



'We can and we will'

GLEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE POLICY

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To be Reviewed : June 2026

Chair of
Governors

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Mission Statement

At Glebe School, we believe in an ethos that values the whole child. We strive to enable all children to achieve their full potential academically, socially and emotionally.

Introduction

Attendance at school is clearly an important pre-requisite for a successful and fulfilling school career. Prolonged absence, irregular attendance and lack of punctuality can all serve to undermine educational achievement and result in considerable long-term disadvantage to children and young people. Pupils who do not attend regularly may be placed at considerable risk and, in some cases, may be drawn into patterns of antisocial or criminal behaviour.

It is recognised, that pupils may have difficulties attending regularly for a variety of complex and often inter-related reasons. These may include:

- The pupils' educational, social and emotional development;
- The pupils' medical history;
- Social, economic and cultural considerations within the family and community;
- Factors operating within the school;
- Availability of appropriate support from statutory and voluntary agencies within the community.

It follows that the Local Authority, schools, parents/carers, pupil and the community at large need to work collaboratively in order to maximise attendance. A positive approach is needed which promotes access to education within an ethos which values learners, promotes equal opportunities and encourages the involvement of pupils and their parents/carers.

For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. Any loss of time at school can adversely affect a child's attainment and all pupils benefit from regular school attendance.

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Attendance	Missing out on	Which means.....	Over 13yrs of schooling is.....
90%	1 day per fortnight	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years missed
80%	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years missed
60%	2 days per week	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years missed
40%	3 days per week	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years missed

Aims

Our school aims to meet its obligations, with regards to school attendance, by:

- Listening, supporting but challenging families in regards to the children's attendance;
- Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence;
- Ensuring every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled;
- Acting early to address patterns of absence.

We will also support parents to perform their legal duty to ensure their children of compulsory school age attend regularly, and will promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

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:

- [The Education Act 1996](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/part/VI/chapter/II) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/part/VI/chapter/II>
- [The Education Act 2002](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/part/3/chapter/3) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/part/3/chapter/3>
- [The Education and Inspections Act 2006](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/part/7/chapter/2/crossheading/school-attendance)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/part/7/chapter/2/crossheading/school-attendance>
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1751/contents/made)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1751/contents/made>
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2016](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/792/made/data.html)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/792/made/data.html>
- [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/757/made)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/757/made>
- [Working Together to Improve School attendance \(becomes statutory in August 2024\)](#)

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

Glebe School works with the PKW (Participation Key Worker) and the Local Authority (LA) to support in enforcing the legal framework as defined in The Education Act 1996 - sections

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434(1)(3)(4)&(6) and 458(4)&(5) and The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. These responsibilities are:

- Parents to secure education for their children, whether at school or otherwise, to send them to school regularly once they are on roll at a school;
- The LA to provide education and to enforce attendance;
- Schools to register attendance and notify the LA of irregular attendance, unauthorised absence or any pupil who has unauthorised attendance of 10 days or more.

Parental Support

The role of the parent/carer in supporting the school's efforts in securing high levels of attendance is critical. At Glebe School we maintain close, effective and positive links with our parents and ensure that they are contacted at an early stage to deal with unexplained absences of their child. Parents/carers are expected to contact Glebe on the first day of absence to inform the school the reason for the non-attendance of their child. Parents should either phone the school office or use the dedicated absence email to report their child's absence: absence@glebeprimary.org

Pupils

We expect pupils of all ages to contribute to securing good attendance. We ask pupils to:

- Listen to their parents/carers and the school;
- Communicate with parents/carers and the school about any worries or anxieties;
- Go to bed at an appropriate time, come to school punctually and be ready to learn.

Attendance Registers

By law, all schools (except those where all pupils are boarders) are required to keep an attendance register, and all pupils must be placed on this register. From August 2024, these must be kept electronically.

The attendance register will be taken at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session. It will mark whether every pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

Any amendment to the attendance register will include:

- The original entry
- The amended entry
- The reason for the amendment
- The date on which the amendment was made
- The name and position of the person who made the amendment

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Registers should be filled in on the class computer using the class log in details at 9am in the morning and 1:15pm for EYFS and KS1 or 1:30pm for KS2.

Schools must preserve every entry in the attendance or admission register for 6 years (previously it was 3 years) from the date the data was entered. From August 2024, all schools must share their attendance data with DfE.

See appendix 1 for the DfE attendance codes, which are statutory from August 2024,

Every entry in the attendance register will be preserved for 3 years after the date on which the entry was made.

Termly and annual totals have to be reported to the DfE, the LA and in the Governors' Annual Report to Parents. Our school website also gives information about the percentages of authorised and unauthorised absences in each year.

Punctuality

Regular lateness can have a detrimental effect on:

- The child's learning;
- The learning of others;
- The child's sense of belonging ;
- The child's behaviour.

Doors open at **8:40am** and children are expected to be in class by **8:55am** each morning. If a child has not been registered by 9am, they are deemed to be late and this will be recorded in the register. If arriving after 9am, children will also need to be signed the late book at the school office.

The close of the register is 9.00am and after this time, it is recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Lateness tends not to be a particular problem in the afternoon. However, children who arrive at school after **1:00pm in KS1 and 1:30pm in KS2** are deemed to be late and the register is closed (meaning pupils arriving after this time are deemed to be absent without authorisation) at 1.40pm.

Punctuality is monitored by the school and the parents of children who are persistently late will:

- Receive a series of letters from the Headteacher confirming the school's concerns.
- Be asked to attend a formal meeting with the Headteacher as necessary.


