



Attendance policy 2026-2027

This policy applies to the whole school including the EYFS at Copthorne Prep.

Policy Authors	Ali Raja (Senior Attendance Champion)
Date Reviewed by Authors	September 2026
Next Review Date	September 2027

Key School contacts

Senior attendance champion Ali Raja	Email: araja@copthorneprep.co.uk Telephone: 01342 712311 ext. 313
Key staff / contacts Mandy Huckle	Email: matron@copthorneprep.co.uk Telephone: 01342 712311 ext. 201

Aims

The School aspires to high levels of attendance from all pupils. Good attendance is essential for all pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing and wider life chances.

The aims of this policy are as follows:

- to develop and maintain a whole school culture that promotes the benefits of good attendance;
- to ensure that every pupil in the School has the opportunity to fully contribute to the life of the School and benefits from being a member of the School community;
- to prioritise and improve attendance and punctuality across the School and set out the School's approach to the management of absence / non-attendance;
- to recognise the connection between attendance / absence and pupil wellbeing, ensuring a consistent whole school approach to safeguarding; and
- to promote a whole school culture of safety, equality and protection.

Scope and application

This policy applies to the whole School

This policy is designed to address the specific statutory obligations on the School to record attendance and absence.

The School recognises that poor attendance may be an indicator of wider safeguarding concerns, including neglect, emotional harm, domestic abuse, exploitation, unmet medical needs, mental health difficulties or children missing education. Attendance concerns will therefore be reviewed through the School's safeguarding processes and may result in consultation with external agencies where appropriate.

Regulatory framework

This policy meets the School's responsibilities under:

- Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014;
- *National minimum standards for boarding schools* (Department for Education (**DfE**), September 2022);
- Education and Skills Act 2008;
- Children Act 1989;
- Childcare Act 2006;
- Sponsorship Duties (UKVI, July 2023);
- The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024;
- Equality Act 2010; and
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (**UK GDPR**)

This policy has regard to the following guidance and advice:

- [Working together to improve school attendance](#) (DfE, applies from 19 August 2024);
- [Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance](#) (DfE, applies from 19 August 2024);
- [Toolkit for schools: communicating with families to support attendance](#) (DfE, September 2023);
- [Guidance for parents on school attendance](#) (Office of the Children's Commissioner, September 2023);
- ['Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) (NHS, April 2024);
- [Keeping children safe in education](#) (DfE, September 2025);
- [School behaviour and attendance: parental responsibility measures](#) (DfE, May 2020);
- [Children missing education](#) (DfE, September 2016);
- [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#) (DfE, August 2017);
- [Behaviour in schools: advice for headteachers and school staff](#) (DfE, February 2024);
- [Mental health and behaviour in schools](#) (DfE, November 2018);
- [Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools](#) (DfE, February 2023);
- [Support for pupils where a mental health issue is affecting attendance](#) (DfE, February 2023);
- [Remote education guidance](#) (DfE, updated February 2023); and
- [SEND Code of practice: 0 to 25 years](#) (DfE and Department of Health, May 2015)

The following School policies, procedures and resource materials are relevant to this policy:

- Safeguarding Policy;
- Risk assessment policy for pupil welfare;
- Missing Pupil Policy;
- SEND Policy;
- Behaviour Policy;
- Parent Contract;
- Remote education provision guidance;
- Educational Trips Policy

Publication and availability

This policy is published on the School website and is available in hard copy on request. A copy of the policy is available for inspection from the Front Office during the School day. This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible formats if required.

Definitions and interpretation

Where the following words or phrases are used in this policy:

- ☐ references to **attendance** include references to attendance for all or part of the timetabled school day.
- ☐ references to the **Governors** are references to the Board of Governors of the School.
- ☐ references to a **Parent** means:
 - (a) all natural parents, whether they are married or not;
 - (b) any person who has parental responsibility for a pupil; and
 - (c) any person who has day to day responsibility for a pupil (i.e. lives with and looks after a pupil).

