

Preston CE Primary School

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Preston Primary School is committed to providing a full and efficient education to all pupils and embraces the concept of equal opportunities for all.

We will endeavor to provide an environment where all pupils feel valued and welcome.

For a child to reach their full educational achievement a high level of school attendance is essential. We will consistently work towards a goal of 100% attendance for all children. Every opportunity will be used to convey to pupils and their parents or carers the importance of regular and punctual attendance.

School attendance is subject to various education laws and this school attendance policy is written to reflect these laws and the guidance produced by the Department for Education

Each year the school will set attendance targets and monitor progress towards these at regular intervals.

This policy will contain within it the procedures that the school will use to meet its attendance targets.

Promoting attendance

The foundation for good attendance is a strong partnership between the school, parents and the child.

The Home/School agreement will contain details of how we will work with parents and our expectations of what parents will need to do to ensure their child achieves good attendance.

We will ensure that our pupils are made aware of the importance of good attendance and how this will benefit them.

Leave of absence in term time

Leave of absence during term time will be strongly discouraged. Parents will be reminded of the effect that absence can have on a pupil's potential achievement. The school will consider any application for leave of absence and will only agree to authorise the absence in exceptional circumstances; parents must apply in advance for permission for their child to have leave of absence.

School Procedures

Any child who is absent from school at the morning or afternoon registration period must have their absence recorded as being authorised, unauthorised or as an approved educational activity [attendance out of school]. Only the headteacher or a member of staff acting on their behalf can authorise absence. If there is no known reason for the absence at registration, then the absence will be recorded in the first instance as unauthorised.

The coding for any absences will be in accordance with the guidance provided by the Department of Education.

Registers

A paper register is completed in each classroom in the morning and in the afternoon, by the member of staff with responsibility for the class at that time. This register is sent to the school office where a member of office staff records appropriate codes for known absences and makes note of unexplained absences on the Weekly Absence Record for follow-up. The register is returned to the classroom.

Office staff update SIMs twice a day at the start of each session.

Lateness

Morning registration will take place at the start of school at 8.50am. The registers will remain open for 30 minutes. Any pupil arriving after 9.20am will be marked as having an unauthorised absence unless there is an acceptable explanation i.e. school transport was delayed. In cases for example, where the absence at registration was for attending an early morning medical appointment, the appropriate authorised absence code will be entered.

The afternoon registration will be at 1.15pm.

Pupils arriving after the start of school but before the end of the registration period will be coded as late before registers close.

First Day Absence

It is expected that parents make contact with the school to inform us of a child's absence – the answer phone has a setting to enable this. If no contact has been received by 9.20am when registers close, the member of office staff on duty attempts to make telephone contact with the parent /carer. If an explanation is obtained this is recorded on the Weekly Absence Record and the paper register is amended accordingly.

If no contact can be made on the morning of the first day of absence, efforts will continue throughout the day and the following day to make contact by telephone. This might include efforts to make contact with 'emergency contacts' registered on our school files for the family

Third Day Absence

If a child is still absent by the third day and there has been no contact, two members of staff will visit the home of the child to provide reassurance that the child is safe. If nobody is found at home, efforts will continue over subsequent days. Records of visit will be kept.

Ten Day's Absence

Any pupil who is absent without an explanation for 10 consecutive days will be notified to the Local Authority, by submitting a referral to the Children's Services Attendance Staff for the local area. The school will include details of the action that they have taken.

Absence notes

Notes received from parents explaining absence will be kept for the remainder of the academic year. These will be attached to the registers. If there are attendance concerns about the pupil that may require further investigation then the notes may need to be retained for a longer period.

Frequent Absence

Within the school it is the responsibility of the office staff to be aware of and bring attention to, any emerging attendance concerns. In cases where a pupil begins to develop a pattern of absences, the school will try to resolve the problem as soon as possible.

As soon as a concern emerges, parents will be contacted by the headteacher for discussion about the issue. It might be appropriate to provide access to the Parent Support Adviser for the cluster. Continuing problems will result in further contact with parents and the development of an action plan. If actions required by parents are not met, the Attendance Officer will be contacted for guidance and assistance.

Persistent Absence

The absence of any pupils whose attendance level falls below 88% over the period of one school term will be subject to scrutiny and a standard letter may be sent to parents to alert them to the fact that their child's attendance is close to the Local Authority Persistent Absentee level of 85%. If appropriate, an action plan to support their return to full attendance will be put into place. These action plans will be set up by the headteacher.

