

# **Attendance Policy**



**Delves Lane Primary School**

**December 2022**

# Attendance Policy

## Delves Lane Primary School

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<b>Author of document:</b>	Mrs Becky Woods	<b>Job role:</b>	Headteacher
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### Attendance key contact List

Name	Role	Contact details
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### Who in school can help if you are experiencing difficulty / require help and support:

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## Introduction to our school attendance vision and ethos

### Our School Rules



In our school we aim to: -

- **Develop**
- **Enthusiastic**
- **Learners**
- **Valuing**
- **Everyone's**
- **Success**

Our **School Values** are at the heart of all we do at Delves Lane Primary School and we aim for all children to learn to embody them:

- **Belonging** – At Delves Lane we promote strong community links and a secure sense of belonging
- **Kindness** – Provide a safe, welcoming, caring environment in which each individual is valued, where everyone is kind towards one another and where learning can flourish
- **Aspiration** – To provide an irresistible curriculum which develops children's love of learning and sparks curiosity
- **Resilience** – Inspire a sense of co-operation, embracing challenge, self-discipline and responsibility
- **Unity** — Encouraging the enjoyment of physical activities and games and increasing awareness of the importance of healthy living
- **Respect** – Enable children to understand and appreciate the world in which they live and develop sensitivity towards individuals, groups and nations within it

**Delves Lane Primary is a Rights Respecting School.** Our school seeks to ensure that all of its pupils receive an education which maximises opportunities for each pupil to realise his/her true potential. The school will strive to provide a calm, orderly, safe, and supportive

environment where all pupils want to be and are keen and ready to learn within a culture that promotes the benefits of high attendance.

**Article 28 states that every child has the right to a primary education.**

Regular school attendance plays a vital role in children's wellbeing and their education, ensuring that their current learning needs are being met but also building their future ability to learn.

As attendance is the essential foundation to positive outcomes for all pupils', improving attendance is everyone's business, a concerted effort across all teaching and nonteaching staff in school, the governing body, the local authority, and other local partners.

Some pupils find it harder than others to attend school and therefore at all stages of improving attendance, the school and partners will work with pupils and parents to remove any barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and working together to put the right support in place.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **The Governing Board**

The governing board is responsible for:

- Promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school
- Making sure staff receive adequate training on attendance
- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy

### **The Headteacher**

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementation of this policy at the school
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary

### **The designated senior leader responsible for attendance (Headteacher)**

The designated senior leader is responsible for:

- Leading attendance across the school
- Offering a clear vision for attendance improvement
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Having an oversight of data analysis
- Devising specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data
- Arranging calls and meetings with parents to discuss attendance issues
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families

*The designated senior leader responsible for attendance is Mrs Becky Woods (Headteacher) and she can be contacted via 01207 503984.*

## **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 promptly after both registration periods.

## **School Admin Team**

School Admin Team will:

- Take calls from parents about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school's management information system.
- They will also contact parents if there has been no reason given for absence.
- Liaise via telephone and email daily with senior leaders to share/alert them to concerns around attendance

## **Parents/Carers**

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Make sure their child attends every day on time
- Telephone or email the school to report their child's absence before 9.00am on the day of the absence and advise when their child is expected to return
- Provide the school with more than one emergency contact number for their child
- Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day

## **Pupils**

Pupils are expected to:

- Attend school every day on time

## **Why is regular attendance so important?**

Being in school every day that it is open, is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and their wider development. There is a renewed national focus on maximising pupils' time in the classroom, as evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

## **Here's what the data shows:**

Pupils with higher attainment at KS2 and KS4 had lower levels of absence over the key stage compared to those with lower attainment.

Pupils who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 4.7% over the key stage, compared with 3.5% among pupils who achieved the expected standard and 2.7% among those who achieved the higher standard.

Pupils who did not achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and maths GCSEs in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 8.8% over the key stage, compared with 5.2% among pupils who

achieved a grade 4 and 3.7% among pupils who achieved grade 9 to 5 in both English and maths.