References to a **pupil** includes anyone who is receiving an education at Copthorne School.

- ☐ **SAC** means the **S**chool's **A**ttendance **C**hampion.

Responsibility statement and allocation of tasks

The Governors have overall responsibility for all matters relating to attendance. The Governors recognise that improving attendance is a school leadership issue and has appointed a designated senior leader to have overall

responsibility for championing and improving attendance in School, referred to in this policy as the SAC. The Governors have allocated the following tasks to the SAC:

Task	Allocated to	When / frequency of review
Keeping the policy up to date and compliant with the law and best practice	SAC	As required, and at least termly
Monitoring the implementation of the policy	SAC	As required, and at least termly
Seeking input from interested groups (such as pupils, staff, parents) to consider improvements to the School's processes under the policy	SAC	As required, and at least annually
Formal annual review	Governors	Annually

The importance of good attendance

The School recognises the importance of developing good patterns of attendance from the outset. This is an integral part of the School's ethos and culture. In building a culture of good school attendance it recognises:

- the importance of good attendance, alongside a broader culture of high expectations, including behaviour and engagement in learning;
- the interplay between attendance and wider school pastoral, wellbeing and inclusion strategies;
- the importance of setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils and communicating these regularly and effectively to pupils and parents;
- that attendance is never 'solved' and is a continuous process requiring revision and updating of messages, processes and strategies; and
- children missing education can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues, including neglect, sexual abuse and child sexual and criminal exploitation.

School responsibilities

Copthorne Prep School acknowledges that attendance is the essential foundation to securing positive outcomes for all pupils and that everyone has a responsibility to take proactive steps to manage and improve attendance across the School community.

The School will consistently promote the benefits of good attendance, setting high expectations for every pupil and consistently communicating those expectations to pupils and parents.

Where challenges arise, the School will work collaboratively with parents and pupils to address them. Where appropriate we will liaise with the local authority.

The School will respond to non-attendance and / or lateness at the earliest opportunity. Interventions will be proportionate, responsive and authoritative, in line with this policy, our Safeguarding Policy and our Behaviour Policy. Interventions will be reviewed regularly.

The School has robust systems in place to track and record attendance, reasons for absence and patterns at an individual level and by cohorts or groups in order to identify pupils at risk of nonattendance and those who are persistently absent and it will monitor and analyse this data regularly to facilitate early intervention to address issues.

Staff responsibilities

The SAC

The Governors have appointed a senior member of staff as SAC to have overall responsibility for championing and improving attendance in school. Details of the individual appointed are at the front of this policy and are widely publicised within School.

The SAC's responsibilities are:

- to set a clear vision for improving attendance in school;
- to establish and maintain effective systems for tackling absence and make sure the systems are followed by all staff;
- to regularly monitor and evaluate progress, including the efficacy of the school's strategies and processes;
- to have oversight of and analyse attendance data; and
- to communicate clear messages on the importance of attendance to pupils and parents.

Staff with specific responsibilities for attendance:

Staff identified in Appendices I of this policy, have day to day responsibility for monitoring and promoting good attendance and punctuality. They should:

- have a formal routine for registers being taken accurately each morning and afternoon;
- seek explanations of absences from pupils on their return to School where required;
- make enquiries about unexplained absences, including those within the school day, and follow up with pupil or parents to ensure that an explanation has been formally given to the School;
- monitor trends or patterns in a pupil's attendance and inform the SAC of any specific concerns;
- deal with lateness consistently and promptly, considering appropriate sanctions for pupils who arrive late to a lesson in line with the School's Behaviour Policy; and
- discuss non-attendance and / or lateness with pupils and parents, emphasising the importance of punctuality and attendance.

All staff

The School ensures that all teaching and non-teaching staff know the importance of good attendance and are consistent in their communication with pupils and parents about it. The School provides appropriate training and professional development for staff consistent with their roles and responsibilities.

School arrangements

The School will accurately complete admission and attendance registers and have effective day to day processes in place to follow-up absence. These registers must be kept electronically. Contact details of relevant staff can be found at the front of the policy and other details about the School's arrangements can be found in Appendices I and 2.

