



Attendance and Punctuality Policy 2024/25

*Becoming the person God made me to be:
living, learning, loving.*

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and
wonderfully made" Psalm 139:14*

TRUST



JUSTICE



FORGIVENESS



HOPE



DIGNITY



COMMUNITY



Introduction

Regular school attendance is essential if children are to enjoy their education and make good progress.

At Austrey and Newton Regis Schools, we believe that regular school attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who are able to realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.

Some pupils find it harder than others to attend school. This policy sets out how school staff will work with pupils, parents, and partners to promote, encourage and support regular attendance at school and remove any barriers to attendance.

Aims

- To set clear expectations and aspirations that all pupils have a high standard of school attendance and punctuality.
- To improve children's attainment through good attendance.
- To make attendance a priority for everyone.
- To ensure there is a clear process to identify and address emerging attendance concerns
- To work effectively with parents, pupils, and partners through building trusted relationships to work together to remove barriers to attendance.

To achieve these aims for our pupils, we are committed to the following:

- a welcoming, stimulating and safe learning environment;
- for all staff to feel happy to come to school to work with pupils, developing them to their full potential;
- listen to parents and pupils to understand barriers to attendance
- build trusted relationships with parents and pupils where attendance concerns can be discussed, understood.
- high expectations of our pupils and all staff;
- a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum;
- recognise and celebrate achievements in all areas of school life;
- equal access to all aspects of the curriculum and school life;
- high quality teaching using a variety of teaching strategies;
- a range of resources that are effectively used to support and challenge learning;
- provide experiences, which will develop our pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural understanding;
- support, guidance and training for all those who teach and work with our children;
- foster and maintain links with our wider community

Expected Levels of Attendance

Attending school regularly and on time has a positive impact on learning, progress and therefore the best life chances for pupils. Research shows that attendance and punctuality are important factors in school success.

<i>Attendance</i>	
Excellent	98% - 100% attendance
Good	96% - 97% attendance
Risk of under achievement	92% - 95% attendance
Severe risk of underachievement	92% - 90% attendance
Extreme risk of underachievement	89% attendance (classed as persistently absent by the DfE)

Attendance Partnership Expectations

We expect the following from all of our pupils:

- To attend school regularly.
- To arrive on time and appropriately prepared for the day, having eaten breakfast or attend breakfast club;
- To talk to a member of staff about any problem or reason that may prevent them from attending school.

We expect the following from parents and carers:

- To ensure their children attend school regularly and punctually;
- To ensure contact is made with school, as soon as is reasonably practical, whenever their child is unable to attend;
- To ensure that their children arrive in school well prepared for the school day, having eaten breakfast.
- To talk to a member of school staff about any problem or reason that may prevent them from attend of school.

Parents and pupils can expect the following from school:

- Early contact with parents when a pupil fails to attend school without providing good reason
- Regular, efficient and accurate recording of attendance
- To inform parents if a pupil's attendance falls below expected levels
- To listen and understand the barriers to school attendance and offer appropriate support and agree appropriate plans to improve attendance.
- Follow up support if needed.

Roles and Responsibilities for Attendance

- Mrs Sara Eley is the school Attendance Champion, a named senior member of staff with responsibility for attendance issues and can be contacted at office@newtonregis.bdmat.org.uk OR office@austrey.bdmat.org.uk
- The first point of contact for parents and pupils with any attendance concerns is Mrs Sharon Pick and Mrs Wendy Harvey and they can be contacted on the email addresses above
- Members of school staff, both teaching and non-teaching, have responsibility for attendance issues in school.

Role	Responsibilities
Schools Governors <u>Named Person:</u> Lesa Nield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure compliance with relevant legislation (e.g. pupil registration, attendance registers) • Reviewing school attendance • Agreeing and Reviewing School Policy
Headteacher/ Attendance Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with relevant legislation • Data analysis and Strategic Plan for attendance. • Implementing school policy and leading on whole school approach. • Authorising/unauthorising absences • Responding to leave of absence request • Ensuring there are clearly defined roles and responsibilities for attendance • Ensuring all staff have appropriate training • Overview of clear and escalating interventions • Evaluation of interventions. • Promoting school attendance. • Responsibility for links with the LA Statutory Team.
Designated Safeguarding Lead <u>Named staff:</u> Sara Eley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending DSL supervision meetings to discuss pupils with persistent absences • Signpost parents to relevant support • Instigate Early Help in line with Warwickshire Safeguarding procedures (Front Door)
Class Teachers /Form Tutors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking registers • Promoting importance of regular school's attendance • Providing early warning of attendance concerns • Positive role modelling • Following policy and procedures consistently. • Point of contact for parents to discuss concerns • Creating a welcoming environment
School Office <u>Named Staff:</u> Sharon Pick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining registers • First day calling/text messages • Identifying children whose absence needs further follow up action in line with the school absence procedure.