Generally, the higher the percentage of sessions missed across the key stage at KS2 and KS4, the lower the level of attainment at the end of the key stage.

Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS2, 83.9% achieved the expected standard compared to 40.2% of pupils who were persistently absent.

Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS4, 83.7% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and maths compared to 35.6% of pupils who were persistently absent.

The importance of good attendance alongside good behaviour, make it a central part of the school's vision, values, ethos, and day to day life.

The interplay between attendance and wider school improvement efforts, building it into strategies on attainment, behaviour, bullying, special educational needs support, supporting pupils with medical conditions or disabilities, safeguarding, wellbeing, and support for disadvantaged students (including use of pupil premium).

**This policy is supported by our policies on:**

1. Safeguarding (Keeping Children Safe in Education)
2. Anti-Bullying
3. Behaviour
4. Special Educational Needs
5. Teaching & Learning

**Delves Lane Primary School and its partners will work together to:**

**LISTEN AND UNDERSTAND**

When a pattern is spotted, discuss with pupils and parents to listen to understand barriers to attendance and agree how all partners can work together to resolve them.

Aspire to high standards of attendance from all pupils and parents and build a culture where all can, and want to, be in school and ready to learn by prioritising attendance improvement across the school.

**FACILITATE SUPPORT**

Remove barriers in school and help pupils and parents to access the support they need to overcome the barriers outside of school. This might include an early help or whole family plan where absence is a symptom of wider issues.

Rigorously use attendance data to identify patterns of poor attendance (at individual and cohort level) as soon as possible so all parties can work together to resolve them before they become entrenched.





## FORMALISE SUPPORT

Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, partners should work together to explain the consequences clearly and ensure support is also in place to enable families to respond. Depending on the circumstances this may include formalising support through a parenting contract or education supervision order.

### 1. Expectations

We recognise that the relationship between attendance and achievement of our students is inextricably linked.

Regular school attendance is crucial to maximise pupil progress and enjoyment of learning, and for this reason the school is dedicated to ensuring its attendance policy is adhered to.

#### We will ensure that:

- All students have an equal right, and access to, an education in accordance with the national curriculum, or agreed alternative
- Attendance is a priority across the school
- Aspire to high standards on attendance
- Students will not be deprived of their education opportunities by, either their own absence or lateness, or that of students
- Action is taken where necessary to secure an improvement in attendance

### 2. Attendance data

- Pupil-level absence data will be collected each term and published at national and local authority level through the DfE school absence national statistics releases.



## ENFORCE

- The underlying school-level absence data will be published alongside the national statistics.
- The school will cooperate and be held to the national average, working in partnership with the governing board, to enforce attendance through statutory intervention or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education.
- Monitor attendance and absence data half-termly, termly and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil level

- Identify whether or not there are particular groups of children whose absences may be a cause for concern

At Delves Lane Primary School we will rigorously use attendance data to identify patterns of poor attendance (at individual and cohort level) as soon as possible so all parties can work together to resolve them before they become entrenched.

### **3. Listening to and understanding barriers to attendance**

When concerns about attendance are identified, the school will discuss this with pupils and parents to listen to and understand barriers to attendance and formulate a plan to agree how all partners can work together to resolve them.

### **4. Day to Day Processes**

We will keep an attendance register, and place all pupils onto this register. We will take our attendance registers 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

See appendix 1 for the DfE attendance codes

We will also record:

- Whether the absence is authorised or not
- The nature of the activity if a pupil is attending an approved educational activity
- The nature of circumstances where a pupil is unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

We will keep every entry on the attendance register for 3 years after the date on which the entry was made.

- Pupils must arrive in school by 8.55am on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 8.55am (8.40am for Nursery children) and will be kept open until 9.05am (8.50am for Nursery children). The register for the second session will be taken immediately after lunch (12.20 – 12.30pm for Nursery and 1.00pm to 1.10 all other year groups).

### **Reducing Persistence Absence**

Persistent absence is where a pupil misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence is where a pupil misses 50% or more of school.

