



Camp School Attendance Policy

Approved by Governing Body: January 2022

Next review: January 2025

Vision for Attendance

We believe that only if children attend school regularly and punctually will they be able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them. We aim to raise standards by promoting regular attendance and punctuality of all pupils.

Aims/Expectations

- To create a culture in which good attendance is accepted as the norm.
- To demonstrate that good attendance and punctuality is valued by the school.
- To maintain and develop effective communication regarding attendance between home and school.
- To provide prompt support to any pupils/families who experience attendance difficulties
- To keep whole school attendance above 95.5%

The rules governing the maintenance of registers, including removal from roll, are contained in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. Attendance registers are legal documents that may be required as evidence in court cases.

Leadership & Management

- Offer a clear vision for attendance, underpinned by high expectations and core values, which are communicated to and understood by all staff, pupils and families.
- Expect good attendance and punctuality from all members of the school community and make sure that all pupils understand its importance.
- Convey clear messages about how absence affects attainment, wellbeing and wider outcomes. Empower all staff to take responsibility for attendance.
- Recognise attendance as an important area of school improvement. Make sure it is resourced appropriately to create, build and maintain systems and performance.
 - Have a designated Attendance Champion in the senior leadership team with clearly assigned responsibilities which are identified within the attendance policy.
 - Make sure staff receive professional development and support to deploy attendance systems effectively.
- Governors should have an accurate view of school attendance and engage in escalation procedures where appropriate.

Role of the Head (Attendance Champion)

The Head (Attendance Champion) is responsible for:

- Implementation of the policy.
- All staff knowing and understanding their responsibilities for attendance.
- Agreeing whether an absence should be authorised. The power to authorise an absence rests with the Head teacher or delegated person within the school, and not with parents or the local authority – see Appendix A for circumstances under which an absence will be authorised;
- Working actively to maximise attendance rates, both in relation to individual pupils and the pupil body as a whole.
- Having clear policies in place to address persistent absence.
- Ensuring that all staff adopt a consistent approach in dealing with absence and lateness.
- Monitoring trends.
- Implementing a system for all parents to report a child's absence.
- Reporting to the Governing Body the attendance figures and progress to achieving the set targets.
- Reminding all parents of their commitment to this policy.
- Building respectful relationships with all staff, pupils, families and other stakeholders in order to secure their trust and engagement. Make sure there is a welcoming and positive culture across the school.
- Making sure all staff, pupils and families understand that absence from school is a potential safeguarding risk and understand their role in keeping children safe.
- Liaising with other agencies working with pupils and their families to support attendance, for example, where a young person has a social worker or is otherwise vulnerable.
- Modelling respectful relationships and appropriate communication for all staff and pupils. This will help relationships between pupils and staff to reflect a positive and respectful culture.
- Understanding the importance of school as a place of safety where pupils can enjoy trusted relationships with staff and pupils particularly for children with a social worker and those who have experienced adversity
- Communicating effectively with all families regarding pupils' attendance and well-being
- Delivering clear messages about expectations, routines and consequences to new pupils and families through prospectus and admission/transition events

- Using physical presence to reinforce routines and expectations on arrival and departure
- Consultations with the Local Authority Attendance Officer (LAAO).
- Arranging meetings with parents to ensure clear channels of communication are in place and offer support/interventions where necessary.
- Making sure escalation procedures to address absence are initiated proactively, understood by pupils and families, implemented consistently and their impact reviewed regularly.
- Regularly communicating expectations for attendance and punctuality and school performance through regular channels of communication with staff, pupils and parents
- Establishing and monitoring implementation of any rewards for attendance and punctuality and sanctions for absence and lateness
- Monitoring implementation of policy and practice
- Monitoring whole school data regularly to identify reasons for absence, patterns, attendance of particular groups and the impact of interventions
- Establishing implementing and monitoring robust arrangements to identify, report and support children missing education (CME)

See guidance on HCC Grid regarding Children Missing Education

<https://thegrid.org.uk/admissions-attendance-travel-to-school/attendance/children-missing-from-education>

- Developing good support for children with medical conditions (including the use of individual healthcare plans), mental health problems and special educational needs (SEND)
- Ensuring that parents fully understand the demands and responsibilities of elective home education