If no improvement is made, the matter will be reported to the PKW.


When should a Child be kept at Home?

Although illnesses are counted as authorised absences, there are occasions when it can be difficult to decide whether the child can still attend school or whether they should be kept at home.

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This poster for the NHS is very helpful when deciding whether the child can attend school or not.

Do I need to keep my child off school? 



Illness	Return to School Rule
Chicken Pox	Until all spots have crusted over
Conjunctivitis	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed
Diarrhoea & Vomiting	48 hours from last episode
Glandular Fever	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed
Hand, foot & mouth	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles	4 days from onset of rash
Mumps	5 days from onset of swelling
Scabies	Until after first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after commencing antibiotics
Slapped Cheek	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed
Whooping Cough	48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu	Until recovered
Head Lice	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed
Threadworms	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed
Tonsillitis	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Absence Procedures

On the first day of absence, we expect parents to make contact. As a school, we have a responsibility to safeguard our pupils, therefore a phone call will be made by the School's Welfare Assistant (Miss Varney), if there has been no communication from parents/carers, that morning.

1. Class registers are completed on SIMS (School Information Management System) by teachers and saved by 9am **and** absent pupils are marked;
2. Pupils arriving late must enter through the front door and sign in at the school office. The pupil's attendance is updated on SIMS by the office staff and given code 'U' (arriving after 9am and the registers are closed).
3. Voicemail and emails are checked for communication from parents regarding absence.
4. Office staff check with teachers that those marked as absent have not since arrived.
5. Office staff check if any siblings of the absent pupil are present.
6. **After 9:30am**, the welfare assistant will attempt to telephone those on the pupil's contact list, starting with the home phone and working down the list. If there is no answer, a message will be left if an answer phone/voice mail facility is available.
7. If no response has been received, from the parents/ carers, the welfare assistant will check with present siblings (if applicable) if reason of absence is known.
11. Office staff will then inform the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of absence.
12. SLT will carry out a risk assessment (see appendix 2)
13. If no contact is made, after all steps are completed and staff have suitable reason for concern, the appropriate outside agencies will be contacted (e.g. Services working with the family, such as a Key Worker; MASH team or police).

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If the child is potentially vulnerable and we have not been able to contact a parent, 2 members of staff will undertake a home visit to ensure that the child is safe. This will also take place, if a child has been off for a couple of days with no explanation given.

If pupils are persistently absent with no satisfactory explanation then this matter will be passed to the Local Authority through the PKW.

Parents must notify the school on the first day of an unplanned absence – for example, if their child is unable to attend due to ill health – **by 9:30am** or as soon as practically possible.

Absence due to illness will be authorised unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.

If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, the school may ask parents to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily.

If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and parents will be notified of this in advance.

Medical or Dental Appointments

Missing registration for a medical or dental appointment is counted as an authorised absence; advance notice is required for authorising these absences. However, we encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

The school office must be notified in advance of the appointment. This can be done by telephone, email or in person.

Applications for other types of absence in term time must also be made in advance. See below for more information.

Recording Reasons for Absence in the Registers:

All reasons for absence must be recorded in the register. All letters from parents should be initialled by class teachers, put in the paper folder and then sent to the school office. Administrative staff can then ensure that other relevant staff see the letters and they can then be filed.

Authorised and Unauthorised Absence

Amendments to the 2006 regulations (which came in to force on the 1st September 2013) now removes references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Headteachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

Therefore, holidays will not be permitted during term time and, should parents take their children out of school for a holiday, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Such

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absences will be reported to the school's PKW who may, in consultation with the school, decide to issue a fixed penalty notice.

The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007 (updated in September 2013) levy penalty payments of £60 per parent per child which should be paid within 21 days. This sum doubles to £120 per parent per child if paid within 28 days. Failure to pay this sum may lead to a summons from a magistrate's court. Also, If unauthorised leave is repeated, the Local Authority Participation Team may summons each parent to the Magistrates Court without a penalty notice being issued.

However, we recognise there may be exceptional circumstances which can be considered by the Headteacher for leave during term time. For example a family illness or bereavement necessitating time away.

Statutory regulations demand that parents must make this request in writing to the Headteacher. The letter must contain the reason for the request and the dates, including the return date.

Each request will be considered individually and various factors will be taken into account such as:

- The child's attendance history;
- Efforts that have been made to minimise the number of school days taken;

Valid reasons for **authorised absence** include:

- Illness and medical/dental appointments;
- Taking part in a regulated performance;
- Attending an interview for another educational establishment;
- A temporary, time limited part-time timetable;
- Exceptional circumstances
- Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parents belong. If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parents' religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart;
- Traveller pupils travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers, Showmen (fairground people) and Circus people, Bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and New Travellers. Absence may be authorised only when a Traveller family is known to be travelling for occupational purposes and has agreed this with the school but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision.

Short periods of absence may be permitted for compassionate reasons. As the school has a large number of service family children we may consider authorising a short period of absence particularly for children of service personnel who have been or about to be deployed overseas. The criteria for authorising any such requests will be as noted above. Leave requests for performance licenses will be considered by the Head Teacher on an individual basis when the child's attendance for the year is above 95% and they are making expected levels of progress.

If the children do not return by the agreed date (contained in the letter of request and the Head teacher's authorisation) then, following a further 10 days period, **the child can be removed from the school role and referred to the school's education welfare service.**

If there are extenuating circumstances which prevent return on the planned date it is essential that parents/carers make every effort to contact school and explain the reason for the continued absence.