Wendy Harvey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late arrivals • Process for clearing registers • Administration of school attendance letters, leave of absence letters etc. • Producing attendance reports
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- Attendance matters are reviewed by the head and members of the senior management team.
- Attendance issues are reported on a minimum termly basis, to the Governing Body.
- School will liaise with the Local Authority Attendance Support Team at a minimum, termly
- School uses Central School Attendance to support the school with the processes associated with children's attendance at school

Procedures

Our school procedures follow the expectations set out by the Department for Education in the guidance Working Together to improve school attendance (September 2024).

Our procedures are based around the principles and stages of:

- Preventing poor attendance
- Early intervention and Early Help to address early patterns of poor attendance and agree ways to improve
- Targeted interventions (including Early Help and Formal interventions) for those children who are persistently absent or severely absent
- Understanding barriers to individuals' attendance and agree individual plans for children with specific needs.
- Formal Statutory Interventions where support has not been effective or engaged with.

Prevention
Prevention of poor attendance through good whole school attendance management

All - Universal

- All pupil's consistent application of policy and whole school approach.
- Setting high expectations for all through positive promotion of attendance

97-100%

- Excellent. Accessing all learning opportunities**
- Rewards and incentives

95-97%

- Pupils at risk of lower-than-expected attendance identified through robust weekly tracking**
- Letter sent to parents advising of attendance
 - Contact with parent and pupil from class teacher to explore if any in school barriers to attendance



Early intervention
to reduce absence before it becomes habitual

93-95%

- Lower than expected levels of attendance**
- Telephone contact or meeting with parent to understand barriers to attendance and agree support/actions
 - Pupil Voice

91-93%

- Meeting with the attendance lead and WAS caseworker to discuss concerns and agree an action plan to secure attendance (consider in school support)
- Early Help to be explore and signposting to agencies
- Pupil Voice



Targeted reengagement
of persistent and severely absent pupil

Below 90%

- Pupil is persistently absent**
- Meeting with attendance lead and WAS caseworker
 - Consider In School Support
 - Multi Agency Support and Early Help
 - Attendance contract
 - Where there is a lack of parental engagement in support or support isn't effective referral to the Local Authority for formal and/or Statutory Procedures

Persistent absence

Severe absence

Legislation and statutory interventions

Parents of registered pupils have a legal duty under the Education Act 1996 (sec 444) to ensure that children of compulsory school age attend school on a regular and full-time basis. Permitting unauthorised absence from school is an offence and parents may be reported to the Education Authority if problems cannot be resolved by agreement.

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full-time education that is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. Local authorities have a duty to establish, as far as it is possible to do so, the identity of children of compulsory school age who are missing education in their area.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their children receive education. Estranged parents with whom the child has had regular contact may be prosecuted as well as the day-to-day carer. Each situation must be dealt with on an individual basis, always remembering the welfare and safety of the child is the paramount concern. The term 'parent' also includes those who are not a natural parent but have parental responsibility for the child as defined by the Children Act 1989 or who have care of the child as defined by the Education Act 199

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).