Monitoring attendance

The School will undertake regular data analysis to identify and provide additional support to pupils or pupil cohorts that need it, and to look at historic and emerging patterns across the School and develop strategies to address them. Such analysis may include:

- monitoring and analysing weekly attendance patterns and trends and provide support in a targeted way to pupils and families;

- using this analysis to provide regular attendance reports to class teachers to facilitate discussions with pupils and leaders (including the SENCO and DSL);
- conducting thorough analysis of data at regular intervals to identify patterns and trends;
- benchmarking attendance data at whole school, year group and cohort level to identify areas of focus for improvement;
- devising specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data;
- monitoring the impact of school-wide attendance efforts, including any specific strategies implemented; and
- providing data and reports to the Governors to support its work.

Pupil responsibilities

School attendance is important to pupil attainment, wellbeing and long-term personal development. The School therefore has high expectations of pupils as to their attendance and has systems in place to reward good attendance and manage poor attendance.

Pupils should be aware that:

- they are expected to be present in-person for the duration of each School day;
- they are expected to arrive on time and attend all timetabled lessons;
- they should not leave a lesson or the School site without permission or otherwise in accordance with School rules;
- they should engage with the School's arrangements for recording and managing attendance as set out in this policy;
- any unexplained absence will be followed up;
- persistent lateness or non-attendance will result in action being taken by the School. This may take the form of:
 - (a) offers of support to seek to identify and address any barriers to attendance;
 - (b) communication with parents;
 - (c) reporting to other agencies such as children's social care; and
 - (d) an Attendance Contract in line with the School's behaviour policies and Parent-School contract.

If pupils are having difficulties that might discourage or prevent them from attending School or specific lessons regularly, they may speak to any member of staff, although the School encourages them to speak to their tutor, Class

Teacher, Pastoral Lead, or any member of the Safeguarding Team as listed on the Schools posters. Pupils can expect this information to be managed sensitively.

Additional needs

The School recognises some pupils may find it harder than others to attend School, and will work with those pupils and parents to try to remove barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and working together to put the right support in place.

The School will make reasonable adjustments where a pupil has a disability that puts them at a substantial disadvantage, in comparison with pupils without a disability, in relation to school attendance.

It will also work with parents, and where appropriate with the local authority, to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities e.g. ensuring the provision outlined in a pupil's education, health and care plan is accessed.

Suitable strategies will also be considered for pupils with any social, emotional or mental health issue that is affecting their attendance.

Where barriers are outside of the School's control, the School will work with parents and pupils to identify alternative sources of support or consider, where appropriate, making a referral to our local authority Inclusion Service or Early help Team.

The School will make a sickness return to the local authority if a pupil is recorded in the attendance register as absent using the national absence code I (unable to attend because of sickness) and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil will have to miss 15 consecutive school days or more for illness or the pupil's total number of school days missed during the current school year because of illness (whether consecutive or cumulative) will reach or exceed 15 school days.

Parent / carer responsibilities

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an effective, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education. This means pupils must attend every day that the School is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the School.

The School will help parents to understand what is expected of them and why attendance is important to their child's attainment, wellbeing, and wider development and provide clarity on the short- and long-term consequences of poor attendance. Expectations the School places on parents can be found in Appendix I of this policy.

Parents are bound by the terms relating to conduct and attendance in the parent contract and failure to ensure a child's attendance or engage with the School about it could amount to a breach of contract or a finding that the parent is treating the School unreasonably.

Training

Staff: the School ensures that regular guidance and training on attendance is arranged during induction and at regular intervals thereafter so that staff and volunteers understand what is expected of them by this policy and have the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out their roles. As a minimum this will include all staff understanding:

- the importance of good attendance and that absence is almost always a symptom of wider circumstances; and
- the School's strategies and procedures for tracking, following up and improving attendance.