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Please note that exceptional leave will NOT be granted:

- To those with poor attendance;
- During school examination and assessment periods;
- When the cost of leave is cited as a reason.

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been given. This type of absence can lead to the Local Authority (Participation Service) using sanctions and/or legal proceedings. This may include:

- parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily e.g. because they had a late night or for non-infectious illness or injury that would not affect their ability to learn;
- absences which have never been properly explained;
- children who arrive at school after the close of registration are marked using a 'U'. This indicates that they are in school for safeguarding purposes however is recorded as an absence for the session;
- shopping trips;
- looking after other children or children accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments;
- their own or family birthdays;
- holidays taken during term time without leave, not deemed 'for exceptional purposes' by the headteacher- may result in school applying to the local authority to issue a penalty notice or if you have previously been issued a Penalty Notice, the school may request a direct prosecution by the local authority;
- day trips;
- other leave of absence in term time which has not been agreed.

Education offsite

As well as the above leaves of absence, all schools can also allow pupils to be absent from the school site for certain educational activities or to attend other schools or settings:

- To attend an offsite approved educational activity. (For full details see Code B)
- To attend another school at which the pupil is registered (dual-registration). (For full details see Code D)
- To attend provision arranged by the local authority. e.g. alternative provision or as part of an education, health and care plan. (For full details see Code K)
- To participate in an approved sporting activity. (For full details see Code P)
- To attend an educational visit or trip arranged by the school. (For full details see Code V)
- To attend work experience. (For full details see Code W)

As these circumstances are part of delivering a full time education they are not classified as absences for statistical purposes.

Targeted Support Meetings

The attendance team will attend a termly targeted supported meeting with participation, to discuss strategies and targets for persistently or severely absent pupils. At this meeting, it will be agreed what support the LA will provide (if any). The school's attendance can also be discussed and again if there are any trends Participation may be able to suggest different techniques and strategies. For severely absent pupils, it may also be necessary to consider if any of the pupils on the list should actually be considered as Children Missing Education (CME) and therefore joint reasonable enquires started to identify their whereabouts in line with CME procedures.

School Refusal

When a pupil first presents with school refusal, the school will work with the child and parents to put the following strategies into place:

- Taking early action on non-attendance (e.g. meeting and sharing information with parents);
- Providing extra support from staff, e.g. Pastoral Support Worker;
- Looking into factors that could contribute to absence (e.g. bullying, SEND issues) and making reasonable adjustments where needed (such as extra support in class; intervention programmes, social skills groups and allocating a buddy to provide peer support).

If, after trialling these strategies, the child's attendance continues to be a problem, then the school will make a referral to the Key Participation Worker, who will provide further support for the family. Ultimately it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their child attends school and the school is obliged to follow persistence absence procedures, as outlined earlier in this document.

Home School Links

Monitoring and encouraging attendance is an integral part of the class teacher's role along with the Headteacher, the Deputies and office staff. When concerns about attendance are identified (through regular monitoring by the school) parents will be contacted initially by letter and then, if attendance has still not improved, parents will be asked to meet the Headteacher or Deputy to discuss the concerns and strategies to resolve the problems. If it is felt to be useful the PKW may be invited to this meeting. Similarly, parents/carers are encouraged to contact the school to resolve difficulties with attendance and punctuality.

Strategies to be Used When Tackling the Early Signs of Absenteeism

Glebe School aims to adopt early intervention strategies when dealing with poor attendance or punctuality. The primary strategy is to develop a regular dialogue with parents/carers and pupils to ensure the school is fully aware of the issues that may be contributing to poor attendance and punctuality. The school, with the help of the PKW, will aim to put strategies in place to address these issues.

Persistent Absence

When children's attendance falls below 90%, they are regarded as having persistent absence. As a school, we aim to keep this level as low as possible and certainly not above 2% of our pupil population. The school monitors the children who are at risk of having persistent absence in liaison with the PKW. The parents of children - whose attendance falls below or close to 90% - are written to by the Attendance Officer and they are invited to attend a meeting with the class teacher. If the attendance rate fails to rise over the next 4 to 6 weeks, then the PKW will contact the parents to offer advice.

Children who are already below 90% attendance will also be contacted (normally by the school at first but in some cases directly by the PKW). Again, their attendance will be closely monitored to ensure it is improving over each 4 week period. All pupils will have a first day absence call from school to ascertain why they are not in school. In consultation with the PKW parents may also be asked to provide medical evidence for each absence. When pupil

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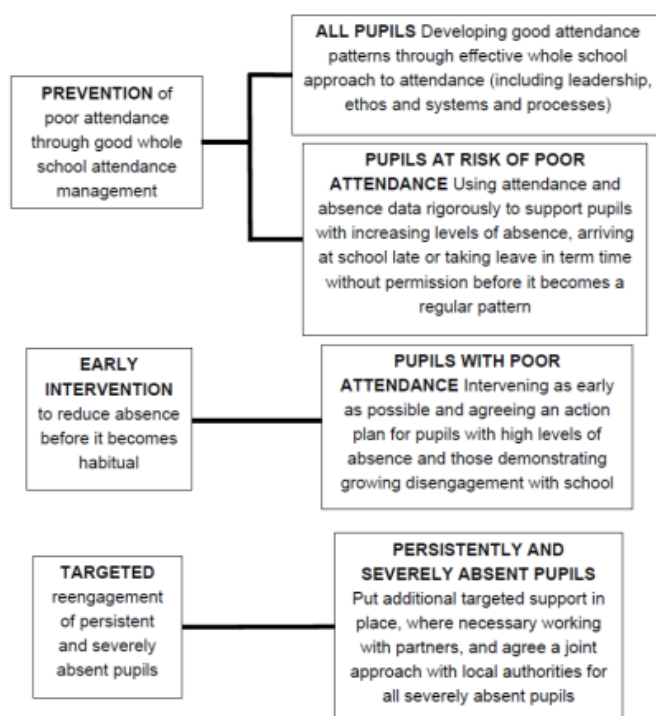
attendance does not improve sufficiently (in consultation with the PKW) then an attendance panel will be arranged.