The school will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence
- Hold regular meetings with the parents of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable, or are persistently or severely absent, to discuss attendance and engagement at school
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance including a referral to the Attendance Improvement Team if strategies put in place do not improve attendance

## **Unplanned absence**

The pupil's parent/carer must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9am or as soon as practically possible by calling the school office on 01207 503984 or via email [delveslaneprimary@durhamlearning.net](mailto:delveslaneprimary@durhamlearning.net)

We will mark absence due to illness as authorised unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness or the child is already at Stage 2 of our A Star Attendance System (medical evidence required).

If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, the school may ask the pupil's parent/carer to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. We may ask for medical evidence for a child is already at Stage 2 or higher on our A Star Attendance system (but this will be dependent on individual circumstances).

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

## **4.3 Planned absence**

Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment. Parents must show this appointment to a member of school staff or email it to [delveslaneprimary@durhamlearning.net](mailto:delveslaneprimary@durhamlearning.net)

However, we encourage parents/carers 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 pupil's parent/carer must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence. A Leave of Absence request form must be submitted otherwise the absence will be coded as unauthorised (please see Frequently Asked Questions section).

## **Lateness and punctuality**

A pupil who arrives late:

- Before the register has closed will be marked as late, using the appropriate code
- After the register has closed will be marked as absent, using the appropriate code
- Should a pupil's punctuality become a concern, parents will be notified in writing in the first instance. If a pupil travels to school independently, a phone call will be made to alert parents when a pupil arrives late to school. If punctuality is still a concern then parents/carers will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss ways to support

## **Following up on an unexplained absence**

Where any pupil we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, without reason, the school will:

- Call the pupil's parent/carer on the morning of the first day of unexplained absence to ascertain the reason. An email and text message will also be sent requesting the parent/carer to contact the school. School will also contact emergency contacts if there is still no response.
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not
- Identify the correct attendance code to use and input it as soon as the reason for absence is ascertained – this will be no later than 5 working days after the session
- Call the Parent/Carer on each day that the absence continues without explanation to ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, the school will consider involving the LA Attendance Officer

## **Reporting to Parents/Carers**

The school will regularly inform parents about their child's attendance and absence levels via half-termly reports

## **5. Facilitate Support**

We will treat all pupils and parents with dignity and staff will model respectful relationships to build a positive relationship between home and school that can be the foundation of good attendance. In communicating with parents, schools should discuss the link between attendance and attainment and wider wellbeing, and challenge parents' views where they have misconceptions about what 'good' attendance looks like. Where a pupil or family needs support with attendance, we will make sure the best placed person in the school will work with and support the family and be the consistent person wherever possible.

Where a pattern of absence is at risk of becoming, or becomes, problematic we will draw on relationships with parents, and listen to and understand the barriers to

attendance the pupil or family is experiencing. We will take into consideration the sensitivity of some of the reasons for absence and understand the importance of school as a place of safety and support rather than reaching immediately for punitive approaches.

In the first instance, we will:

- Support pupils and parents by working together to address any in-school barriers to attendance.
- Where barriers are outside of the school's control, all partners should work together to support pupils and parents to access any support they may need voluntarily. This will include meeting with pupils and parents at risk of persistent or severe absence to understand barriers to being in school and agreeing actions or interventions to address them. This may include referrals to services and organisations that can provide support. These actions should be regularly discussed and reviewed together with pupils and families.

Where absence intensifies, so will the support provided, which will require us to work in tandem with the local authority and other relevant partners:

- If the needs and barriers are individual to the pupil this may include other provision or where appropriate an education, health and care plan or alternative provision.
- Where the needs are wider and a whole family response is more appropriate, this is likely to include a voluntary early help assessment.
- Where engagement in support is proving challenging, schools will hold more formal conversations with parents (and pupil where they are old enough to understand). This will be led by the senior leader responsible for attendance and will include the school's point of contact in the local authority School Attendance Support Team. These meetings should clearly explain the consequences of persistent and severe absence to the pupil and family and the potential need for legal intervention in future, but should also be an opportunity to continue to listen to and understand the barriers to attendance and explain the help that is available to avoid those consequences.

