

Drake Primary Academy

Pupil Attendance Policy 2023 - 24

Introduction

As a school, Drake we recognise the clear connection between regular attendance and achievement and will, therefore, work in partnership with parents/carers, the school's governing body and the Local Authority to ensure that pupils achieve maximum possible attendance, raise standards and promote punctuality of all pupils.

Aims/Expectations

For example:

- To listen, understand, empathise, and support but not tolerate non-attendance.
- Maintain high levels of attendance and minimise persistent attendance (below 90%)
- Create a culture in which good attendance is expected as the norm
- To maintain effective communication regarding attendance between home and school
- Demonstrate that good attendance and punctuality is valued by the school
- To keep whole school attendance in line with national averages for schools within similar contexts, with planned aspiration for improvement.

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. Make sure all staff, pupils and families understand that absence from school is a potential safeguarding risk and understand their role in keeping children safe. 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 (including through effective use of pupil premium funding) to create, build and maintain systems and performance. Have a designated attendance champion Joe Roberts in the senior leadership team with clearly assigned responsibilities which are identified within the attendance policy, escalation of procedures and school improvement plan. Make sure staff receive professional development and support to deploy attendance systems effectively. Governors/Academy Trust should have an accurate view of school attendance and engage in escalation procedures where appropriate.
Head Teacher	 The Head/Principal is responsible for: the implementation of the policy. all staff knowing and understanding their responsibilities for attendance. To implement the correct training for all staff agreeing whether an absence should be authorised. The power to authorise an absence rest with the Headteacher 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. Implementing a system for all parents to report a child's absence. 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 yulnerable.

	 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 using physical presence to reinforce routines and expectations on arrival and departure
	• regularly communicating expectations for attendance and punctuality and school performance through your regular channels of communication with staff, pupils and parents
	 establishing and monitoring implementation of rewards for attendance and punctuality and sanctions for absence and lateness
	 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)
	 developing good support for children with medical conditions (including the use of individual healthcare plans), mental health problems and special educational needs (SEND)
	 engaging all pupils in consultation on attendance policy, practice, rewards and sanctions Ensuring that parents fully understand the demands and responsibilities of elective home
	education if chosen
Teaching Staff	Teachers are responsible for:
	 setting an example of punctuality and good attendance. 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.
	 reminding parents of their commitment to this policy. 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.
	All staff members should communicate effectively with all families regarding pupils' attendance and well-being
	We will:
	 rehearse and reinforce attendance and punctuality expectations continually
	 emphasise the importance of attendance and its impact on attainment follow up on absence and lateness with pupils to identify barriers and reasons for absence
	 contact parents and carers regarding absence and punctuality
	 proactively promote attendance practice as part of staff induction
	consider the individual needs and vulnerabilities of pupils
	Pupils at <u>risk</u> of persistent absence You will:
	 welcome pupils back following an absence and provide good catch-up support to build
	confidence and bridge gaps. This may include:
	lesson resources buddy support
	 buddy support one to one input
	meet with pupils to discuss absence, patterns, barriers and problems
	• consider what support for re-engagement might be needed, including for vulnerable groups
	Pupils who are persistently absent
	We will aim to:
	• 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) contribute to action plans which attendance staff draw together where appropriate
	 contribute to action plans which attendance stand draw together where appropriate provide tailored praise and encouragement when pupils attend and arrive on time

Parents	 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 also responsible for: 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. impressing upon their children the need to observe the school's code of conduct. informing the school on the first day of absence, by 9.30 am at the latest. providing the school of any changes to their contact details. Providing full emergency contact details and expect them to be used if no contact can be made during absences 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. oto booking holidays during term-time. treating staff with respect actively supporting the work of the school, proactively engage with support offered calling on staff or help when they need it communicating as early as possible circumstances which may affect absence or require support
Pupils	We expect that all pupils will:
	 Attend school every day for the entire duration of the academic year unless there are good reasons for their absence, Arrive at school on time; Be appropriately prepared for the day; and Bring to the attention of their class teacher any issues that may affect their school attendance
Attendance Lead (SLT)	The School Attendance Champion is responsible for: • implementing the policy with the Head; SLT and Admin team support policies should clearly
	 outline: 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: children who have a social worker including looked-after children young carers children who are eligible for free school meals children who have special educational needs and disabilities Compiling attendance data for the Head, the Governing Body and the Education Welfare Officer Arranging meetings with parents to ensure clear channels of communication are in place and offer support/interventions where necessary. Ensure all meetings/communications are clearly recorded and shared with families Making sure escalation procedures to address absence are initiated proactively, understood by