Attendance and punctuality forms part of the school's ongoing pupil progress tracking. Teachers will report attendance concerns to senior leaders particularly when it is having an impact on achievement. Senior leaders will take this matter up with the parents involved including pupils who are in receipt of the pupil premium.

Specific Procedures Used by the School to Tackle and Identify Patterns of Poor Attendance:

We follow Hillingdon's model to target poor attendance:

Effective School Attendance Improvement and Management



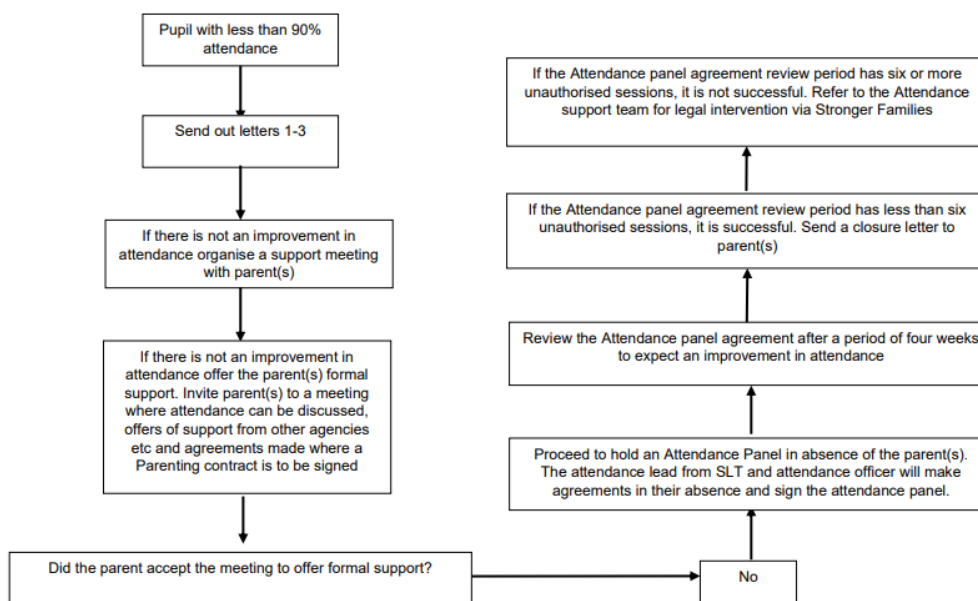
More specifically by:

- Monitoring authorised absences – excessive numbers of authorised absences such as illness may need following up with the Welfare Assistant;
- Monitoring patterns of lateness – are parents/guardians aware that the child is regularly late?
- Identifying patterns of absence – are children absent on particular days e.g P.E. or swimming days.

Attendance Formal Interventions

If after letters 1-3 have been sent out to the parents and meetings held with senior leaders and attendance does not dramatically improve the school can take the following actions:

Formal interventions that are to be held by the school – Attendance panel flowchart



Parenting Contracts

This is a formal written agreement between a parent (or someone with parental responsibility) and the school. This is a supportive tool and an alternative to prosecution and is not legally binding.

The parenting contract should contain the following:

Details of the requirements the parent(s) is expected to comply with.

A statement from the school and/or local authority agreeing to provide support to the parent(s) to meet the requirements and setting out details of the support.

A statement by the parent that they agree to comply with the requirements for the period of time specified by the contract.

Please see appendix 3 for an example of the contract used.

If a parent does not comply with the parenting contract, the lead practitioner should contact the parent and seek an explanation. They should decide whether it is reasonable, and the contract remains useful. If the contract is proving difficult to comply with through no fault of the parent, then a meeting should be arranged with the parent to review and amend it. Where no explanation is given, or the lead practitioner is not satisfied with the explanation, they should serve the parent with a warning to explain that the contract is not working and may be terminated, and another course of action pursued, if the parent does not engage.

This may be in the form of a letter, and record of it should be kept.

The school will contact the parent to arrange a meeting twice: the first offer will be an invite and the second offer is to provide an opportunity to rearrange. If the parent does not attend the meetings an attendance panel will then be held in their absence.

The Parenting Contract should be reviewed at a **minimum of four weeks** to expect an improvement in attendance.

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If the Parenting contract review period has **less than six unauthorised sessions**, it is successful and a closure letter can be sent to parent(s) and kept on record.

If the Parenting contract review period has six or more unauthorised sessions, it is not successful. A referral should be made to the Attendance support team for legal intervention via Stronger Families. This will also apply to if an Attendance Panel Agreement was held in the parent's absence.

Attendance Panel Agreement

This is where a parent(s) has failed twice to attend an organised meeting to discuss attendance and a parenting contract was to be offered. The attendance Panel agreement is held in the parents' absence.

Please see Appendix 4 for a typical agreement.

Education Supervision Orders (ESO)

An ESO is a legally binding order applied and made through the Family or High Court. It can be a useful alternative to provide formal legal intervention without criminal prosecution. An ESO gives the local authority a formal role in advising, helping and directing the pupil and parent(s) to ensure the pupil receives an efficient, full-time, suitable education .