## **6. Formalise support**

Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, multi-agency partners will work together to explain the consequences clearly and ensure support is also in place to enable families to respond. Explain that, depending on the circumstances this may include formalising support through a parenting contract or education supervision order.

We may intensify support through statutory children's social care involvement where there are safeguarding concerns, especially where absence becomes severe (below 50% attendance).

We may prosecute parents where all other routes have failed or are not deemed appropriate.

In all cases, the school should monitor the impact of any interventions and make adjustments where necessary in discussion with the pupil, parents and any other partners involved as part of any whole family plan or team around the family. Where interventions are failing, all parties should work together to identify the reasons why and

either adjust or change the approach.

## **Leave of Absence during Term**

The headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to a pupil during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher's discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request.

Valid reasons for **authorised absence might** include:

- Illness and medical/dental appointments (which cannot be made outside of the school day)
- 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

## **6. Attendance Legal Intervention**

As absence is so often a symptom of wider issues a family is facing, schools, and local authorities should always work together with other local partners to understand the barriers to attendance and provide support. Where that is not successful, or is not engaged with, the law protects pupils' right to an education and provides a range of legal interventions to formalise attendance improvement efforts, and where all other avenues have been exhausted, enforce it through prosecuting parents.

Attendance legal intervention can only be used for pupils of compulsory school age and decisions should be made on an individual case by case basis.

The school or local authority can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age.

If issued with a fine, or penalty notice, each parent must pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority.

Penalty notices can be issued by a headteacher, local authority officer or the police.

The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice may take into account:

- The number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year
- 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 or withdraw the notice.

### **Pupils with medical conditions or special educational needs and disabilities**

Some pupils face greater barriers to attendance than their peers. These can include pupils who suffer from long term medical conditions or who have special educational needs and disabilities. Their right to an education is the same as any other pupil and therefore the attendance ambition for these pupils should be the same as they are for any other pupil. That said, in working with their parents to improve attendance, our school will be mindful of the barriers these pupils face and put additional support in place where necessary to help them access their full-time education.

### **Part-time timetables**

All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs. For example, where a medical condition prevents a pupil from attending full-time education and a part-time timetable is considered as part of a re-integration package.

A part-time timetable must only be in place for the shortest time necessary and not be treated as a long-term solution. Any pastoral support programme or other agreement should have a time limit by which point the pupil is expected to attend fulltime, either at school or alternative provision. There will be a formal arrangement in place for regularly reviewing it with the pupil and their parents. In agreeing to a part-time timetable, a school has agreed to a pupil being absent from school for part of the week or day and therefore must treat absence as authorised.

### **General / frequently asked questions**

#### **When can children be absent from school?**

When you register your child at school, you have a legal duty to ensure your child attends that school regularly.

This means that your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- Your child is too ill to attend that day.
- You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on that day due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child cannot attend school on that day because it is a day you are taking part in religious observance
- Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it is not available on that day or has not been provided yet; or
- You are a gypsy/traveller family with no fixed abode, and you are required to travel for work that day meaning your child cannot attend their usual school. In most

circumstances, however, your child is required to attend another school temporarily during such absences.

These are the only circumstances where schools can permit your child to be absent.

### **What do I need to do if my child needs to be absent from school for one of those reasons?**

You should contact their school as early as possible to explain why. If not, your child's school will contact you on the first morning of their absence to find out why.

All parents can request a 'leave of absence' for their child which gives them permission to be absent from school. Leaves of absence must be applied for before your child will be absent and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

Your child's headteacher has the final say over whether to approve the request and how long your child can be absent.

Their decision will be made after considering the specific facts and circumstances behind your request.

### **Can I take my child on holiday during term time?**

Parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid requesting leaves of absence for holidays unless it is unavoidable.

As leave of absence is only granted in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely that your child's headteacher will agree a leave of absence for a family holiday.

If permission is refused and you keep your child off school on the days requested, you are likely to be committing an offence and be issued a fixed penalty notice or be prosecuted by your local authority.

