




PHMAT ATTENDANCE POLICY

Document Control Table

Title	PHMAT Attendance Policy
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Date Approved	17 th July 2023
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Signature of Approval	
Next Review Date	July 2024

Document History

Date	Author	Note of Revisions
5/7/2018	ED/NH	Page 3, added section on Birds Bush Primary, page 4, para 4 added 'Schools may also carry out a home visit if contact has not been made'.
June 2019	AKC	Page 3 – added rewards for good attendance for Stanley Road and Woodthorne Primary School
June 2020	AKC	Page 3 – will need to add Western Springs once they have joined the Trust in September 2020
June 2021	AKC	No Changes
May 2022	AKC	Updated individual sections for each school in line with current procedures. Sledmere Primary to be updated in September 2022
Sep 22	ED	Page 2 - Included latest guidance – Working Together to Improve School Attendance May 2022
July 23	AKC	Page 4 – Added Sledmere and Tillington
July 23	AKC	Page 5 – Notifying Absences updated throughout
July 23	AKC	Page 6 – Persistent Absenteeism and Lateness updated.

Academy Attendance Policy

Principles

We believe high levels of attendance and a punctual start to the school day are important to all children.

Our aim is to ensure that every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled and as a result succeed and thrive.

We endeavour for children to take responsibility for their own attendance, recognising the link between attendance and good learning.

Legal Requirements

Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the [school attendance guidance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- > Part 6 of [The Education Act 1996](#)
- > Part 3 of [The Education Act 2002](#)
- > Part 7 of [The Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- > [Working Together to Improve School Attendance Guidance May 22](#)
- > [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#) (and [2010](#), [2011](#), [2013](#), [2016](#) amendments)
- > [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

This policy also refers to the DfE's guidance on the [school census](#), which explains the persistent absence threshold.

The law requires all schools to record the attendance of each pupil at the start of both the morning and afternoon sessions. Schools should follow up on absences to:

- Ascertain the reason
- Ensure the proper safeguarding action is taken
- Identify whether the absence is authorized or unauthorized.

The Government expects:

- Parents/carers to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children attend school regularly and arrive to school on time.
- Schools to promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence.
- Schools to ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled.
- Schools to act early to address patterns of absence.

Promoting Good Attendance

The Trust acknowledges that good attendance should be recognised and rewarded.

Perry Hall Primary School

- Weekly Class Attendance – each week, classes with the best attendance in Reception, KS1 and KS2 are reported in the school newsletter and are allowed to choose an in-class reward such as an own-clothes day.
- Termly Individual Attendance – at the end of each school term pupils with 100% attendance are awarded with a small gift and a certificate.

Berrybrook Primary School

- Weekly Class Attendance – each week every class with over 96% attendance moves forward a step along our whole school attendance reward system 'Race around the world'. The first class to visit all 7 continents receive a whole class reward.
- Termly Individual Attendance – at the end of each school term pupils with 100% attendance are awarded a pencil, certificate, gift voucher and either bronze, silver or gold 100% attendance badge (depending on how many terms they have achieved this). In addition to this, each term all pupils with 100% attendance are entered into a prize draw to win a tablet. As well as recognising the achievement of 100% attendance we also award one pupil each term who has the most improved attendance.

Dunstall Hill Primary School

- Weekly Class Attendance – each week the class with the best attendance from Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are awarded a trophy during praise assembly and these classes are able to wear their own clothes that Friday.
- Termly Individual Attendance – at the end of each school term pupils with 100% attendance are awarded with a small gift and a certificate.
- Individual children are also awarded certificates and gifts for improved attendance or timekeeping.
- (In the future we would also like to send a letter to parents thanking them for their support when their children's attendance or timekeeping has improved).

Birds Bush Primary School

- Termly Individual Attendance – at the end of each school term pupils with 100% attendance are awarded with a small gift and a certificate.
- A letter or text is sent to parents thanking them for their support when their children's attendance or timekeeping has improved, especially when attendance has been a concern and parents are working closely with the school to improve this.

Woodthorne Primary School

- Merits given weekly during assemblies
- Weekly awards for classes with the best attendance and the least late arrivals

Stanley Road Primary School

- Weekly attendance certificate for the classes above 95% in an attendance assembly.
- Care of our cuddly Aardvaark "Arthur" for the week for the class on or nearest 100%.
- Termly certificates per child in a special end of term assembly - parents invited, for 98+% and 100%.
- Annual end of year certificates per child in a special end of term assembly - parents invited, for 98+% and 100%.

Forest Hills Primary School

- Weekly attendance certificate for highest attendance in celebration assembly.
- Attendance trophy for highest attendance in celebration assembly.
- Additional Golden Time for any class achieving 100% in a week.
- Termly certificates and a cake for children with 100%.
- Annual certificates and a cake for children with 100%.

Mesty Croft Primary School

- Weekly attendance reported in Celebration Assembly with award for best attending classes in EYFS/KS1 and KS2
- 100% attendance certificates awarded at the end of each academic year
- Attendance Award Disco held for all pupils with 99%+ at the end of the academic year

Sledmere Primary School

- **To be completed in September 2023**

Tillington Manor Primary School

- **To be completed in September 2023**

Notifying Absences

Every half-day absence from school must be classified by the school as either **authorised** or **unauthorised**. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required.

Parents/carers should notify the school before 9.15 am on the first school day of his/her child's absence from school. If the reason for absence is sickness and it continues - or is likely to continue - for more than 3 days, medical evidence should be obtained and submitted to the school e.g., prescription, medicine, doctor's note, appointment card.