The order initially lasts for one year but extensions can be secured. For the duration of the ESO, the parent's duties to secure the child's education and regular attendance and there is a duty to comply with any directions given by the local authority under the ESO.

An officer of the local authority will be chosen to act as the supervisor of the order on the authority's behalf. This does not need to be an attendance officer, rather it should be whichever lead practitioner is working with the family (including their social worker where appropriate). Schools should work in partnership with the local authority and whilst the designated supervisor (the officer of the local authority) retains overall responsibility, schools can and should provide support and supervision where appropriate. The supervisor must determine any directions (requirements the parent must adhere to) to give whilst the order is in force

There is not a prescribed list, for the contents of an ESO, but it might include:

- Requiring the parent(s) to attend support meetings
- Requiring the parent(s) to attend a parenting programme or counselling
- Requiring the parent(s) to access support services
- Requiring an assessment by an educational psychologist

Review meetings involving all parties (including the school) should be held every 3 months throughout the period the ESO is in force.

Where parents persistently fail to comply with the directions given under the ESO, they may be guilty of an offence. Local authorities can prosecute in the Magistrates Court for persistent non-compliance with the Order. Parents upon conviction will be liable to a fine of up to £1,000. The lead officer should also raise persistent failure to comply with children's social care services, work together to investigate the circumstances of the pupil and decide whether it is appropriate for any further action to be taken. This can include statutory social care involvement to secure the child's welfare.

Range of legal interventions used by the Attendance support team

- Education Supervision Orders (ESO)
- Parenting Orders
- Fixed penalty notices
- Building attendance into child in need or child protection plans where relevant
- Taking forward attendance prosecutions including for persistently breaching as a last resort where all other routes have been exhausted or deemed inappropriate.

Legal Sanctions

Penalty notices are issued to parents as an alternative to prosecution where they have failed to ensure that their child of compulsory school age regularly attends the school where they are registered or, in certain cases, at a place where alternative provision is provided. Penalty notices can be used by all schools (with the exception of independent schools) where the pupil's absence **has been recorded with one or more of the unauthorised** codes and that absence(s) constitutes an offence. A penalty notice can be issued **to each parent** liable for the offence or offences. They should usually only be issued to the parent or parents who have allowed the absence (regardless of which parent has applied for a leave of absence)

The threshold is 10 sessions of unauthorised 56 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 (e.g. 4 sessions of holiday taken in term time plus 6 sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks). The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).

Schools can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age.

The new national framework for issuing penalty notices will replace local codes of conduct, to ensure consistency across the country.

Fines will increase (from August 2024) to:

- **£80 to be paid within 21 days, or**
- **£160 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days**

A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of **£160 if paid within 28 days**.

A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. **In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.**

Once 3 years has elapsed since the first penalty notice was issued, a further penalty notice can be issued but in most cases it would not be the most effective tool for changing what may have now become an entrenched pattern of behaviour.

The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice ultimately rests with the Headteacher, following the local authority's code of conduct for issuing penalty notices. This may take into account:

- A number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year;

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- One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission;
- Where an excluded pupil is found in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason.

If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute the parent or withdraw the notice. If unauthorised leave is repeated, the Local Authority Participation Team may summons each parent to the Magistrates Court without a penalty notice being issued. In some cases, it may necessary for a Summons to Magistrates Court to be issued without a prior Penalty Notice being issued

Children Missing Education

In Children Missing Education - Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (2016), children missing education are defined as those who are not on a school roll or receiving suitable education otherwise than at school. Those who are regularly absent or have missed 10 school days or more without permission may be at risk of becoming 'children missing education'.

There will not always be a safeguarding concern for children and young people who are missing education. Most children and young people are moving schools supported by their parents/carers, schools and local authority admissions services. A smaller number, however, are at risk of dropping out or disengaging from education and being out of school, they are at risk of exploitation (criminal or sexual) going missing and significant harm. This could be an indication of neglect.

As a result of daily registration, schools are particularly well placed to notice when a child has gone missing. If a member of school becomes aware that a child may have run away or gone missing, they should try to establish with the parents/carers, what has happened. If this is not possible, or the child is missing, the designated safeguarding teacher/advisor should, together with the class teacher, assess the child's vulnerability.

In the circumstances of a child going missing who is not known to any other agencies, the Headteacher should inform the Children Missing Education (CME) Officer of any child who has not attended for 10 consecutive school days without provision of reasonable explanation. Prior to doing so, the school should have made enquiries to ascertain whether the child is still residing at the home address and is not attending or whether the child is missing.

Monitoring Procedures

- The Headteacher will have overall responsibility for monitoring attendance registers;
- The Participation Key Worker will visit the school at least twice a year to monitor the attendance policy and marking of registers;
- The school's Local Authority link officer receives a copy of information relating to authorised and unauthorised absence and this is included in the Annual School Review process;
- Attendance figures are submitted to the LA and DfE as part of the national and local monitoring of attendance.

Attendance Targets

Attendance Policy

The DfE expect children to attend at least 96% of the time. Glebe is set, each year, its own attendance target. This will be monitored and reported upon. The Headteacher and PKW will meet regularly to monitor data, discuss individuals and agree action.