## **Attendance Procedures and Absence Processes**

### **Attendance and absence management**

#### **Promoting good attendance and punctuality**

- Our school strives to build good relationships between staff and families to promote good attendance and break down barriers to attendance where attendance and punctuality are a concern
- Communicate expectations for attendance and punctuality via assemblies, newsletters, meetings with parents and via website
- Attendance is celebrated as part of our weekly assembly. The class with the highest attendance is displayed and rewards given (Attendance cakes)
- Attendance certificates will be awarded half-termly for those achieving 96+%
- Half Termly report to parents and carers



- Liaise with other services to promote good attendance

## **Communication**

The school requests that all parents please remember to report and explain the reasons for absence and to make sure your contact and emergency contact details are up to date.

It is vital, that school can contact parents if their child becomes unwell during the school day or in order to discuss the reasons for absence.

The school will analyse absence across the school. As a result of this, some families will receive letters to inform them if their child's absence is lower than it should be if no prior discussion has taken place (unless this is due to, for example medical needs). If we have concerns regarding your child's attendance then we may contact you by phone, letter, invite you to a meeting or make a visit to your home.

As a parent you may identify concerns about school attendance early on if you have seen a change in your child's attitude to school or in their willingness to attend. If this is the case, please share your concerns with us and we can work together to ensure that school attendance doesn't ever need to decline. The quicker that concerns are shared, the quicker they can be resolved.

The school will work with you to discuss ways that we can offer support in finding a way to improve attendance.

### **On the first day of absence**

If a child is absent for any reason, parents or carers are asked to email or telephone the School Office giving a reason for your child's absence. If a child is absent from school and there is no phone call from home then school will phone home to inform parents that the child is not in school and enquire about a reason why.

Doctors and dentist's appointments should be made outside of school time. If this is not possible, your child should miss the minimum amount of school time necessary. If they are well enough to come back to school following the appointment they need to.

### **Periods of extended absence**

If a child's absence continues beyond 2 days then parents are requested to notify the school to update them.

- Follow up with parents to ascertain the reason for absence via telephone. If there is no response an email and text will also be sent requesting the parent/carer to contact the school. School will also contact emergency contacts if there is still no response.
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not
- Identify the correct attendance code to use and input it as soon as the reason for absence is ascertained – this will be no later than 5 working days after the session

- Call the parent/carer on each day that the absence continues without explanation to ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, the school will consider involving an education welfare officer

If the school receives no reason for any absence then an unauthorised absence will be recorded. Continued absenteeism and unauthorised absences could result in more formal action.

### **Absence authorisation**

The High Court has confirmed that the school's Head Teacher authorises absences. In some circumstances, the school may request that parent's provide medical evidence to support absences.

We are committed to supporting your child effectively, to ensure that they get the very best education possible and therefore have the best life chances. All challenges made concerning persistent absences, will be handled sensitively and in confidence.

### **Punctuality:**

Registration time is at **8.40 to 8.55am** at which point the pupil entry gates will be locked and all pupils must enter by the main entrance. It is so important for all children to be on time, as missing the first few minutes of any lesson can be disruptive and unsettling, both for children and for the rest of the class. If a child arrives in school up to 15 minutes after this time then a late mark will be recorded in the register (L) until 9.10am. Registers will be closed at this point and any children arriving more than 15 minutes late will be recorded as (U) which is a late after registers close mark and this is classed as an unauthorised absence (a number of these marks can also contribute to more formal action being considered).

### **If your child is late for school:**

All children arriving late at school will be asked the reason for their lateness and this will be recorded on the school's attendance data base (SIMs/Arbor).

### **If a child is late (after registers close) for school on a number of occasions**

Should a pupil's punctuality become a concern, parents will be notified in writing or via email/text message in the first instance. If a pupil travels to school independently, a phone call will be made to alert parents when a pupil arrives late to school.

### **If lateness becomes persistent with no identifiable reason**

If punctuality is still a concern then parents/carers will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss ways to support.