Dedicated attendance training is provided to any member of staff with a specified attendance function in their role, including administrative, pastoral or family support staff, teachers, co-curricular leaders and senior leaders. This should include:

- the law and requirements of schools including on the keeping of registers;
- the process for working with other partners to provide more intensive support to pupils who need it;
- the necessary skills to interpret and analyse attendance data; and
- any additional training that would be beneficial to support pupils and pupil cohorts overcome commonly seen barriers to attendance.

The School maintains written records of all staff training.

Information sharing

Personal information on attendance will only be shared in line with legal obligations and having regard to government guidance on attendance, safeguarding and children missing education.

The School, local authorities and other local partners should work jointly and share data on individual cases where it is of benefit to a pupil (e.g. health services where there are medical conditions or the police where there are extra-familiar harms). Where appropriate the schools will attend regular targeting support meetings.

The School is legally required to share information from the registers with the local authority. As a minimum this includes:

- New pupil and deletion returns;
- Attendance returns;
- Sickness returns.
- Unauthorised absence returns.

The law allows local authority officers access to the attendance and admission registers of all types of schools to carry out their functions under the Education Acts to support joint working between schools and local authorities. These officers are also permitted to take digital or physical extracts of the School's registers.

The School must provide specific pupil information on request to the Secretary of State. The School meets this requirement by having an electronic management information system containing the required information that can be accessed by the DfE. The School also uses this tool to monitor pupil level attendance and understand trends in attendance patterns.

Where appropriate, the School is expected to inform a pupil's social worker and/or youth offending team worker if there are unexplained absences.

Record keeping and confidentiality

All records created in accordance with this policy are managed in accordance with the School's policies that apply to the retention and destruction of records.

The information created in connection with this policy may contain personal data. The School's use of this personal data will be in accordance with data protection law. The School has published privacy notices on its website which explain how the School will use personal data.

Intervention Pathway

The DfE places significant emphasis on Persistent Absence (below 90%).

Persistent Absence

Pupils whose attendance falls below 90% will be identified as persistently absent. The School will undertake a detailed review of attendance patterns and seek to understand any barriers preventing regular attendance.

Where a pupil's attendance falls below 90% by the end of the Autumn Term, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will write to parents outlining the concern and inviting them to work with the School to improve attendance.

Where attendance does not improve following this intervention, parents will be invited to attend a meeting with the DSL and/or Senior Attendance Champion to agree an Attendance Improvement Plan. This may involve support from internal pastoral services, SEND provision, healthcare professionals, Early Help services or the Local Authority.

Where attendance continues to deteriorate, or where there are safeguarding concerns, the School may make a referral to relevant safeguarding or support agencies in accordance with its Safeguarding Policy and statutory guidance.

Severe Absence

Pupils with attendance below 50% will be regarded as severely absent and will receive the highest level of support and monitoring. Such cases will be reviewed by the Senior Attendance Champion and Head of School. Consideration will be given to referrals to external agencies where attendance concerns indicate possible safeguarding risks.

Attendance	Status	School Response
95-100%	Good attendance	Routine monitoring
90-94.9%	Attendance concern	Attendance monitored by SAC and pastoral team. Parents may receive a supportive email highlighting emerging concerns.
Below 90%	Persistent Absence	Formal letter from the DSL at the end of the Autumn Term (or sooner where concerns emerge). Attendance reviewed and support offered.
Below 90% with no improvement after intervention	Significant concern	Parents invited to an attendance meeting with the DSL and/or Senior Attendance Champion. Attendance Improvement Plan agreed.
Continued poor attendance despite support	Safeguarding concern	Consider referral to Early Help, Inclusion Services, Education Welfare, Children's Services or other relevant agencies depending on the circumstances and level of risk.
Severe or unexplained absence patterns	Child potentially missing education / safeguarding concern	Follow Safeguarding Policy and Children Missing Education procedures.

Attendance Improvement Plans (AIPs)

Where attendance concerns persist, the School may implement an Attendance Improvement Plan. This will:

- identify barriers to attendance;
- set measurable attendance targets;
- identify support offered by the School;
- record parental and pupil responsibilities;
- establish review dates and monitoring arrangements.