See guidance on HCC Grid when a parent is considering EHE

<https://thegrid.org.uk/admissions-attendance-travel-to-school/attendance/elective-home-education-flexi-schooling>

<p>Role of the Teaching Staff</p>	<p>Teachers are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting an example of punctuality and good attendance. • Implementing the policy; • Ensuring that the registers are taken at the start of the morning session and once during the afternoon session and are accurate and up to-date; • Monitoring class and individual attendance patterns; • Informing the school office of any concerns; • Emphasising with children the importance of punctuality and good attendance and its impact on attainment. • Reminding parents of their commitment to this policy. • Building respectful relationships with all staff, pupils, families and other stakeholders in order to secure their trust and engagement. Make sure there is a welcoming and positive culture across the school. • Liaising with other agencies working with pupils and their families to support attendance, for example, where a young person has a social worker or is otherwise vulnerable. • Modelling respectful relationships and appropriate communication for all staff and pupils. This will help relationships between pupils and staff to reflect a positive and respectful culture. • Following up on absence and lateness with pupils to identify barriers and reasons for absence • Contacting parents and carers regarding absence and punctuality • Considering the individual needs and vulnerabilities of pupils
<p>Role of Parents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are responsible in law for ensuring that their children of compulsory school age receive an efficient education suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs that they may have. Most parents fulfil this responsibility by registering their children at a school. • Parents whose children are registered at a school are responsible for ensuring that their children attend and stay at school. Parents are responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensuring that their children are punctual and know the importance of good attendance. ○ Instilling in their children an appreciation of the importance of attending school regularly. ○ Informing the school on the first day of absence, by 9:30am at the latest

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing the school with an explanation for the absence. ○ Informing the school of any changes to their contact details. ○ Taking an active interest in their children’s school career, praising and encouraging good work and behaviour and attending parent’s evenings and other relevant meetings. ○ Working in partnership with the school to resolve issues which may lead to non-attendance. ○ Avoiding arranging medical/dental appointments during school hours whenever possible. ○ Not booking holidays during term-time. ○ Actively supporting the work of the school ○ Calling on staff for help when they need it ○ Communicating as early as possible circumstances which may affect absence or require support
<p>Role of School Office Staff</p>	<p>The School Office is responsible for supporting implementation of the policy with the Head; understanding the key principles and the rules pupils need to follow and knowing the routines to follow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitoring and analysing attendance data regularly to allow early intervention to address issues. This includes raising concerns with other agencies like children’s social care and early help services which are working with families. ● Robust school systems which provide useful data at cohort, group and individual pupil level to give an accurate view of attendance, reasons for absence and patterns amongst groups such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ children who have a social worker including looked-after children ○ young carers ○ children who are eligible for free school meals ○ children who speak English as a second language ○ children who have special educational needs and disabilities ● Keeping the Head informed of attendance figures and trends by providing regular reports to enable them to track the attendance of all pupils and to implement procedures ● Compiling attendance data for the Head, the Governing Body and the Local Authority Attendance Officer (LAAO). ● Ensuring registers are distributed to the teaching staff and are kept up to date; ● Consultations with the LAAO with the Head.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out robust first day calling protocol (including priority for vulnerable children): Contacting parents if they have not reported their child's absence by 9:30am (by text initially, then call at 10am, then using second contact details by 10.30am). If no contact is made by 12pm to inform SLT to make a decision about visiting address and if necessary contacting police. Carry out home visits in line with policy. • Arranging meetings with parents to ensure clear channels of communication are in place and offer support/interventions where necessary. • Making sure escalation procedures to address absence are initiated proactively, understood by pupils and families, implemented consistently and their impact reviewed regularly. • Ensuring that the Local Authority is notified of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly via a 10 Day Absence Form. See guidance on HCC Grid for form <p>https://thegrid.org.uk/admissions-attendance-travel-to-school/attendance/attendance-guidance-and-statutory-responsibilities</p>
Intervention	<p>School will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver intervention in a targeted way, in response to data or intelligence. • Monitor and analyse attendance data regularly to ensure that intervention is delivered quickly to address absence (register inspections, code analysis, cohort and group monitoring, punctuality). • Use knowledge from teaching team, SENCO and Family Support Worker to help identify and overcome barriers to attendance. • Create action plans in partnership with families and other agencies that may be supporting families, for example. • Children's social care and early help services. Commission or deliver interventions to improve attendance. • Monitor the impact of any intervention, making adjustments if necessary and using findings to inform future strategy. • Where interventions fail to address attendance issues, identify the reasons why and, where appropriate, change or adjust the intervention. • Follow local authority codes of conduct, policies and procedures and make referrals for statutory intervention when interventions have not resulted in improved attendance and relevant triggers / thresholds are met.

