



eastbury
primary
school
Succeeding together

Attendance and Punctuality Policy

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1. Introduction

At Eastbury Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils receive the highest quality of education and are able to achieve their full potential. Excellent attendance and punctuality is a key pre-requisite for achieving this.

The target attendance for all pupils registered at this school is 97%.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Parents or Carers

The school works in close partnership with parents/carers to achieve excellent school attendance and punctuality. The responsibilities of parents/carers in relation to attendance and punctuality are set out in the Home-School Agreement.

The law states that parents/carers have responsibilities for ensuring their child attends school regularly. Parents/carers of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they receive full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise (Education Act 1996).

It is the parents'/carers' responsibility to ensure that their children arrive at school on time and are picked up promptly at the end of the day.

If a child is ill, parents/carers should contact the school on the first day of a pupil's absence. They should state the reason for their child's absence and also the date they are expected to return to school, whenever possible. If there is no contact, then the school Attendance Officer will make contact with the parents on the first day of absence.

All routine medical and dental appointments should be made outside school time. When it is essential to have a non-routine appointment during the school day, evidence (such as an appointment card or hospital letter) should be shown in advance to the Office Staff. There may be times when the parent/carer will be asked to provide further medical evidence for their child's absence.

Parents/carers should ensure that the child is brought to school before the appointment and returned to school afterwards.

The Local Governing Board

The Local Governing Board has responsibility for the school's attendance strategy and for approving the Attendance and Punctuality Policy every two years.

The Local Governing Board will receive updates on attendance at least termly.

Designated member of SLT and the School Attendance Officer

The member of the school's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) with responsibility for attendance is the School Business Manager.

The School Business Manager's responsibilities are to:

- ensure that the school meets the legal requirements for all aspects of school attendance and punctuality
- recommend targets for attendance to SLT and the Local Governing Board, and monitor them
- ensure staff training on attendance
- report regularly to the Headteacher, Governors and parents about attendance issues and figures
- authorise or not authorise term-time absences (see section 6)
- oversee the day-to-day responsibilities of the School Attendance Officer
- oversee the operation of the Attendance and Punctuality Routines at Appendix 1

The responsibilities of the School Attendance Officer are to:

- produce weekly reports on attendance and punctuality
- produce a comprehensive termly report on attendance, showing trends over time and setting out the attendance of vulnerable groups
- monitor trends in attendance and advise SLT on issues arising
- manage reward systems for attendance (see section 3)
- recommend whether term time absences should be authorised and informing parents of the decision
- liaise with the Partnership Learning Attendance Officer as required
- liaise with the school's Family Liaison Officer as required
- send out letters and meet with parents (together with the Partnership Learning Attendance Officer, Family Liaison Officer, School Business Manager or other member of SLT, as appropriate)
- manage the procedure for persistent absences (see section 5)
- ensure that the online registers are correct and show the reason for absence

- update all electronic and paper records in relation to attendance and punctuality

The Class Teacher

The Class Teacher has a vital role to play in promoting excellent attendance and punctuality. The responsibilities of the class teacher are:

- to ensure that he/she is present in the classroom from 8.45am
- completing the online registers by 9.10am in the morning and by 12.55pm (Reception to year 2), 1.25pm (years 3 and 4) or 1.55pm (years 5 and 6) in the afternoon each day
- to raise any child protection concerns relating to attendance or punctuality with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Discussing attendance issues with children during pupil conferencing meetings
- Discussing attendance and punctuality issues with parents, and sharing attendance figures at Parents' Evenings

Inclusion Team

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo), the Pupil Premium Lead, the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the EAL lead teacher will monitor the attendance of the following groups of pupils:

- SEN support
- Children with an EHC plan
- EAL children
- Children for whom there are safeguarding concerns
- Looked-after children
- Disadvantaged children

They are responsible for working in conjunction with class teachers, the School Attendance Officer, the Family Liaison Officer and external agencies to promote excellent attendance amongst these groups and to address any underlying issues.

3. Rewards for attendance

There are reward systems in place at the school for good attendance:

- Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates are handed out to children for 100% attendance during Autumn, Spring and Summer terms
- An Attendance trophy for the class with the best attendance that week across the whole school
- An Attendance bear for the class with the best attendance that week in each phase (years 1&2, 3&4 and 5&6).
- An 'Attendance disco' held at the end of each half term as a celebration for individual children who have achieved 100% attendance

4. Punctuality

Excellent attendance includes pupils being on time for school, every day.

The playground gates open at 8:45am and are closed promptly at 8:55am. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that their child is in school before 8:55am. Any children coming after this time are late and must enter through the school's main entrance.

If a child is late, the following procedure is followed:

- Late children will be signed in at the office by a member of staff in the late book and recorded as late on the electronic register. The time of arrival is also recorded.
- If a child is late more than once during a week or there is a pattern of lateness over a longer period, then a punctuality letter is sent home to parents, showing the total learning time that has been lost as a result.
- If two late letters are sent out, this triggers a meeting with the School's Attendance Officer and, where appropriate, a member of SLT.
- If a child still continues to be late a referral will be made to the Partnership Learning Attendance Officer.

The school day ends at 2.50pm for Reception children, 3.00pm for Key Stage 1 and 3.15pm for Key Stage 2.