Appendix 1 Copthorne Prep School arrangements

Managing attendance

The School monitors, records and shares data about pupil attendance and as part of its duty to safeguard and protect pupils and promote attendance. It accurately completes admission and attendance registers as required by law and set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 respectively. The admission and attendance registers must be kept electronically and retained by the School for the relevant time period as stated by law.

The School expects all pupils to be present at School for the whole of the School day, usually from registration at 8.25am to close at 3.30pm (Nursery and Pre-Prep) and 4.05 pm (Prep), but this period may be extended, for example for out of school clubs, sports fixtures or school trips.

The role of parents / carers

The School expects all Parents to:

- make any application for an authorised leave of absence at the earliest opportunity;
- notify the School of any absence or delay as soon as reasonably possible in accordance with this policy and when doing so, give an accurate explanation for this; and
- cooperate with the School to explore possible barriers to attendance and to improve it where attendance has been raised as an issue.

Parents should ensure their child attends School by 8.20am for morning registration

Registration and attendance checks

- Morning registration is at 8.20am. The registers will remain open for 10 minutes after the start of morning registration.
- Afternoon registration will be between 1.05 -1.10pm (YR-2) and between 2.05 pm and 2.10 pm (Y3-Y6) during form time.
- Nursery registration is at 8.30am and 12.45pm
- The School uses iSAMs as for Registration sessions and its Attendance Management Systems.
- Nursery registration during school holidays is completed on an excel spreadsheet and is monitored alongside iSAMS.

Pupils are marked late if they arrive within the registration period and absent if they arrive after registration has closed. This is consistent with national Attendance Legislation. The School will ensure that a pupil's arrival is recorded internally. We know that attendance is important for pupils to thrive at school and significantly impacts successful outcomes.

Reporting absence

- All absences should be reported through . Parents should complete the Absence Form found in the Parent Forms section. This will notify the schools' administration team and the pupil's tutor. In the case of a prolonged absence, parents should make contact with the appropriate Form Tutor who will discuss appropriate support.
- If parents need to contact school on a day-to-day basis with information about absence (for instance a last-minute travel issue), please contact the Front Office.
- Where a pupil is ill, the School should be notified of the nature of the illness.

Arrangements for reporting subsequent absence

- Absence will be recorded on the Attendance Register as set out in Appendix 3.

Managing absence

Parents

Parents can monitor their child's attendance on My School Portal. Parents can click on this graph to see a specific session-by-session breakdown of how these figures were produced.

School

Pupil attendance is monitored carefully and when the school becomes aware of concerns, members of the pastoral team will be keen to act in conjunction with parents in order to improve attendance. The SAC will analyse

attendance data for all pupils across the school at regular intervals, allowing them to monitor progress and identify pupils that require support with their attendance, putting effective strategies in place quickly. We recognise that children missing education can act as a vital warning sign for a range of welfare and safeguarding issues. We will communicate concerns about attendance by email or telephone.

Improving Attendance

The school will work closely with pupils and families to support pupils in improving attendance. We understand that the barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school environment, and are often specific to individual pupils and families. Addressing concerns quickly and openly can avoid longer term issues developing. We will aim to meet with parents quickly to establish an agreed approach and explore support pathways.

Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or is not engaged with, the School may be required to formalise support with reference to external agencies.

Authorised absences

Authorised absence means that the School has either given approval in advance for a pupil to be away (granted an authorised leave of absence) or has accepted an explanation offered afterwards as justification for absence.

Applications for an authorised leave of absence

Applications for authorised leaves of absence during the School day will only be granted in exceptional circumstances; if you would like to request that your child misses school for some reason, please complete the Leave Request Form, found on the School Portal. This request will be sent to the appropriate member of staff and reviewed accordingly. This is most often likely to be used to request a medical appointment, for religious observance or school open day visit for example. Please note that each type of request for leave comes with its own parameters with regard to the notice period required. You will not be able to make requests which breach these guidelines. The School will consider each application for an authorised leave of absence individually, taking into account the specific facts and circumstances, the pupil's past attendance record and the relevant background context behind the request.