- First Leave of Absence Offence: The amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
- Second Leave of Absence Offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice). A Penalty Notice will not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

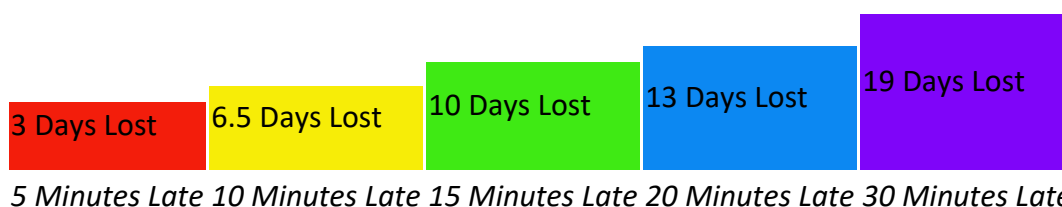
Promoting Attendance and Preventing Absence

- Each week classes who have got 96% or above will have an extra 5-minute playtime during that week
- Each week, the class who has the highest attendance will be awarded the attendance cup for the week
- Each week, the class who has the highest attendance will be awarded a certificate to display in their classroom
- Each term, pupils with 100% attendance for that term will receive a certificate
- In the summer term, pupils with 98 - 100% attendance will also receive a special certificate
- Attendance will feature regularly on the newsletter
- Attendance will be part of the annual report to parents
- Parents are able to view attendance records 'live' on Arbor

School Day and Punctuality

It is important that pupils are punctual so that they do not miss out on the beginning of each school day. Children must attend on time to be given a present mark for the session.

If a pupil arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school every-day over a school year adds up to lost learning time.



(Over one academic year)

To access the most from the school day we ask parents to ensure that their children are in school for 8.45am

Children arriving after 8.45am will be late for school and have to report to the school office.

Where a pupil arrives after the register closes, this will be classed as an unauthorised late absence (code U as per DFE compulsory attendance codes).

School registration will close at 9.15am

The registers are monitored daily and identify pupils who are arriving late. Regular late arrival for school will be challenged as not acceptable. Pupils with U codes may be referred to the Local Authority Statutory Team for consideration of Legal Action where the trigger is met.

Absence

If a child is absent from school parents should contact the school on the first day of absence by 9.30am to inform the school of the reason for absence. Parents are expected to maintain contact with the school throughout the absence.

At 9.30am school registers are checked for any absences where there has been no contact by parents and reason given.

School staff will send a Seesaw message and/or phone parents to ascertain a reason for the child absence from school.

If staff are concerned about a child's absence or there is no response to messages, they will follow the process in detailed in Appendix 1. This includes telephone calls to parents, telephone calls to other emergency contacts and home visits for a safe and well check.

Where school staff have concerns about a child, they should use their professional judgement and knowledge of the individual pupil to inform their decision as to whether welfare concerns should be escalated (DFE Attendance guidance 2024)

If the pupil has a social worker they will be notified of any absences with no reason provided

It is imperative that up-to-date contact numbers and details are provided to school.

Schools are required to hold more than one emergency contact per child (KCSIE 2024) Emergency contact numbers should be provided and updated by the parent with whom the pupil normally resides by updating Arbor or contacting the school offices.

Illness:

Not all illness requires an absence from school. For minor childhood ailments such as coughs, colds, earaches we would not expect children to be absent. However, when a parent makes the assessment that their child is unfit for school they should follow the above absence process.

If your child has symptoms of a respiratory infections and has a temperature or is too unwell to attend school, they should stay at home and avoid contact with others until they no longer have a temperature and are well enough to attend school.

Schools should follow up with families if they are not satisfied with the reason as to why the pupil is not in school. Schools can request supporting evidence from the family. Where the school is not satisfied with the reason given for absence, they may record this using one of the unauthorised absence codes.

If you are unsure if your child should attend school please contact the school office who will offer advice and guidance or signpost you to the relevant service.

It is a school's decision whether to accept a reason for a child's absence and whether to authorise that absence. In the majority of cases, a parent's explanation of their child's illness can be accepted without question or concern. In circumstances where there are concerns about a child's attendance or reason for absence, further evidence of a child's illness may be requested.

School will challenge parents' statements or seek additional evidence if they have any concerns regarding a child's attendance.

In fact, it is good practice to have clear systems in place to escalate any concerns about high levels of absence due to illness, including agreements about accessing additional services in order to provide appropriate support to pupils, particularly for long term illness.

Medical letters or evidence may be requested in the following circumstances

- Child is absent and there are frequent odd days absences due to reported illness
- Child is absent and the same reasons for absence are frequently repeated
- Child is absent and attendance is below expected levels and there is a concerning pattern of absence/reasons for absence.
- Where there is a medical problem and school may need evidence to seek additional support/provide support
- There are conflicting reasons for absence

Medical appointments

Parents should avoid making routine medical appointments and dental appointments during the school day. In the majority of cases, appointments can be made outside of the school day/during the school holidays.