The action plan will include engagement with all parties who can support the pupil's attendance.

A Welcome Back

It is important that on return from an absence all pupils are made to feel welcome. This should include ensuring that the pupil is helped to catch up on missed work and brought up to date on any information that has been passed to the other pupils. This will be organized by the class teacher and relevant support staff.

Attendance Awards

The school will use the following system to reward pupils who have good or improving attendance:

100% Attendance records at the end of each term and at the end of each year.

Categorisation of Absence

Any pupil who is on roll but not present in the school must be recorded within one of these categories.

1. Unauthorised Absence
2. Authorised Absence
3. Approved Educational Activity

1. Unauthorised absence

This is for those pupils where no reason has been provided, or whose absence is deemed to be without valid reason.

2. Authorised absence

This is for those pupils who are away from school for a reason that is deemed to be valid under the Education Act 1996.

3. Approved Educational Activity

This covers types of supervised educational activity undertaken off site but with the approval of the school.

Note Pupils recorded in this category are deemed to be present for attendance returns purposes.

This would include:

- Work experience placements
- Field trips and educational visits
- Sporting activities
- Link courses or approved education off site

If a pupil is receiving education off site or is attending at a school where they are dual registered with, the school will liaise with the other education provider to check on attendance.

The registration system

The following national codes will be used to record attendance information.

CODE	DESCRIPTION	MEANING
/	Present (AM)	Present
\	Present (PM)	Present
B	Educated off site (NOT Dual registration)	Approved Education Activity
C	Other Authorised Circumstances (not covered by another appropriate code/description)	Authorised absence
D	Dual registration (i.e. pupil attending other establishment)	Approved Education Activity
E	Excluded (no alternative provision made)	Authorised absence
F	Extended family holiday (agreed)	Authorised absence
G	Family holiday (NOT agreed <u>or</u> days in excess of agreement)	Unauthorized absence
H	Family holiday (agreed)	Authorised absence
I	Illness (NOT medical or dental etc. appointments)	Authorised absence
J	Interview	Approved Education Activity
L	Late (before registers closed)	Present
M	Medical/Dental appointments	Authorised absence
N	No reason yet provided for absence	Unauthorised absence
O	Unauthorised absence (not covered by any other code/description)	Unauthorised absence
P	Approved sporting activity	Approved Education Activity
R	Religious observance	Authorised absence
S	Study leave	Authorised absence
T	Traveller absence	Authorised absence
U	Late (after registers closed)	Unauthorised absence
V	Educational visit or trip	Approved Education Activity
W	Work experience	Approved Education Activity
X	Untimetabled sessions for non-compulsory school-age pupils	Not counted in possible attendances
Y	Enforced closure	Not counted in possible attendances
Z	Pupil not yet on roll	Not counted in possible attendances
#	School closed to pupils	Not counted in possible attendances

Record preservation

We will ensure compliance with attendance regulations by keeping attendance records for at least 3 years.

Computer registers will be printed out at least once a month and bound into annual volumes.

Register Security

Paper registers are attached to clipboards and returned to classrooms once office staff have obtained details of attendance – this is in case of emergency evacuation of the building during the school day.

Attendance Targets

The school will set attendance targets each year, related to national averages and prior school figures. The headteacher will report attendance figures to the governing body at regular intervals to enable monitoring. Due attention will be paid to attendance data provided by Raiseonline and FFT.

Appendices

1 The Law

The Education Act 1996 Part 1, Section 7 states:

The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable-

[a] To his age, ability and aptitude and

[b] To any special needs he may have.

either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

For educational purposes the term parent is used to include those that have parental responsibility and/or those that have the day to day care of the child.

The legislation that appertains to children who are of compulsory school age and are registered at school is contained within this Act.

Part V1 Section 444 contains the details of when an offence is committed if a child fails to attend school.

Register and Admission Roll keeping.

The legal requirements are found in:

The Education [Pupil Registration] (England) Regulations 2006

Attendance Targets

The legal requirements are found in:

The Education (School Attendance Targets)(England) Regulations 2007

Guidance documents on attendance.

The following DfE documents are used to guide attendance recording.

Absence and Attendance codes (Guidance for Schools and Local Authorities)

Keeping Pupil Registers (Guidance on applying the Education Pupil Registration Regulations)

These and other guidance documents are available on the DfE website.