Apart from illness, no pupil should be away from School without prior permission from the Head of School. If you would like to request that your child misses school for some reason, please complete the Leave Request Form, found on the School Portal. This request will be sent to the appropriate member of staff and reviewed accordingly. This is most often likely to be used to request a medical appointment, for religious observance or school open day visit for example. Please note that each type of request for leave comes with its own parameters with regard to the notice period required. You will not be able to make requests which breach these guidelines. Dental or medical appointments should be made during School holidays except in cases of emergency when the form tutor should be informed.

If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the Head to determine the length of the time the pupil is permitted to be away from School. It will be recorded as an authorised absence.

A leave of absence will usually be authorised for religious observance if the day concerned is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which parents and pupils belong. Parents are expected to make a request for this type of leave of absence in advance.

Reporting duties

The School has statutory reporting obligations if a pupil fails to regularly attend their absence is unauthorised. The School must report unauthorised absences for a continuous period of 10 days or more to the local authority. In the event that a pupil holding a Student or Child Student visa sponsored by the School under the Points Based System goes missing, the School will report to UKVI if the pupil misses ten consecutive expected contact points. When the School's morning registration is completed it is treated as a contact point for these purposes. The report will be made by the School's Level 1 user via the Sponsor Management and in accordance with prevailing UKVI guidance.

Action will also be taken in accordance with the Missing Pupil Policy and Safeguarding Policy if any absence of a pupil from the School gives rise to a concern about their welfare.

Appendix 2 Admission register

Admission register

In accordance with the requirements of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 the School will:

- maintain an admission register of all pupils (of both compulsory and non-compulsory school age) admitted to the School (also known as the school roll); and
- inform the local authority of any pupil who is going to be added to or deleted from the School's admission register at non-standard transition points.

The admission register must be kept electronically and a back-up copy of the register is made at least once a month in the form of an electronic or printed copy.

The school must ensure that every entry in the School's admission register is preserved for six years beginning with the day on which the entry was made; and every back-up copy of the register is preserved for six years after the end of the school year that it relates to.

The admissions register contains specific personal details of every pupil in the School, including their date of admission, information regarding parents and carers and details of the school they last attended, and in the case of boarding schools whether each pupil of compulsory school age is a boarder or day pupil.

A pupil's name can only be deleted from the admission register for a reason set out in regulation 9 of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. When any of the situations set out in regulation 9 occurs, the pupil's name must be deleted.

Where the School notifies the local authority that the pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register, the School must provide it with the following information:

- the full name of the pupil;
- the address of the pupil;
- the full name and address of any parent the pupil normally lives with;
- at least one telephone number of any parent with whom the pupil lives or can be contacted in an emergency;
- the pupil's future address, the full name and address of the parent who the pupil is going to live with, and the date the pupil is expected to start living there, if applicable;
- name of the pupil's other or future school and pupil's start date or expected start date there, if applicable;
- the ground (prescribed in regulation 9) under which the pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register.

Appendix 3 Attendance register

Attendance register

The School records and monitors the attendance of all pupils (both of compulsory and noncompulsory school age) including boarders in accordance with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) (Regulations) 2024

The School uses the appropriate national attendance and absence codes system to enable it to record and monitor attendance and absence in a consistent way which complies with regulation 10 of the Attendance Regulations.

The attendance register is kept electronically and a back-up copy of the register is made at least once a month in the form of an electronic or printed copy.

The School will also use these records to identify patterns of poor attendance (at individual and cohort level) and work with pupils and parents to resolve any issues before they become entrenched.

The School is required by law to take attendance registers twice daily - once at the start of the morning session and once during the afternoon session.

On each occasion it will be recorded whether every pupil is:

- physically present in school when the attendance register begins to be taken; or
- absent from the school when the attendance register begins to be taken but attends before the taking of the register has ended; or
- attending a place other than the school; or
- absent.

