. The school may request further evidence to support any leave of absence application. Please note the school year is from 31<sup>st</sup> August to the end of July.

- **Penalty notice referrals will be made if the absence is unauthorised and there are 5 consecutive days (10 sessions) of term time leave.**
- **Penalty Notice fines will be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.**
- **First offence - The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave of irregular attendance the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.**
- **Second offence (within 3 years) - The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.**
- **Third Offence or any further offences (within 3 years) - The third time an offence is committed for Term Time leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines are per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court may be shown on the parent's future DBS certificate.**

#### Payment of Penalty Notices:

It is important to note that these fines are paid directly to the council and not school.

- Failure to pay the fines may result in court action.
- The fine must be paid in full, there are no payment plans (paying in instalments),
- There is no process to appeal a fine it must be paid.

We appreciate that holidays are expensive out of term time but please note this guidance is national guidance and school has a legal responsibility to follow it.

**Having read these notes, if you still wish to apply for a leave of absence for your child during term time then please complete the application form below.**



**APPLICATION BY PARENT/CARER FOR CHILD'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL DURING TERM TIME**

Please complete all sections below. Please ensure all parents/carers details are included. Consent for term time leave of absence will only be considered with a full description of special circumstances. The school may request further evidence to support any leave of absence application. The school requests that parents use the allocated school holiday period for vacations.

Pupil's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of parents/carers \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to apply for my child to be absent from school during the following dates:

First Day of Absence: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Return to School: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of school days missed: \_\_\_\_\_

Could you please explain why you require a leave of absence during term time?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*By completing this form, I acknowledge that I have made an application for my child, named above, to have authorised leave of absence from school for the reasons stated. I confirm that the reasons given are valid and legitimate. I understand that if this is not agreed then any absence will be treated as unauthorised. Unauthorised absences could lead to a formal referral to the Nottinghamshire County Council Family Service in respect of lack of attendance at school. Please be aware that this could result in the Local Authority taking legal action against you.*

Name of Parent/Carer making application: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL GIVING AT LEAST 12 DAYS NOTICE**

## Appendix 2 – Whole School Letter

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Lanes Primary School is working in partnership with parents and the Local Authority and following the recent Department for Education (DFE) guidance to improve school attendance. We would like to congratulate the many parents who make sure their children attend school regularly and are therefore benefiting fully from their educational opportunity.

The school's attendance target for this academic year is 97%. Should your child's attendance fall below this target we will contact you to discuss this further and we will look to offer appropriate support where we can.

You can support the school, and your child, to achieve this target by:

- Making sure your child attends school regularly and on time.
- Contacting school on the first day of any absence on 0115 9138558 for the Cator Lane Site and 0115 9190644 for the Meadow Lane Site
- Informing school of any problems which may impact on your child's attendance, punctuality and learning.
- Arranging medical appointments outside school time where possible.

We do understand that some absence due to illness is unavoidable, however, it is important school is made aware of on-going health problems so we can put the correct support in place.

The government-set persistent absence level remains at 10%. In real terms this is equal to missing around 7 sessions per half term (3.5 days) or 38 sessions across the school year (19 days). This amount of absence from school will mean your child will be classed as a persistent absentee; in line with national guidelines, this is likely to result in further action being taken.

Absence from school disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class. Are you aware that children who do not attend school regularly:

- Are less likely to achieve their full potential.
- Are more likely to drop grades in examinations.



Absence can only be authorised by the Head Teacher and **will not be authorised during term time except where the circumstances are exceptional.**

It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their child/children attend school regularly and punctually. Failure to ensure this may result in legal action being taken against you.