When a parent/carer does not collect their child within ten minutes of those times, the child is deemed to be late. If a child is late being picked up, the following procedure is followed:

- Late children are registered when they enter the late room. The time that they are picked up is also recorded on paper and electronically.
- If a child has not been collected by 3.45pm, then the child is taken to the after-school club (Eagles Club) and a charge is normally made for providing childcare outside statutory provision (the charge is the same as that for the after-school club).
- If a parent/carer is late picking up their child on more than one occasion, a meeting is arranged with the School Attendance Officer and, where appropriate, a member of SLT.
- If a child continues to be collected late a referral is made to the Partnership Learning Attendance Officer.

5. Persistent absence

Persistent absence is where children's attendance falls below set thresholds. In those instances, the following stages are used to resolve the situation (unless there is a valid reason for the attendance level, such as a prolonged period in hospital):

Stage One

If attendance is between 85-92%, a letter is sent to the parent/carer notifying them that the school is monitoring the attendance levels of that pupil, stating that there needs to be an improvement in the pupil's attendance. The letter might also ask the parent/carer to provide medical evidence.

A meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team, School Attendance Officer and the parents to discuss any issues and agree a way forward is arranged. Where appropriate, support is offered from the Family Liaison Officer.

Stage Two

When a pupil's attendance does not improve following action at Stage One or attendance falls below 85%, a referral is made to the Partnership Learning Attendance Officer. Parents are informed of this referral.

At this stage appropriate action is taken by the Partnership Learning Attendance Officer to resolve the situation. This may include:

- direct work with the pupil and family
- referral to other agencies
- arranging suitable support to help the pupil in making a return to full attendance.
- legal proceedings under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, Education Act 1996 and the Children Act 1989. Fixed penalty notices may be issued to parents. There is an appeals process for parents who have received and contest a fixed penalty notice.

6. Holidays/Leave of Absence

Parents/carers who request absences in term time must complete the form at Appendix 2.

It is expected that parents plan holidays during school holiday periods. Holidays will not be authorised in term time and may incur a fixed penalty notice. All fixed penalty notices are discussed with the Partnership Learning Attendance Officer before being issued.

Parent/carers have a right to request an appeal against the school's decision to issue a fixed penalty notice. The procedure for the appeal is as follows:

- 1) Parent/carer receives the fixed penalty notice and contacts the Headteacher in writing to request an appeal providing reasons/evidence for the request
- 2) If the Head Teacher feels that there are grounds for an appeal, the school will inform the local authority, who will suspend the fine until the outcome of the appeal
- 3) The school then arranges the appeal hearing as soon as possible (usually within two weeks) involving 1-2 governors, a staff representative and the parent/carer (or they may submit a written appeal instead).

- 4) The local authority is then informed of the outcome so that the fine can be reinstated or withdrawn.

Appendix 1: Attendance and Punctuality Routines

Daily	Weekly	Each Half Term	Each Term
SLT's Role & Responsibility			
Ensure gates are closed at 8.55 am and support Attendance Officer (AO) on late door.	Attendance bear given to class with best attendance in certain year groups	Communicate progress in achieving attendance targets to parents in newsletter.	Attendance Assembly to hand out bronze/silver/gold certificates for 100% attendance.
	Monitor weekly attendance data at SLT meetings and visit classes where attendance is below expectation.		Attendance report presented to Local Governing Board
	Hold parent meetings as arranged by AO		
	Attendance trophy to class with highest attendance across the school		
School Attendance Officer's Role & Responsibility			
<u>First day Absences</u> Phone calls to parents of pupils who are absent and reasons noted on SIMS.	Complete Attendance Return for Whole School/Year groups/Class and share with staff	Complete PA log and Reason Code Analysis	Attendance Update whole School letters and accompanying Attendance Summaries.
<u>Second/Third day absences</u> Phone calls to parents of pupils who are absent and have not provided a reason.	Send out N code letters on a Friday	Analyse data and arrange meetings with parents	
<u>Inform SLT, FLO and SENCO</u> of a child who has been absent for 3 days <u>without</u> contact from the parents/carers	Send out letters to parents regarding attendance & punctuality concerns.	Letters of concern/improvement/ to Parents	Attendance Data for Parent Consultations
<u>Five Days Absence</u> <u>Inform SLT, PSA and Designated SLT</u> for Attendance if a child has had a <u>five</u> consecutive days	Discuss with SLT absence requests received by parents and inform parents of decision. Agree and	Provide SLT with attendance figures for newsletter	Produce and share comprehensive termly attendance report

absent even if reasons are given from parents/carers	issue fixed penalty notices in line with local authority		
Record children picked up late from school. Refer persistent lates to Partnership Learning Attendance Officer.			
Class Teacher			
Ensure online registers are completed by 9.10 am and 12.55/ 1.55 pm.		Discuss attendance with pupils at pupil conferencing meetings	Discuss attendance with parents at Parents' Evenings

ABSENCE IN TERM TIME REQUEST FORM

Name of Pupil(s) and Class:	
Absence Date(s):	
Return to school date:	
Total Days missed:	

<p>When did you plan this absence? <i>(please provide travel booking details)</i></p>
<p>Why is this absence unavoidable? <i>(Please provide supporting evidence as appropriate)</i></p>

Please be aware that absence for holidays during term time will not be authorised. All holiday absence will be recorded as unauthorised and may incur a fixed penalty notice.

Form completed by (Print name): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Relationship to child: _____

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OFFICE USE ONLY			
Response from school			
Absence authorised?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Absence referred to LBBB for fine?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signed:	_____	Date:	_____