### **If the school continues to have concerns about a child's punctuality**

Further advice will be taken from Aim High Attendance and the LA Attendance Officer regarding the ongoing concerns about a child's punctuality. A multi-agency meeting will be organised with parents and professionals.

## Help & Support

If you need help with attendance, it is important that you contact school about the issues as soon as possible. The quicker we know what the problem is, the quicker that we can work together to solve it and put a plan together which will meet your child's needs and ensure your child can benefit from all that school has to offer. Where needed we can also involve other services to make sure that your child and your family gets the right support, at the right time from the right people.

## Leave of Absence in Term Time

Head teachers are only able to grant leave of absence during term time **unless there are exceptional circumstances**. The school will consider each request of absence individually; taking into account the circumstances, such as; the nature of the event for which leave is sought, the pupil's prior attendance and any important events taking place in school at that time.

An application for leave of absence must be made well in advance via a form which is available from the school website or in person from the school office. Where a leave of absence is granted, the head teacher will determine the number of days a pupil can be away from school.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the head teacher's discretion. If an application for leave of absence is not made prior to the time of the required absence, then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised regardless of circumstances.

**Please note that absence will not be authorised under any circumstances during any period of public examinations or internal assessments.**

## Pupils with specific needs

We account for the specific needs of pupils/pupil cohorts, be applied fairly and consistently and consider the individual needs of pupils/ families who have specific barriers to attendance.

In development and implementation of the policy, consider obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## Children Missing from Education

If you move from the area and your whereabouts are unknown, the school can legally remove your child from the roll after 20 school days of unauthorised absence. It is **vital that you keep school informed of any change of details** and regularly update them if details change. Your child may be at risk of losing their school place if your whereabouts are not known.

It is also important that emergency contact information is kept up to date and that if you are leaving the area, you provide details of where and how you can be contacted. If you do not do this and the school is unable to trace your child, this would be treated as a **safeguarding matter**.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Please see key contact list and details at the start of this document.

### Appendix 1 – Attendance Codes

#### ATTENDANCE CODES, DESCRIPTIONS AND MEANINGS

CODE	DESCRIPTION	MEANING
/	Present (AM)	Present
\	Present (PM)	Present
<b>B</b>	Educated off site (NOT Dual registration)	Approved Education Activity
<b>C</b>	Other Authorised Circumstances (not covered by another appropriate code/description)	Authorised absence
<b>E</b>	Excluded (no alternative provision made)	Authorised absence
<b>G</b>	Family holiday (NOT agreed or days in excess of agreement)	Unauthorised absence
<b>H</b>	Family holiday (agreed)	Authorised absence
<b>I</b>	Illness (NOT medical or dental etc. appointments)	Authorised absence
<b>J</b>	Interview	Approved Education Activity
<b>L</b>	Late (before registers closed)	Present
<b>M</b>	Medical/Dental appointments	Authorised absence
<b>N</b>	No reason yet provided for absence	Unauthorised absence

<b>O</b>	Unauthorised absence (not covered by any other code/description)	Unauthorised absence
<b>P</b>	Approved sporting activity	Approved Education Activity
<b>R</b>	Religious observance	Authorised absence
<b>S</b>	Study leave	Authorised absence
<b>T</b>	Traveller absence	Authorised absence
<b>U</b>	Late (after registers closed)	Unauthorised absence
<b>V</b>	Educational visit or trip	Approved Education Activity
<b>W</b>	Work experience	Approved Education Activity
<b>D</b>	Dual registration (i.e. pupil attending other establishment)	Not counted in possible attendances
<b>X</b>	Untimetabled sessions for non-compulsory school-age pupils	Not counted in possible attendances
<b>Y</b>	Enforced and partial enforced closure	Not counted in possible attendances
<b>Z</b>	Pupil not yet on roll	Not counted in possible attendances
<b>#</b>	School closed to pupils	Not counted in possible attendances

**KEY**

Present
Authorised absence
Unauthorised absence
Approved Education Activity (Present)
Not counted in possible attendances