The school positively reinforces good attendance and punctuality by:

- Having a weekly class competition, with the award of a cuddly toy, to identify the class with the best weekly attendance (by percentage). This is read out in celebration assembly. The class with the highest attendance wins a certificate they can keep and a cuddly toy they look after for the week;
- The class with the best attendance for the term (for EYFS/KS1 & KS2) is allowed a class treat: a reward that the children can have within school grounds and timings. This might be a dvd afternoon, wearing pyjamas for the day etc
- Rewarding the class with the highest attendance for the year a trip to the cinema in the following autumn term. Even if the children are mixed into new classes, the original previous class and teacher will be allowed to attend.
- Each term, the children who continue to have 100% attendance will be awarded a certificate.
- Awarding a gold certificate award for children achieving 100% attendance over the whole academic year;
- Dealing with bullying immediately and firmly (see anti bullying policy);
- Providing SEN Support Plans for those children with special educational needs or medical needs;
- Liaising with appropriate agencies where support for parents is needed;
- Providing Pastoral Support Programmes for those children at risk of exclusion;
- Regular newsletter items on good attendance.

Roles and Responsibilities

The governing body

The governing board is responsible for monitoring attendance figures for the whole school on at least a termly basis. It also holds the Headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented consistently across the school, and for monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors. The Headteacher also supports other staff in monitoring the attendance of individual pupils and issues fixed-penalty notices, where necessary.

The senior attendance Champion

Schools are expected to recognise improving attendance is a school leadership issue and have a designated senior leader with overall responsibility for championing and improving attendance in school and liaising with pupils, parents and external agencies where needed. The Senior Attendance Champion is expected to set a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance, establish and maintain effective systems for tackling absence and make sure they are followed by all staff and have a strong grasp of absence data to focus the collective efforts of the school. It is an ongoing responsibility and the Senior Attendance

Attendance Policy

Champion is also expected to regularly monitor and evaluate progress, including the efficacy of the school's strategies and processes.

The attendance officer

The attendance officer, at Glebe, is the Welfare Assistant (Miss Varney. She:

- Monitors attendance data at the school and individual pupil level;
- Reports concerns about attendance to the Headteacher;
- Works with the PKW to tackle persistent absence;
- Arranges calls and meetings with parents to discuss attendance issues;
- Decides when to issue fixed-penalty notices.

Class teachers

Class teachers are responsible for recording attendance on a daily basis, using the correct codes, and submitting this information to the school office.

Office staff

Office staff are expected to take calls from parents about absence and record it on the school system.

The Role of the Local Authority:

The Local Authority supports schools and parents in the area of attendance by means of the Early Intervention and Prevention Service. Key Participation Workers may follow up referrals by:

- Communicating with parents/carers by letter or phone;
- Seeing a pupil in school;
- Seeing pupil and parent/carers in school;
- Arranging home visit;
- Liaison/referral to other professionals/agencies.


The outcome of any intervention is communicated back to school.

PKWs may, in extreme cases, consider the use of legal action in relation to school non-attendance.

This policy will be reviewed by staff and governors on a regular basis.

Review Date: June 2025

To be Reviewed : June 2026


Chair of
Governors

Appendix 1: Attendance Codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's guidance on school attendance.

Code	Definition	Scenario
/	Present (am)	Pupil is present at morning registration

Attendance Policy

\	Present (pm)	Pupil is present at afternoon registration
L	Late arrival	Pupil arrives late but before register has closed
B	Off-site educational activity	Pupil is at a supervised off-site educational activity approved by the school
D	Dual registered	Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered
J	Interview	Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment
P	Sporting activity	Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school
V	Educational trip or visit	Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised, or approved, by the school
W	Work experience	Pupil is on a work experience placement

Code	Definition	Scenario
Authorised absence		
C	Authorised leave of absence	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
C2	Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable	To suit the child's needs, in exceptional cases a temporary part time timetable may need to be devised.
E	Excluded	Pupil has been suspended or permanently excluded but no alternative provision has been made
H	Authorised holiday	Pupil has been allowed to go on holiday due to exceptional circumstances
I	Illness	School has been notified that a pupil will be absent due to illness
J1	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution	Child may be attending an interview for another educational establishment.

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K	Attending Provision arranged by the local authority	The pupil is attending a place, other than the school or any other school at which they are a registered pupil, for educational provision arranged by a local authority under section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996 (exceptional provision of education), section 42(2), or 61(1) of the Children and Families Act 2014 (special educational provision off site). A pupil attending provision arranged by the school rather than the local authority must be recorded using Codes P or B instead.
M	Medical/dental appointment	Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment
R	Religious observance	Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance
S	Study leave	Year 11 pupil is on study leave during their public examinations
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes.	The pupil is a mobile child and their parent(s) is travelling in the course of their trade or business and the pupil is travelling with them. A mobile child is a child of compulsory school age who has no fixed abode and whose parent(s) is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as to require them to travel from place to place.
Unauthorised absence		
G	Unauthorised holiday	Pupil is on a holiday that was not approved by the school
N	Reason not yet provided	Pupil is absent for an unknown reason after the register closes (this code should be amended when the reason emerges, or replaced with code O if no reason for absence has been provided after 5 days)
O	Unauthorised absence	Where no reason for absence is established or the school is not satisfied that the reason given is one that would be recorded using one of the codes statistically classified as authorized.
U	Arrival after registration	Pupil arrived at school after the register closed.