<p>Encouraging Good Attendance</p>	<p>The School encourages good attendance by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering an environment in which pupils feel valued and welcomed. The school's ethos demonstrates that pupils feel that their presence in school is important, that they will be missed when they are absent/late and that follow up action will be taken. • Using clear and consistently applied systems and processes to improve, reward and incentivise attendance and address absences. Makes sure these systems are inclusive and appropriate for all pupils. • Publicising and celebrating good attendance in newsletters, parents' evenings, school reports and the termly report to the Governing Body.
<p>Dealing with Lateness</p>	<p>The office staff monitor lateness and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the Head of patterns of lateness. • Inform parents of the school's concerns and arrange a meeting so that the problem can be addressed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Reception to Year 6, the classroom doors are opened at 8:45am and pupils are then expected to enter the school building and make their way to their classroom by 8:55am. • Children who arrive after 9:00am must be signed in by school for purposes of emergency evacuation etc. • Pupils who arrive between 9:00am and 9:30am will be marked as 'late' but counted as present for that session (Code L). • Pupils who arrive after the register has closed at 9:30am and parent provides a satisfactory explanation will be marked as 'authorised absent' for that session. • Pupils who arrive after the register has closed and parent fails to provide a satisfactory explanation will be marked as 'unauthorised absent' for that session (Code U).

<p>Pupils at risk of Persistent Absence</p>	<p>Persistent absence occurs when a child's attendance falls below 90%. Absenteeism at this level will considerably damage a pupil's educational prospects and the school will work alongside parents/carers to tackle this issue by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming pupils back following an absence and provide catch-up support to build confidence and bridge gaps. • Establishing action plans to remove barriers, provide additional support and set targets. This could include for example support with uniform, transport, routines or emotional wellbeing • making regular contact with families to discuss progress • establishing robust escalation procedures which are initiated before absence becomes a problem, for example by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ sending letters to parents and carers ○ engaging with local authority attendance teams and holding meetings with parents ○ using fixed penalty notices ○ engaging with children's social care staff, including Virtual School Heads and social workers where appropriate ○ establishing a range of evidence-based interventions to address barriers to attendance ○ monitoring the implementation and quality of escalation procedures (and intervention) and evaluating the impact.
<p>Pupils who are persistently absent</p>	<p>School will support pupils/families and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide tailored praise and encouragement when pupils attend and arrive on time • prepare supporting resources to ensure pupils can access learning when they return • develop targeted intervention to address gaps and build pupils' confidence (including considering small group additional support) • Work with external partners to support pupils with persistent absence, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ local authority attendance services ○ school nursing and mental health professionals ○ children's social care staff where appropriate ○ establish good relationships with a network of voluntary organisations and charities to support vulnerable pupils including those with persistent absence, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ mental health charities ○ mentoring organisations ○ young carers association

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop and implement persistent absence action plans with pupils and families which address barriers and help establish positive attendance routines • lead daily or weekly check-ins to review progress and impact of support • make regular contact with families to discuss progress • hold regular meetings or reviews of caseload with the local authority attendance team, external partners and alternative providers to check on welfare and review progress • work in partnership with local authority attendance team and other agencies to ensure the appropriate use of statutory parental responsibility measures
<p>Absence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holidays during term time – <i>changes to legislation which came into force in September 2013 made clear that Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g. a family bereavement). If there are exceptional circumstances behind your request you should discuss these with the Head teacher.</i> <p>See letter from Jo Fisher, Director of Children’s Services on HCC Grid when considering a term-time holiday –</p> <p>https://thegrid.org.uk/admissions-attendance-travel-to-school/attendance/holidays-in-term-time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious Observance – a maximum of 2 days absence is allowed for <i>recognised</i> religious observance. • Medical, Dental or Hospital Appointments – <i>please ensure</i> these appointments take place out of school time in order not to disrupt your child’s education.