	Undertake consultations with the Education Welfare Officer
	The escalation of procedures to address absence needs to be:
	 understood by pupils, parents and carers
	 implemented consistently
	reviewed regularly
	Ensuring that the Local Authority is notified of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly
	via an EWS General Reporting Form (CME and Exit) 2021
	 undertake home visits in line with your policy to engage families and ensure children are safe
Admin Team,	We will:
	 Ensure accurate coding of registers
	 Ensuring registers are distributed to the teaching staff and are kept up to date;
	 engage with feeder schools or organisations to access absence information in order to
	identify target cohorts prior to transfer, including mid-year transfers and managed moves
	• Contacting parents if they have not reported their child's absence by 9.30 am (Admin team).
	 Sending a letter if no contact is made and ensuring processes are in place to address
	attendance concerns at the earliest opportunity
	 carry out robust first day calling procedures including priority routine for vulnerable children
	including children with a social worker
	• identify and, where possible, mitigate potential barriers to good attendance in liaison with
	families and relevant support agencies
	• implement punctuality routines such as late gate or sign in procedures
	• implement children missing education (CME) procedures when appropriate – see below
	 ensure that parents fully understand the demands and responsibilities of elective home
	education (EHE) – see below
	• where pupils have additional vulnerabilities, which may require multi-agency meetings try to
	arrange those meetings outside of lesson time, where possible
	Pupils at risk of persistent absence
	We will:
	 provide regular attendance reports for monitoring and evaluation purposes
	• initiate and oversee the administration of absence procedures. This could include:
	letters home
	attendance panels
	 referrals to EWO service
	 engagement with local authorities and other external agencies and partners
	 work with families and the community to identify which methods of communication work
	best, recognising potential barriers in hard-to-reach families and find methods that work and
	are understood
	 consider with family a personal support plan for attendance
	 consideration if further interventions are required in line with the statutory guidance on
	parental responsibility measures
	 provide regular reports to SLT/ Exec on the at-risk cohort
	 provide regular reports/caseloads to Education Welfare Service etc to raise awareness of
	emerging at-risk pupils
	Pupils who are persistently absent
	We will:
	 develop and implement persistent absence action plans with pupils and families which
	address barriers and help establish positive attendance routines with SMART targets that are
	shared
	lead daily or weekly check-ins to review progress and impact of support
	 make regular contact with families to discuss progress
	 consider with family the use of a personal support plan for attendance
	 hold regular meetings or reviews of caseload with the Education Welfare Service, external
	partners and alternative providers to check on welfare and review progress

Intervention	 liaise with school leaders (designated safeguarding, special educational needs coordinator and pastoral leads) on referrals to external agencies and multi-agency assessments coordinate and contribute to multi-agency meetings to review progress and agree on actions work in partnership with Education Welfare Service and other agencies to ensure the appropriate use of statutory parental responsibility measures provide regular reports to leaders on the impact of action plans and interventions create and actively engage with parenting contracts 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, lesson attendance across subjects and benchmarking). Monitor the impact of any intervention, adjusting 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.
Parental Responsibility Measures	The Local Authority Education Welfare, EWO, Service offers a traded service to ALL schools to provide specialised attendance support and administer the parental responsibility measures for attendance which include: Parenting Contracts Fixed Penalty Notices Education Supervision Orders Fast Track intervention Prosecution Application for Parenting Orders as an auxiliary Order In addition to this the Education Welfare Service provides: Plymouth Local Authority Case work and addressing barriers to education Exclusion information & guidance including attendance at a GDC and supplementary Local Authority Statement Complete an annual register audit and submit a written report to the school Provide training, surgeries, and network meeting opportunities to share good practice Supporting the school with Persistent Absence reduction Establishing effective home-school links Through regular consultations, supporting early recognition and intervention of attendance concerns Representation of schools in a range of multi-agency forums Coordination of enforced attendance
	 Thresholds for referrals to the Education Welfare Service under traded service are through regular consultation with the school and where: The pupil is persistently absent (under 90%) 10 unauthorised absences in a 6-week period The school can evidence that early intervention has been completed with the family and absences continue to cause concern Where support is not successful, not engaged with or not appropriate, legal intervention remains an important part of local authorities' powers to protect every child's right to a full-time education.
Encouraging Good Attendance	The school encourages good attendance by:

	• 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 good attendance during assemblies, newsletters and the termly report to the Local Governing Body.
	• Offering other school incentives to celebrate good/improving attendance including prize draws and stationery gifts etc.
Punctuality	The office staff monitor lateness.
Measures	
	They inform:
	the Head/SLT/Teachers of patterns of lateness.
	 parents of the school's concerns and arrange a meeting so that the problem can be addressed.
	Process:
	 The School doors are opened at 8.30 am and pupils are then expected to enter the school building and make their way to their classroom.
	 Children who arrive after 8.40 am must be signed in by school for purposes of emergency evacuation etc.
	 Pupils who arrive between 8.40 am and 9.00 am will be marked as 'late' but counted as present for that session (Code L).
	 Pupils who arrive after the register has closed at 9.00 am 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)
Leaving the	• Pupils are not allowed to leave the premises without prior permission from the school.
school site during the	 Parents/carers should arrange medical, dental and other appointments outside of school time unless it is an emergency. Parents/carers are requested to confirm in writing the
school day	reason for any planned absence, the time of leaving and the expected return time.
	 Pupils must be signed out at Reception on leaving the school and signed back in on their return.
	• When a pupil is being collected from school, parents/carers are requested to report to Reception before the pupil is allowed to leave the site.
	• If a pupil leaves the school site without permission their parents/carers will be contacted. Should the school be unable to make contact with the family it may be appropriate, in certain circumstances, to contact the Police and register the pupil as a missing person or
	contact Social Services.
Pupils at risk	Persistent absence occurs when a child's attendance falls below 90%. Absenteeism at this level
of Persistent	will considerably damage a pupil's educational prospects and the school will work alongside
Absence	 parents/carers to tackle this issue by: establishing robust escalation procedures which are initiated before absence becomes a
(Under 90%)	problem, for example by:
	 sending letters to parents and carers
	having a regular review
	 Use of Personal Support Plans and Attendance Improvement plans
	Setting realistic targets
	Using SMART targets/actions for all involved
	 engaging with local authority attendance teams and/or independent attendance organisations
	 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), f

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Pupils who	You may want to:
are Persistently	 establish clear and effective service level agreements with external partners to support pupils with persistent absence, including:
Absent (Under	 Iocal authority Education Welfare Service or independent attendance
90%)	organisations
5076)	 alternative providers
	• youth services
	 school nursing and mental health professionals
	 children's social care staff where appropriate
	 attempt to establish good relationships with a network of voluntary organisations and
	charities to support vulnerable pupils including those with persistent absence, for example:
	 mental health charities
	 mentoring organisations
	• young carers association
	 engage in or lead on attendance reviews and clinics in line with escalation
	procedures
	Where a pupil has missed 10 school days then the school will:
	Carry out a home visit
	 Apply strategies to improve attendance
	 Apply safeguarding strategies
	 Focus on the views of parent and pupil
	 Make Child Missing Education referral to notify the LA
	Ensure lead professional is assigned
	Where a pupil has missed 20 school days then the school will:
	 Update and resubmit the Child Missing Education referral to notify the LA
	Continue communication with parent/pupil
	 Ensure plans are in place to improve attendance
	Where a pupil has missed 20 school days the LA will:
	 Register the pupil as Child Missing Education
	 Liaise with the school regarding progress offering support and guidance
	 Provide Case work where traded service is in place
	Carry out safeguarding duties
Absence	• Holidays during term time – changes to legislation which came into force in September 2013
	made clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless
	there are exceptional circumstances. If there are exceptional circumstances behind your
	request, you should discuss these with the Headteacher.
	 Religious Observance – a maximum of 3 days' absence is allowed for recognised religious
	observance and only where the observance is recognised by the religious body
	• Medical, Dental or Hospital Appointments – please ensure these appointments take place out
	of school time in order not to disrupt your child's education.
	• Absence due to bereavement will be assessed on an individual basis but likely to be a
	maximum of 3 days absence
Changing	It is important that if parents/carers decide to send their child to a different school that they
Schools	inform the school in writing as soon as possible. A pupil will not be removed from our school
	roll until the following information has been received and investigated:
	The pupil's school records will then be sent to the new school. If the school has not been
	informed of the above information, the family will be referred to the Education Welfare Service
	and after four weeks the pupil will be registered on the S2S website as a Pupil Missing Education.
Fixed Penalty	The school refers cases that meet the local authority PN code of conduct in relation to
Notices (FPNs)	unauthorised absence.