Code

Definition

Scenario

Attendance Policy

Q	Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements	The pupil is unable to attend the school because a local authority has a duty set out in regulation 10(12) or (13) to make access arrangements to enable the pupil's attendance at school and have failed to do so.
X	Not required to be in school	Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend
Y	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	School site is closed, there is disruption to travel as a result of a local/national emergency, or pupil is in custody
Y1	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available	The pupil is unable to attend because the school is not within walking distance of their home and the transport to and from the school that is normally provided for the pupil by the school or local authority is not available.
Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel	The pupil is unable to attend the school because of widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national, or international emergency
Y3	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed	Part of the school premises is unavoidably out of use and the pupil is one of those that the school considers cannot practicably be accommodated in those part of the premises that remain in use.
Y4	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed.	Where a school was planned to be open for a session, but the school is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to adverse weather), the attendance register is not taken as usual because there is no school session. Instead, every pupil listed in the admission register at the time must be marked with code Y4 to record the fact that the school is closed.
Y5	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention.	The pupil is unable to attend the school because they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in police detention, • remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or • detained under a sentence of detention.
Y6	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law	The pupil's travel to or attendance at the school would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contrary to any guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of infection or disease published by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (or the equivalent in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), or

Attendance Policy

		• prohibited by any legislation relating to the incidence or transmission of infection or disease.
Y7	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause	An unavoidable cause, that is not covered by one of the other 'unable to attend' codes detailed above, is preventing the pupil from attending the school.
Z	Pupil not on admission register	Register set up but pupil has not yet joined the school
#	Planned school closure	Whole or partial school closure due to half-term/bank holiday/INSET day

Appendix 2: Risk assessment of emergency Contact in Unexpected absences

No apparent risk: There is no apparent risk of danger to the child. This may be appropriate for children who we have reason to believe are absent from the provision but not at harm due to previous patterns of behaviour or information from other people e.g. a child who often goes on holiday at this time of year and parents always fail to inform you. Continue to make enquiries but it would not be proportionate to contact police at this stage.

Low or medium risk: The risk of harm to the child is assessed as a possible but minimal risk **OR** the risk of harm to child is assessed as likely but not serious. This may be relevant for those children where there are no additional vulnerabilities, however, you have minimal contact information and making parental contact is always difficult.

High risk: The risk of serious harm to the child is assessed as very likely. This would be relevant for children already considered vulnerable. This may be due to risk of neglect or physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Also consider child sexual exploitation and Prevent, in addition to protected characteristics; mental health, forced marriage, honour based violence, trafficking, and female genital mutilation. This may also be relevant for those children where the absence and lack of ability to make parental contact is highly unusual.

- 1) If this is assessed as 'No Apparent Risk' or 'Low/ Medium Risk' the Headteacher, along with SLT can make the decision to continue to make enquires and not contact the police if they do not feel that this is necessary or proportionate. These cases should not be ignored and must be monitored over time and consideration given to

Attendance Policy

escalation if there is a change to the circumstances that has increased the level of risk.

- 2) If assessed as 'High Risk' the school will consider contacting the appropriate services, such as Hillingdon MASH (Multi Agency Safe-Guarding Hub) team. Where there is a need for an immediate response then contact the Police.
- 3) School enquiries continue and any further information shared with appropriate services/Police
- 4) Follow safeguarding procedures to record concerns, actions and decisions.

Appendix 3: Parenting Contract

(This document should be completed when a parent attends the schools' formal attendance meeting)

Date of meeting:					
Full name of pupil:					
DOB:		Age:			
Full address:					
School Name:					
School year:					
CIN/CP:	Yes/No	SEND support:	Yes/No	EHCP:	Yes/No

Persons with Parental Responsibility *(this includes the birth parent(s) and persons with parental responsibility or who have day to day care of the child)*

Parental Responsibility	Full name	Tick to confirm present at meeting
Father		
Mother		
Other:		
Grandparent		
Carer		

All present at meeting

Professional	Full Name
School senior attendance lead	
School attendance officer	
Other professionals:	
Keyworker/Social worker/Housing officer/SEND Officer/ YOS Officer/ School Nurse/GP or other health professional/ Safer Schools Police Officer	

Reason for Panel meeting

_____ attendance is currently _____% out of a possible _____ sessions. _____ has only managed to attend _____ sessions.

1. Actions taken to date to improve student's school attendance:

2. Pupil's comments:

(Where appropriate the pupil can attend the panel meeting. This may be with or with parents present)

3. Parent's comments:

(Use this space to capture the parent's comments as to why their child has poor attendance and any barriers they are experiencing)

4. How is this absence affecting the pupil's progress at school? What can we as a school do to support the pupil to attend regularly:

5. What is going well for the pupil in school:

6. What will parents do to support the pupil to attend school every day:

7. Any other action or support provided by a named member of staff:

Decisions

Parent/carers:

- Must ensure their child attends every day that the school is open for them and is on time for registration
- Provide medical evidence to the school if the child's absence is due to illness
- Must contact the school should there be difficulties with the above points.
-
-

School:

We will only authorise any absence through illness if supported by medical evidence. Alternatively, you can bring _____ into school if they are unwell and allow the school to decide whether _____ is well enough to stay in school. If the school feels that he/she is too unwell, then you will not have to provide medical evidence for that absence.

Attendance Policy

We will be available for advice and support during the review period. If the pupil named in the agreement does not attend regularly and punctually a referral may be made to the Attendance Support Team at Hillingdon Council who may consider:

- Issuing a Penalty Notice of £60.00 to each parent/carer
- prosecution at Magistrate Court
- an Education Supervision Order or
- a Parenting Order.

The pupil's attendance will be reviewed on:

I accept the parenting contract agreement decisions above and agree to comply with the requirements.