Fixed Penalty Notices	<p>Statement on how school follows Hertfordshire County Council's Penalty Notice for Truancy Code of Conduct and procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We expect parents/carers to work with us to address attendance problems. • If a pupil has at least 15 sessions (half day= 1 session) unauthorised absence in the current and/or previous term (including unauthorised holidays), the Head Teacher may ask the Local Authority to issue a Penalty Notice. • The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 28 days. • If the penalty is not paid the Local Authority may prosecute parents/carers for their child's irregular attendance. <p>Follow guidance on HCC Grid when considering a Fixed Penalty Notice</p> <p>https://thegrid.org.uk/admissions-attendance-travel-to-school/attendance/penalty-notices-for-unauthorised-absenceholiday</p>
Part-time Timetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the framework for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after, and care leavers (Ofsted June 2015), local authorities are required to provide detailed data on school age children in their area who are not in receipt of full-time education; and schools are similarly expected to maintain data on students of compulsory school age who are on their roll but attending on a part-time timetable. • The Local authority has published guidance for all maintained school, academies, free schools, studio schools, UTCs, ESCs and PSBs on the use of part-time timetables for pupils of compulsory school age (the term after their fifth birthday to the last Friday in June following their 16th birthday) • All schools are required to return information on children who are on part-time tables within five days of the pupil starting or ending a part-time timetable. <p>Follow guidance on HCC Grid when considering a part-time timetable - https://thegrid.org.uk/admissions-attendance-travel-to-school/attendance/attendance-part-time-students</p>
Monitoring	<p>We believe this policy will be effective only if it is consistently monitored across the whole school.</p>

Head Teacher:		Date:	
Chair of Governing Body:		Date:	

Appendix A

Absences will be authorised if:

- The pupil is absent with leave as agreed by the Head teacher.
- The pupil is ill and has not been asked to provide proof of absence.
- The pupil is isolating in accordance with Government guidance and the school risk assessment in effect at the time.
- The absence occurs on a day exclusively set aside for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parent belongs.
- The pupil is the child of Traveller parents who are known to be travelling for occupational purposes and have agreed this with the school but it is not known whether the pupil is attending alternative provision.
- There is a close family bereavement.
- Leave of absence has been applied for in advance and has been granted because of exceptional circumstances relating to the application (parents cannot expect, as of right, that the school will grant leave of absence).
- Leave of absence to allow a pupil to take part in a performance within the meaning of s37 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963 © for which a child performance licence has been issued. HCC will not issue a child performance licence where absence is required without the written permission of the Head teacher.

Only the school can authorise an absence. The fact that a parent has provided a note or other explanation (telephone call or personal contact) in relation to a particular absence does not, of itself, oblige the school to accept it, if the school does not accept the explanation offered as a valid reason for absence. If, after further investigation doubt remains about the explanation offered – or when no explanation is forthcoming at all – the absence will be treated as unauthorised and the parent informed.

Statutory guidance

- [School behaviour and attendance: parental responsibility measures](#)
- [Children missing education](#)
- [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#)
- [Keeping children safe in education](#)
- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)
- [School exclusion](#)

Guidance and resources

- [School attendance: guidance for schools](#)
- [Checklist for school leaders to support full opening: behaviour and attendance](#)
- [Mental health and wellbeing resources](#)
- [Mental health and behaviour guidance](#)
- [Approaches to preventing and tackling bullying](#)
- [Respectful School Communities Tool](#)
- [Skills for care: toolkit for social workers to support conversations about returning to education settings in September](#)
- [Education Endowment Foundation: research on texting parents](#)
- [Education Endowment Foundation: research on parental engagement](#)
- [National statistics: Pupil absence in schools in England](#)