Where appointments have to be taken during the school day, parents should request permission for their child to be absent in advance whenever possible. Only the time for the appointment and travel to and from will be classed as an authorised absence.

Pupils are expected to return to school for the remainder of the day/attend school prior to the appointment.

Parents are required to provide a copy of the appointment letter or card prior to the day of the appointment. Absences will only be authorised when this information has been received.

Reintegration of Long-Term Absentees

Absence can significantly interrupt the continuity of students learning, and positive strategies should be employed to minimise such effects.

Key Principles

- We should always keep in touch with a student/and his/her family during a long absence.
- We should always make sure he/she is welcomed back
- We should never make sarcastic comments about an absence – a thoughtless word can destroy hours of work by staff.

Head Teacher and SENDCo to consider a phased return where appropriate. Consideration needs to be given to any special needs the pupil may have and appropriate support identified. Consideration must be given to providing a mentor (staff member/student)

Class Teachers should ensure that the pupil feels welcomed back to school in an appropriate way and take any necessary steps to support their re-integration.

Other reasons for absences:

Other reasons for absence must be discussed with the school on each occasion. Notes will not necessarily be accepted as providing valid reasons. The school will follow DFE guidance and not authorise absences for shopping, birthdays or child minding.

Religious Observance

Austrey and Newton Regis Primary Schools acknowledges the multi-faith nature of British society and recognises that on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods or weekends and this necessitates a consideration of authorised absence or special leave for religious observance. It is reasonable for a parent to allow their children not to attend school on any day of religious observance if recognised by the parent's religious body. However, parents are requested to give advance notice to the school if they intend their child to be absent. Religious bodies maybe contacted to verify these occasions.

Mobile Children

The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and the *Working together to improve school attendance* guidance use the term 'mobile child' to describe a child of compulsory school age who has no fixed abode and whose parent is engaged in a trade or business that requires them to move from place to place. This is a new term but covers the same children as section 444(6) of the Education Act 1996.

No fixed abode' means that someone either does not have a settled place where they can live full-time, or they have a place where they can live full-time but they spend substantial periods of time not living there. So a mobile child could be a child whose family travels all year round as part of their trade or business and has no permanent address at all, but it also includes a child who does have a fixed place to live (like a house) but does not live there for a substantial part of the year, if their parent is engaged in a trade or business that requires them to travel from place to place. If the child is absent from school while travelling with that parent, then code T applies.

Requests for Leave of Absence (exceptional circumstances)

- The Government issued new regulations in August 2024 regarding Leave of Absence; The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2024
- All schools can grant a leave of absence for other exceptional circumstances at their discretion.
- It must be requested in advance by a parent who the pupil normally lives with. Schools are then expected to consider each application individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.
- If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the school to determine the length of the time the pupil can be away from school.
- Generally, the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.
- Leave may not be granted for a pupil to take part in protest activity during school hours.
- Applications for Leave of Absence must be made in advance and failure to do so will result in the absence being recorded as "unauthorised". This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.
- Applications for Leave of Absence which are made in advance and refused will result in the absence being recorded as "unauthorised". This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice, if the child is absent from school during that period.

- All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service of Warwickshire County Council.
- The Warwickshire Attendance Service have the authority to consider issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for Leave of Absence in line with the Warwickshire County Council's Non-School Attendance and Penalty Notices Code of Conduct. (A copy of which can be found at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/pupilnonattendance>).
- If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued and is not paid within the timeframe set out in that Notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.
- Each application for a Leave of Absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

The resident parent should complete a Leave of Absence Request form available from the school office or the school website. The head teacher may ask parents to provide supporting evidence when assessing a parent's case for exceptional circumstances.

Attendance, Safeguarding and Children Absent from Education

A child absent from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. School should follow the school's procedures for dealing with children that go absent from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future.

All schools are required to make the local authority aware of every registered pupil who fails to attend school regularly and any children who have been absent from school, where the absence has been treated as unauthorised for a continuous period of not less than 10 school days education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 regulation 13).

Schools are permitted to remove compulsory-school-aged children from roll on the limited grounds set out in regulation 9 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024.