Legal action that may be taken includes:

- Issuing penalty notices: Each parent receives a penalty notice for each child who has unauthorised absence. The penalty is £80 or £160 depending on how soon payment is made. So, if there are two parents and two children the total penalties could be up to £640. Failure to pay may result in prosecution.
- Taking parents to court for unauthorised absence: The Education Act 1996 Section 444(1) - Courts can fine each parent up to £1,000 per child, order payment of prosecution costs and/or impose a Parenting Order.
- Taking parents to court for persistent unauthorised absence: The Education Act 1996 Section 444(1A) - court can fine each parent, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Parenting Order and/or sentence you to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months.  
**Being taken to court could result in you having a criminal record.**

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

If at any time you are experiencing difficulties and require any support or advice, please do not hesitate to contact School.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Pete Wilkes  
Headteacher

# CHANGES TO PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOLS.

**After 19th August 2024, the following changes will apply to Penalty Notice Fines issued under the new National Framework.**

**Per Parent, Per Child:** There will now be penalty notices issued to parents for each child absent. E.G. If three siblings were absent for term time leave, each parent would receive a fine for each absence.

**5 consecutive days of term time leave:** When Term Time Leave exceeds 5 or more consecutive days, penalty notices will be issued. Inset Training Days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days, where there was intent to be absent for Term Time Leave.

**10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period:** When 10 unauthorised absences are recorded in ten weeks, fines will be considered.

**First Offence:** The first time a penalty notice is issued for term time Leave or Irregular Attendance Penalty Notices will be issued:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

**Second Offence (within 3 years):** After a second penalty notice for Irregular Attendance or Term Time Leave has been issued, the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days

**Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years):** An offence for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance will not result in a penalty notice, but instead will be dealt with by the Magistrates' Court. A magistrate can impose fines up to £2500 per parent, per child.

*When parents are found guilty of failing to safeguard their child's education in Magistrates' Court, the conviction will appear on their future DBS certificates.*