	The Department of Education issued to schools that as of September 2013 holidays in term time should only be authorised if there are " exceptional " circumstances. You must get permission from the Head Teacher if you want to take your child out of school during term time.
	You can only do this if:
	 You make an application to the Head Teacher in advance There are exceptional circumstances
	The school Head Teacher will determine whether the circumstances are exceptional or not. Please note that there is no automatic right to take a holiday in term time. The Head Teacher will decide how many days your child can be away from school if leave is granted.
	Should you feel that you have "exceptional" reasons for applying, please contact your child's school at the earliest opportunity and use the appropriate school form. Whilst the cost of a holiday might be an issue it is not considered to be sufficient to be an exceptional reason.
	Please be aware that unauthorised holiday absence of 5 days or more can now result in the issuing of a Penalty Notice which carries a fine of £60 or if not paid after 21 days, then the fine is doubled to £120 and court prosecution if unpaid after 28 days. Penalty Notices are served per parent, per child.
Part-Time Timetables	• Local authorities and the Trust have published guidance for all schools, 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 every term.
Elective Home Education	All children have the right of fair access to a suitable and effective full-time education, however there is no legal requirement for this to take place in a school setting. Families are permitted to provide an education for their children at home if they choose to do so, rather than sending them to school full-time (Section 7 of the Education Act 1996). This is referred to as Elective Home Education (EHE).
	The school will not actively encourage parents to Electively Home Educate.
	If the school receives information that a parent is considering Elective Home Education, then they must inform the Local Authority and arrange a meeting with the parent, school and Local Authority representative to ensure the parent is fully informed.
	The Local Authority will then follow their policies and procedures in relation to Elective Home Education.
	Where a pupil has an EHCP then the pupil can only be removed from roll with the Local Authority authorisation and therefore an emergency annual review should be called by the school to address placement.

Appendix A

Absences will be authorised if:

- The pupil is absent with leave as agreed by the Headteacher.
- The pupil is ill and has not been asked to provide proof of absence.

• 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 Headteacher.

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.

Appendix **B**

Annex A: Grounds for deleting a pupil from the school admission register

Grounds for deleting a pupil of compulsory school age from the school admission register set out in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, as amended

1 8(1)(a) - where the pupil is registered at the school in accordance with the requirements of a school attendance order, that another school is substituted by the local authority for that named in the order or the order is revoked by the local authority on the ground that arrangements have been made for the child to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude otherwise than at school.

2 8(1)(b) - except where it has been agreed by the proprietor that the pupil should be registered at more than one school, in a case not falling within sub-paragraph (a) or regulation 9, that he has been registered as a pupil at another school.

3	8(1)(c) - where a pupil is registered at more than one school, and in a case not falling within sub-paragraph (j) or (m) or regulation 9, that he has ceased to attend the school and the proprietor of any other school at which he is registered has given consent to the deletion.
4	8(1)(d) - in a case not falling within sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, that he has ceased to attend the school and the proprietor has received written notification from the parent that the pupil is receiving education otherwise than at school.
5	8(1)(e) - except in the case of a boarder, that he has ceased to attend the school and no longer ordinarily resides at a place which is a reasonable distance from the school at which he is registered.
6	 8(1)(f) - in the case of a pupil granted leave of absence in accordance with regulation 7(1A), that — (i) the pupil has failed to attend the school within the ten school days immediately following the expiry of the period for which such leave was granted; (ii) the proprietor does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil is unable to attend the school by reason of sickness or any unavoidable cause; and (iii) the proprietor and the local authority have failed, after jointly making reasonable enquiries, to ascertain where the pupil is.
7	8(1)(g) - that he is certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and neither he nor his parent has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
8	 8(1)(h) - that he has been continuously absent from the school for a period of not less than twenty school days and — (i) at no time was his absence during that period authorised by the proprietor in accordance with regulation 6(2); (ii) the proprietor does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil is unable to attend the school by reason of sickness or any unavoidable cause; and (iii) the proprietor of the school and the local authority have failed, after jointly making reasonable enquiries, to ascertain where the pupil is.
9	8(1)(i) - that he is detained in pursuance of a final order made by a court or of an order of recall made by a court or the Secretary of State, that order being for a period of not less than four months, and the proprietor does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil will return to the school at the end of that period.
10	8(1)(j) - that the pupil has died.
11	 8(1)(k) - that the pupil will cease to be of compulsory school age before the school next meets and— (i) the relevant person has indicated that the pupil will cease to attend the school; or (ii) the pupil does not meet the academic entry requirements for admission to the school's sixth form.
12	8(1)(I) - in the case of a pupil at a school other than a maintained school, an Academy, a city technology college or a city college for the technology of the arts, that he has ceased to be a pupil of the school.

13	8(1)(m) - that he has been permanently excluded from the school.
14	8(1)(n) - where the pupil has been admitted to the school to receive nursery education, that he has not on completing such education transferred to a reception, or higher, class at the school.
15	 8(1)(o) where— (i) the pupil is a boarder at a maintained school or an Academy; (ii) charges for board and lodging are payable by the parent of the pupil; and (iii) those charges remain unpaid by the pupil's parent at the end of the school term to which they relate.

Appendix C

Further sources of information:

Relevant legislation

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016

The Education Act 2002

The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999

The Changing of School Session Times (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2011

The Education and Inspections Act 2006

Other DfE guidance

Parental responsibility measures for school attendance and behaviour

Children missing education

Keeping children safe in education

Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)