The circumstances in which a pupil may be recorded as attending a place, other than the school, can include:

- Attending educational provision arranged by a local authority;
- For an educational visit or trip arranged by or on behalf of the school and supervised by a member of school staff;
- Attending a place for an approved educational activity that is a sporting activity;
- Attending an approved educational activity that is work experience provided under arrangements made by the school as part of the pupil's education;
- Attending a place for any other approved educational activity.

Recording absence

Absence will be recorded in accordance with the national absence codes set out in regulation 10 of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) (Regulations) 2024 and statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance relating to:

- leaves of absence;
- other authorised reasons;
- unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause;
- unauthorised absence.

Remote education

The School is required to record all absence from in-person sessions.

The School may, in limited circumstances, provide remote education to enable pupils, who are well enough to learn but unable to attend the School site, to keep pace with their education.

In the limited circumstances when the School decides to use remote education for individual pupils when they are absent, the following will be considered:

- ensuring mutual agreement of remote education by the School, parents or carers, potentially pupils, and if appropriate a relevant medical professional. If the pupil has an Education, Health and Care plan or has a social worker, the local authority should also be involved in the decision;

- if remote education is being used as part of a plan to reintegrate back to school, putting a formal arrangement in place to review its efficacy regularly, alongside identifying what other support and flexibilities can be put in place to help ease the pupil back to school at the earliest opportunity;
- setting a time limit within which the period of remote education provision should be reviewed, with the aim that the pupil returns to in person education with the required support in place to meet their needs.

Pupils who are absent from school and receiving remote education still need to be recorded as absent using the most appropriate absence code. The School will keep a record of, and monitor pupil's engagement with remote education, but this is not formally tracked in the attendance register. Where appropriate, this information may be used to make plans for a pupil's reintegration to school.

The School will utilise a digital education platform that will be kept up-to-date and keep pupils safe. Staff will remain trained and confident in its use.

The School will maintain pages on its website that provides information and guidance about the remote education provision and links to any trusted external education websites.

The School has an established remote education plan in place which is reviewed at least annually in consultation with staff.

Unauthorised absence

The 'unauthorised absence' code will be used when prior permission for absence has not been given and where the School is not satisfied with the explanation given for absence or delayed attendance meaning that the code for 'unable to attend due to an exceptional circumstance' is not appropriate. Examples may include:

- holiday that has not been authorised by the School or is in excess of the period determined by the Head of School;
- the reason for absence has not been provided;
- a pupil is absent from school without authorisation;
- a pupil has arrived in school after registration has closed and without reasonable explanation.

Appendix 4: School Attendance Codes 2025

Present Codes	
/ \	present during registration
B	educated off site and taster days and do not fit K, V, P or W codes
K	attending provision arranged by the local authority
L	arrived after the register has started but before it has closed
P	Sporting activity with prior agreement from school
V	educational visit or trip
W	work experience
Absent Codes	
Authorised Absences	

C	exceptional circumstances
CI	in a regulated performance/undertaking regulated employment abroad
C2	absent due to part-time timetable
D	dual registered
E	suspended or permanently excluded
I	illness (not medical or dental appointments)
JI	job/school/college interview
M	medical or dental appointment
Q	unable to attend because of a lack of access arrangements
R	religious observance (only 1 day allowed, any more coded as C if agreed)
S	study leave
T	parent travelling for occupational purposes
X	non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school
Y1	unable to attend due to transport provided not being available
Y2	unable to attend due to widespread transport disruption
Y3	unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed
Y4	unable to attend due to whole school closure
Y5	unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention
Y6	unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law
Y7	unable to attend due to other avoidable cause (must affect the pupil NOT the parent)
Unauthorised Absence	
G	holiday (not agreed)
N	reason for absence not yet established (must be corrected within 5 days)
O	absent in other or unknown circumstances
U	late after register has closed
Z	pupil not yet on register
#	planned whole school closure (eg holidays, insets and polling station days)