Removing a child from the school roll is a very important decision. Children who fall out of the education system are likely to have poor outcomes and may be exposed to increased risk of harm. Schools must follow correct procedures to ensure that they do not breach their legal and safeguarding duties.

All schools (including academies and independent schools) must notify their local authority when they are about to remove a pupil's name from the school admission register under any of the fifteen grounds listed in the 2024 regulations

Schools must make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child jointly with the CME officer, before deleting the pupil's name from the register if the deletion is under regulation 9(1), sub-paragraphs (h) and (i).

Appendix 3 details the local Procedures that School follows

This attendance policy is part of a broader suite of safeguarding policies including the school's Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

Alternative Education Providers

On rare occasions, a small number of pupils may be accessing an alternative education provider or dual registered with another school, agreed by the school for all or part of their timetable. In this instance the pupil remains on roll at XX School. Attendance to approved alternative providers is monitored. When Pupil are Dual registered at another school or alternative provider their attendance will be recorded in the register as a D code (on days they are required to attend the other school/provision). The other school/provision will record the attendance of absence. For children who are Educated |Off site but not dual registered their attendance will be recorded in XXX school register as a B code if they are confirmed present or the appropriate absent code if absent. The responsibility of ensuring pupils are safeguarded and receiving appropriate education remains with Austrey and Newton Regis Schools.

Registers

An accurate and consistent registration system is crucial both to provide a solid foundation for analysis of absence and to support any statutory interventions.

The register is a legal document and must be kept accurately. Attendance registers will be kept in accordance with legal requirements, local authority guidelines and school regulations

On each occasion the register is taken the appropriate national attendance and absence code must be entered for every pupil (of both compulsory and non-compulsory school age) whose name is listed in the admission register at the time

Absence can only be authorised by a person designated to do so by the head teacher [see The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024

There are procedures in place to resolve unexplained absences within 5 working days.

School complies with and uses the DFE Compulsory National Attendance Codes to categorise absence (Appendix 2).

Use of Attendance Data

Schools must provide specific pupil information on request to the Secretary of State [The Education \(Information About Individual Pupils\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

We meet this requirement by sharing their school attendance data directly from our management information system (Arbor)

We are also required to make data returns to the Local Authority:

New Pupil and Deletion returns: notifying the local authority when a pupil's name is added to or deleted from the school admission register outside of standard transition times.

Attendance returns: providing the local authority with the names and addresses of all pupils of compulsory school age who fail to attend school regularly or have been absent for a continuous period of ten school days where their absence has been recorded with one or more of the codes statistically classified as unauthorised (G, N, O, and/or U).

Sickness returns: providing the local authority with the full name and address of all pupils of compulsory school age who have been recorded with code I (illness) and who the school has reasonable grounds to believe will miss 15 days consecutively or cumulatively because of sickness..

We collect, use and store attendance information about our pupils and may receive information about you from your previous school. The information we keep regarding attendance includes name, contact details, attendance records, late records and any relevant medical information.

Attendance is reviewed at a minimum half termly, where there is cause for concern, this information is shared with CSAWS during regular attendance meetings held at school. CSAWS then follow up attendance concerns with parents and carers on school's behalf.

We meet termly with the Local Authority for Attendance Targeting Support Meetings where attendance data is shared and discussed

Information regarding attendance concerns may also be shared with the Local Authority as part of statutory processes.

The Head teacher will analyse attendance data half termly for whole school and groups of pupils. This will be shared with governors and used to inform the strategic plan to improve school attendance.

Attendance Data will be shared with class teachers in preparation for Pupil progress reviews and parents' evenings and to target interventions. Attendance Data will be produced and used to promote attendance through the school newsletter, website and rewards and incentives.

Appendix 1

Class teacher mark registers by 9am and record pupils as present or absent.

Office staff take messages and reasons for absence and add to pupil register using relevant code and adding comment

Office staff add late marks/late arrivals to the attendance register (L code between 8.45 and 9.15am, U code after 9.15am)

By 10.30am a list of pupils of absent today and reason or reason not known produced by office for head teacher (DSL) to review.

Telephone calls made to all pupils on first day of absence where no reason provided.

Telephone call made to all pupils who are on 3rd day of consecutive absence where there has been no update.

Social Worker notified of any pupils absent/absent no reason provided

By 11.30 updated list of pupils where no reason is still known for absence produced by office for head teacher (DSL) to review.