## Graduated Response to attendance

Tier 1 Universal Offer	Tier 2 Individualised Strategies At risk of PA 91-95%	Tier 3 High Needs Strategies 90% or below
<b>Role of Teachers and School</b>	<b>Role of Teachers and School</b>	<b>Role of Teachers and School</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At The Lanes, we provide a welcoming, positive, and inclusive learning environment where every child and family are valued. Through our values and strong relationships, staff work in partnership with families to create a supportive foundation that encourages excellent attendance and a sense of belonging.</li> <li>Attendance recognition assemblies.</li> <li>Promote positive attendance culture through our values.</li> <li>Positive attendance shared and promoted.</li> <li>At The Lanes, our curriculum equips pupils with the skills to care for their mental health, build strong relationships, and thrive as part of the school community</li> <li>Transitions into school are carefully considered and planned for children and parents</li> <li>Meet and greet all children positively and build positive relationships with all children and adults. This includes SLT, Attendance Champions, and staff on the gate and class teachers at the school doors.</li> <li>Registers are led by class teacher and attendance is monitored.</li> <li>Attendance is monitored every day to ensure safeguarding remains rigorous and effective.</li> <li>Teachers share attendance report as part of parents' evenings.</li> <li>Weekly attendance tracked and % addressed as part of weekly monitoring of persistent absence at SLT meetings</li> <li>Where appropriate, parents will be signposted to wider agencies for additional support.</li> <li>Supportive messages sent by class teachers when attendance reaches 97%</li> <li>If a pupil is absent and no reason has been given, school staff will begin the Day 1 absence process.</li> <li>Whole school attendance trends are monitored regularly through tracking.</li> <li>The Attendance Policy is reviewed annually and published on the school website for parents.</li> <li>Graduated approach to letters with persistent absence and declining attendance.</li> <li>Interventions, both academic and pastoral, are delivered to identified children and families in line with provision maps and outcomes from Pupil Progress meetings.</li> <li>Home visits and well-being visits will be undertaken where appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement personalised and bespoke strategies where identified, for example, soft starts.</li> <li>Proactively use data to identify children who are persistently absent and at risk of being persistently absent</li> <li>Continue to identify children with falling attendance through daily registers</li> <li>Issue letters if attendance drops below 95% (potential attendance review triggered).</li> <li>Monitor progress and follow up on celebrating achievements with the families (recognition of attendance). This includes a letter of recognition for improvement.</li> <li>Work with families to identify push/pull factors considering the views of all stakeholders in identifying attendance barriers for the child.</li> <li>Monitor attendance daily, weekly, monthly, half-terminly, and termly to identify patterns/trends.</li> <li>Work with identified pupils/families to understand and address absence reasons and barriers to attendance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daily, weekly, monthly, half termly and termly monitoring of attendance % to recognise attendance and identify any trends or patterns</li> <li>Take an active part in multi-agency approach with Local Authority and other external partners through formalised Team around the Child meetings</li> <li>Use data driven information to identify children at risk of severe absence</li> <li>Monitor progress, assess and adapt strategies where appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter issued to advise of attendance dropping below 90% and further attendance review</li> <li>Invite to formal support meeting conducted by DHT or HT and Attendance Champion and formal support plan written with families (where appropriate)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Apply LA Escalation processes where appropriate in consultation with the Local Authority</li> <li>Provide interventions to support children where needed</li> <li>Continuously assess and adapt strategies and follow up on celebrating achievements with the families (recognition of attendance)</li> <li>Allocate a family chosen Attendance Champion on the school staff. to liaise with and support</li> <li>Create a bespoke approach and implement interventions for example, Ask Twice, Mood Diaries, Stress Bucket, The Tangled Ball, Tricky Moments planning and Wellbeing bingo – selecting the most appropriate to meet the needs of the individual child.</li> </ul>
<b>Role of Parents and Carers</b>	<b>Role of Parents and Carers</b>	<b>Role of Parents and Carers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work alongside school staff to ensure the child is attending school regularly and on time.</li> <li>Engage with school communication including foy newsletters, attendance celebration and expectations.</li> <li>Work in collaboration with school staff to ensure positive transitions at drop off and pickup times.</li> <li>Communicate promptly with school regarding any absence, providing evidence where required.</li> <li>Supporting school to promote the importance of attending school on time every day.</li> <li>Work with staff to support the child to address any concerns raised.</li> <li>Support the school in addressing barriers to attendance and engage with support offered.</li> <li>Take an active role in supporting improvement plans where attendance is a concern.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively take part in the support and strategies offered by the school.</li> <li>Work closely with school staff to identify and understand any difficulties that may be affecting your child's attendance</li> <li>Maintain open and timely communication with school about absences, providing evidence when requested.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with school to continue to identify barriers and/or challenges to attendance</li> <li>Respond to communications with school and proactively engage with school support and external support, including formal plans</li> <li>Take an active role in resourcing additional support</li> </ul>
<b>Role of External Agencies</b>	<b>Role of External Agencies</b>	<b>Role of External Agencies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide advice, resources, and training to support effective attendance practice.</li> <li>Support the implementation of the Attendance and other Inclusion related policies</li> <li>Collaborate with the school on attendance initiatives, including workshops and parents' evenings.</li> <li>Support the implementation of attendance and inclusion policies.</li> <li>Signpost families to appropriate external support services where necessary.</li> <li>Supporting school to utilise agencies that can support strong attendance in school</li> <li>Offer early intervention and professional development to strengthen school practice.</li> <li>Providing pastoral support to the school in line with school's graduated response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote a comprehensive and inclusive approach across the school, embedding both attendance and emotional well-being.</li> <li>Where barriers outside of school impact attendance, ensure access to services and signposting to appropriate support.</li> <li>Signpost families with appropriate services to address identified needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the formal TAC process and review meetings</li> <li>Signpost or provide access to services according to identified barriers</li> <li>Provide professional development and early intervention to support school</li> </ul>
<b>Role of Children</b>	<b>Role of Children</b>	<b>Role of Children</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend school regularly, to be punctual and engage positively in learning.</li> <li>Support peers in fostering a positive school community.</li> <li>Celebrate achievements of themselves and others in assemblies and daily school life.</li> <li>Speak to a trusted adult in school if they have worries or concerns.</li> <li>Take part in targeted interventions when required.</li> <li>Recognise and celebrate personal achievements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain active participation in school.</li> <li>Collaborate in the development and delivery of targeted interventions.</li> <li>Recognise personal achievements</li> <li>Seek support from trusted adults when needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively engage in a range of interventions</li> <li>Recognise personal achievements</li> <li>Continue to engage in all aspects of school life</li> <li>Continue to talk to an adult when/if you have a concern</li> </ul>