



ATTENDANCE & ATTAINMENT



How does attendance affect outcomes for pupils?

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence suggests that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

By attending school on a regular basis, your child is more likely to keep up in lessons. Students who attend regularly are more likely to pass exams than students who don't attend school on a regular basis. Attendance is central to every school as it is fundamental to a child's social, academic and emotional development. We want all our pupils to have the opportunity to reach their full academic potential and achieve in line with their capabilities. This is the entitlement of every child and it is the role of both schools and parents to ensure we give them every opportunity to learn. By being present at school your child is learning how to be a good citizen by participating in the school community, learning valuable social skills.

Excellent school attendance is also key as it plays a key part in safeguarding policies and protocols. Attendance is a great life skill for pupils to learn as it will be a requirement throughout their adult life.

Is medical evidence required to authorise every school absence?

DfE guidance

In the majority of cases a parent's notification that their child is ill can be accepted without question or concern. Schools should not routinely request that parents provide medical evidence to support illness. Schools are advised not to request medical evidence unnecessarily as it places additional pressure on health professionals, their staff and their appointments system particularly if the illness is one that does not require treatment by a health professional. Only where the school has a genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity of the illness should medical evidence be requested to support the absence.

- 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).
- Use attendance, pastoral and SEND staff that are skilled in supporting pupils and their families to identify and overcome barriers to attendance.

- Create Attendance Support Action Plans in partnership with families and other agencies that may be supporting families, for example, children's social care and early help services. Commission or deliver interventions to improve attendance.
- Monitor the impact of any intervention, making adjustments if necessary and using findings to inform future strategy.
- Where interventions fail to address attendance issues, identify the reasons why and, where appropriate, change or adjust the intervention.
- Follow local authority codes of conduct, policies and procedures and make referrals for statutory intervention when interventions have not resulted in improved attendance and relevant triggers / thresholds are met. Before a penalty notice is considered, a pupil must have had a minimum of: 5 school days/10 sessions unauthorised absence in a term or. 7 school days/14 sessions unauthorised absence over 2 consecutive terms.
- Use incentives to improve school attendance and punctuality.
- Weekly raffle for punctuality
- 6 weekly "Prize Pot" for attendance