Follow up action as assessed by DSL
Contact other emergency contacts
Safe and Well Checks (home visits)

Appendix 2 National Attendance and Absence Codes

Code	Meaning	Statistical Value
/	Present at school AM	Attending (Present)
\	Present at school PM	Attending (Present)
L	Late arrival before register is closed	Attending (Present)

K	Attending Education provision arranged the LA	Attending an approved educational activity (present)
V	Attending an Educational visit or trip	Attending an approved educational activity (present)
P	Participating in a Sporting Activity P code can only be used if the pupil is present at the activity	Attending an approved educational activity (present)
W	Attending Work Experience	Attending an approved educational activity (present)
B	Attending any other approved Educational Activity	Attending an approved educational activity (present)
D	Dual Registered at another school	Not a possible attendance (neither present or absent)

C1	Leave of absence – performance or regulated employment abroad	Authorised absence
M	Leave of absence for Medical or dental Appointment	Authorised absence
J1	Leave of absence for Interview	Authorised absence
S	Leave of absence for Studying for public examination	Authorised absence
X	Non – Compulsory School age pupil not required to attend school	Not a possible attendance
C2	Leave of absence – compulsory school age pupil subject to part time / reduced timetable	Authorised absence
C	Leave of absence for exceptional	Authorised absence
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	Authorised absence
R	Religious Observance	Authorised absence
I	Illness (not medical appointment)	Authorised absence
E	Suspended or Permanently excluded with no alternative provision made	Authorised absence
G	Leave of absence not granted by school	Unauthorised absence
N	Reason for absence not yet established	Unauthorised absence
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	Unauthorised absence
U	Arrived in school after registration closed	Unauthorised absence

Q	Unable to attend school because of lack of access arrangements (travel)	Not a possible attendance
Y1	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available	Not a possible attendance

Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread travel disruption (e.g. train strikes)	Not a possible attendance
Y3	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed (e.g. RAAC)	Not a possible attendance
Y4	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed (e.g. burst water mains)	Not a possible attendance
Y5	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention	Not a possible attendance
Y6	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law (e.g. Covid self-isolation, Strep-A)	Not a possible attendance
Y7	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause	Not a possible attendance

Appendix 3

Children Missing Education

Where a pupil has 10 consecutive school days of unexplained absence and all reasonable steps* have been taken by the school to establish their whereabouts without success, the school should make an immediate referral to Warwickshire County Council's Children Missing Education (CME) Service.

The Children Missing Education Service can be contacted on 01926 742036

*Reasonable steps include:

- Telephone calls to all known contacts
- Letters home (including recorded delivery)
- Contact with other schools where siblings may be registered
- Possible home visits where safe to do so
- Enquiries to friends, neighbours etc. through school contacts
- Enquiries with any other service known to be involved with the pupil/family
- All contacts and outcomes to be recorded on CPOMs

Upon receipt of a referral from the school, the CME Service will then continue to attempt to track the child, for at least a further 10 school days, using access to additional contacts/services, e.g. housing. If this also fails to establish the pupil's whereabouts, the school will be informed by email and may then, but not before, remove the pupil from roll and report to the LA. This will place the pupil on the list of Children Missing from Education.

Deletions from roll agreed with the CME Service will normally be backdated to the first day of absence.

If the CME Service is able to contact the pupil and her/his parents, arrangements will be made with the school and family for a return to education, including a re-integration programme where necessary. Where pupils continue to be absent the non school attendance procedures detailed in the school policy will be followed.

If the pupil has registered at another school, the school will delete the child's name from our roll and transfer the child's educational records to the new school in the normal way. Any child protection records will be transferred separately and securely for the attention of the DSL in the new school and a receipt secured.

Pupils leaving the school for known destinations outside the maintained sector in England and Wales will be updated to the School to School database. This includes private/independent schools, schools in other countries (including Scotland and Northern Ireland) and pupils moving into home education. The latter will be formally notified to the ESWs Home Education Officer by the school as soon as written

confirmation is received from the parent(s). If no confirmation is received the above Missing Children procedures will apply

Letter sent to parents in September 2024 from WAS

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME
UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (*Platt v Isle of Wright 2017*). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
 - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
 - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.