_____ Signed Parent/Carer

_____ Signed Parent/Carer

_____ Signed Pupil

_____ Signed Headteacher/ School Attendance Lead

_____ Witness

Appendix 4: Attendance Panel Agreement

(This document should be completed when a parent does not attend the schools' formal parenting contract attendance meeting)

Date of meeting:					
Full name of pupil:					
DOB:		Age:			
Full address:					
School Name:					
School year:					
CIN/CP:	Yes/No	SEND support:	Yes/No	EHCP:	Yes/No

Persons with Parental Responsibility *(this includes the birth parent(s) and persons with parental responsibility or who have day to day care of the child)*

Parental Responsibility	Full name	Tick to confirm present at meeting
Father		
Mother		
Other:		
Grandparent		
Carer		

All present at meeting

Professional	Full Name
School senior attendance lead	
School attendance officer	
Other professionals:	
Keyworker/Social worker/Housing officer/SEND Officer/ YOS Officer/ School Nurse/GP or other health professional/ Safer Schools Police Officer	

Reason for Panel meeting

_____ attendance is currently _____% out of a possible _____ sessions. _____ has only managed to attend _____ sessions.

1. Actions taken to date to improve student's school attendance:

2. Pupil's comments:

(Where appropriate the pupil can attend the panel meeting. This may be with or with parents present)

3. How is this absence affecting the pupil's progress at school? What can we as a school do to support the pupil to attend regularly:

4. What is going well for the pupil in school:

5. Any other action or support provided by a named member of staff:

Decisions made by the panel in the parents absence

Parent/carers:

Attendance Policy

- Must ensure their child attends every day that the school is open for them and is on time for registration
- Provide medical evidence to the school if the child's absence is due to illness
- Must contact the school should there be difficulties with the above points.
-

School:

We will only authorise any absence through illness if supported by medical evidence. Alternatively, you can bring _____ into school if they are unwell and allow the school to decide whether _____ is well enough to stay in school. If the school feels that he/she is too unwell, then you will not have to provide medical evidence for that absence.

We will be available for advice and support during the review period. If the pupil named in the agreement does not attend regularly and punctually a referral may be made to the Attendance Support Team at Hillingdon Council who may consider:

- Issuing a Penalty Notice of £60.00 to each parent/carer
- prosecution at Magistrate Court
- an Education Supervision Order or
- a Parenting Order.

The pupil's attendance will be reviewed on:

I accept the Attendance Panel agreement decisions above and agree to comply with the requirements.

_____ Signed Pupil (if Present)

_____ Signed Headteacher/ School Attendance Lead

_____ Witness

Appendix 5: Special Leave of Absence Request Form



Glebe Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs M Penney MA, BA (Hons), PGCE

Sussex Road, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB10 8PH

Special Leave of Absence in Term Time Request

This form should be completed and returned **no less than 4 weeks** before the planned absence.

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR CHILD'S SPECIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE UNTIL YOU KNOW THAT THE SCHOOL WILL AUTHORISE IT

Please understand that following changes in 2013 to the Education Regulations 2006, schools are only able to authorise absences in term time **under exceptional circumstances**. Before completing this form, please read the school's Attendance Policy. A hard copy is available via the school office or the latest edition can be accessed via the school's website

<https://www.glebe.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Attendance+%26amp%3B+Behaviour+Policies&pid=101>

I would like to take my child/ren out of school on the following dates:

Date of Last day at School: **Date of Return to School:**

Total number of school days missed:

The reason I am requesting this special leave of absence be taken in term time and not in the usual 13 weeks allocated is because:-

.....
.....
.....
.....

Child's Name Class (*Current % Attendance)

Child's Name Class (*Current % Attendance)

Child's Name Class (*Current % Attendance)

*will be completed by the welfare officer

Do you expect to be taking any more term time holidays this academic year? Please give reasons

.....
.....

I make an application for my child/children named above to have authorised absence from school for the reasons stated. I understand that if this is not agreed then any absence will be treated as unauthorised and may lead to the issue of a Penalty Notice or a Summons for irregular school attendance.

Signed by parent/carer..... Date

ATTENDANCE

Good attendance at school is vital to the current and future success of all children. Research has proven there is a strong link between school attendance and academic performance and success of children. It also impacts on their personal and social development. Absence from school can result in children falling behind their peers and not meeting age related expectations due to missed learning which can be difficult to catch-up on. This also makes it more difficult to be successful with the future learning as gaps in their learning prevent them from moving on when they should. That is why at Glebe we aim for all our children to have 100% attendance or at least 95% attendance so they can benefit from everything a high quality education has to offer.

Take a look at our attendance graphic to see how time missed from school adds up:

100%	95%	90%	85%	80%
Excellent Attendance	Good Attendance	Cause for Concern	Serious Cause for Concern	Critical Cause for Concern
0 days absent 0 weeks absent 0 lessons missed 0 hours of learning missed Best chance of success and this will give your child the best start in life.	10 days absent 2 weeks absent 66 lessons missed 47.5 hours of learning missed	19 days absent 4 weeks absent 133 lessons missed 95 hours of learning missed 1 day missed per fortnight on average. PERSISTANT ABSENCE: Attendance needs to improve to give your child the best chance of success.	28.5 days absent 6 weeks absent 199 lessons missed 142.5 hours of learning missed 1.75 years of missed schooling over 13 years The Attendance Officer will be in contact	38 days absent 8 weeks absent 166 lessons missed 1 day missed on average per week 2.5 years of missed schooling over 13 years This will limit the chances of success and will seriously harm your child's learning as well as their social opportunities.