If any child is absent and the school has not been notified, the school office will ring the child's parent/carer. If contact cannot be made the office will try and contact the parent by another means such as text or email. If the school is not able to make contact with the family by midday of the first day of absence, school will make a home visit.

If contact cannot be made for a child where there are concerns, the relevant safeguarding agencies should be contacted. For a child where there are no concerns, daily contact should be attempted by the school and if contact is not made within two days, the Educational Welfare Officer will be asked to make an education welfare visit. The Educational Welfare Officer may then begin legal proceedings by issuing a fixed penalty notice if deemed necessary.

Authorised Absences

Examples of authorised absences are:

- Illness;
- Religious observance by the religious body to which the child's family belongs;
- medical appointments;
- exclusions;
- extreme family emergencies/ occasions (bereavements, house fires etc).

Unauthorised Absences

Examples of unauthorised absences are:

- Parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily;
- Truancy;
- Unexplained absences;
- Children who arrive at school too late to get a mark (after 9.30 am);
- Day trips or holidays in term time not authorised by the school.

Leave of Absence / Holidays During Term Time

In April 2013 the government issued amendments to 'The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. These amendments came into force on 1 September 2013. The amendments make it clear that Head may **not grant** any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.'

Our schools will only authorise leave of absence in line with these regulations. All applications for leave of absence in term time will be considered by the school's Local Governing Bodies or a representative of the Local Governing Body. Exceptional circumstances will only be agreed very rarely.

Parents should apply using the form **Appendix 1** if they are considering a leave of absence in term time at least two weeks before the event. The school will consider the request and let parents know in writing whether it has been authorised. If you take your child out of school on a holiday the Local Authority will be notified who will issue a penalty notice to you.

A penalty notice of £60 will be imposed per child and per parent. If this is not paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice the cost rises to £120 which must be paid between 21 and 28 days of receipt of the notice. All penalty notices will be delivered by hand or first-class post.

Persistent Absenteeism

Each school will continuously monitor each child's attendance record.

The school office will review all absences and the reasons given for children whose attendance falls below 95% every weeks. In most cases, the school will send a letter to the parents/carers informing them of their child's attendance and the school's concerns (Appendix 2)

If a child's attendance level has not improved, or has fallen further, the parent/carer will be contacted to arrange a meeting with the Head. At this point, a parenting contact may be drawn up between the school and the parent/carer, which will also identify any additional support required.

In the event that the child's attendance levels still do not improve then the school will refer the matter to the local authority. Action which may then be taken can include court proceedings to prosecute parents/carers or to seek an education supervision order on the child. The maximum penalty on conviction is a fine of £2500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

Lateness

Poor punctuality is not acceptable. If a child misses the start of the day, they can miss work and do not spend time with their class teacher getting vital information and news for the day. Late arriving pupils also disrupt lessons, which can be embarrassing for the child and can encourage absence.

Children are expected to attend at the official start of the school day (as identified on the school website). Any child arriving after this time must report to the school office be registered. At 9:30 AM the register will be closed. If a child arrives after this time (for reasons not considered acceptable by the school), they will be recorded as having an unauthorised absence and this will affect attendance records.

Persistent Lateness

When a child is considered to be persistently late then the school will send a letter to the parents/carers informing them of their child's persistent lateness and the school's concerns (Appendix 3).

If a child continues to be persistently late the school will request a meeting with the parents/carers to discuss the matter and see if there are any ways in which the school can help. At this point a parenting contract may be drawn up.

Monitoring

The Trustees are responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy.

[Appendix 1: Application for leave of absence from school]



Exceptional Leave of Absence (Holiday in Term Time) Request Form

<u>Child's/Children's Details</u>
Full Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Class: _____

<u>Parent/Carers Details</u>	<u>Parent/Carers Details</u>
<i>Parent/Carer 1</i>	<i>Parent/Carer 2</i>
Full Name: _____	Full Name: _____
Relationship: _____	Relationship: _____
Address: _____ _____	Address: _____ _____
Date of Birth: _____	Date of Birth: _____

<u>Details of Absence Request</u>
From Date: _____ To Date: _____
Length of Absence (school days): _____
Please state the reason for taking your child/children out of school: _____ _____ _____

Parents/Carer 1 Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parents/Carer 2 Signature: _____ Date: _____ (signature required from parent/parents who live with child or who has day to day care of the child/children)

For office use only
Holiday Request received by _____ Date _____
Percentage attendance for child/children _____
Holiday Request GRANTED/NOT GRANTED _____

[Appendix 2: Sample letter re: below 95% attendance]

Date

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware we monitor attendance very closely at SCHOOL NAME in order to ensure it doesn't impact on your child's academic progress and social development. Unfortunately, your child's attendance has now dropped below 95% which is below the national expectation.

If your child's attendance continues to drop or does not improve then our next step will be to liaise with our Education and Family Engagement Officer, who may contact you.

We understand that there may be many reasons for a child to not attend school and it is important that you inform us of the reasons for any absence, if you haven't already done so. If there is anyway the school can support you with improving your child's attendance then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Head

[Appendix 3 Sample late letter]

Dear

Date:

Re: Child Name

We are concerned at the number of times your child has been late for school. NAME has been late X times this school year. We are aware that there may be various genuine reasons for lateness such as medical appointments, however your child's poor punctuality is below what is acceptable by Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust.

Where lateness persists, we are required by law to involve the Education Welfare Service.

Please do all you can to work with school in ensuring that your child maintains a high level of attendance. We also ask that you contact the school Education and Family Engagement Officer to discuss this matter, who may be able to offer support to improve the situation.

Yours sincerely

Head