



Astrea Academy Trust

Primary Attendance Policy

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| Date | July 2023 |
| Written by | K Godfrey |
| Adopted by Trust Board | |
| Review Date | July 2024 |

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1. Attendance Policy, Principles and Aims

- 1.1. Regular school attendance is the key to enabling children and young people to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who are able to realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.
- 1.2. Promoting excellent attendance is the responsibility of all staff within Astrea Academy Trust. Improving attendance is everyone's business. The barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the academy gates, and are often specific to individual pupils and families. The foundation of securing good attendance is that school is a calm, orderly, safe, and supportive environment where all pupils want to be and are keen and ready to learn.
- 1.3. Astrea Academy Sheffield is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Responding to attendance concerns is a safeguarding matter and will be treated as such.
- 1.4. Astrea Academy Sheffield aims to meet its obligations with regards to school attendance by:
 - Developing and maintaining a whole academy culture that promotes the benefits of high attendance;
 - Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence;
 - Ensuring every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled;
 - Supporting parents/carers to perform their legal duty to ensure their children of compulsory school age attend regularly;
 - Build strong relationships with families, listen to and understand barriers to attendance and work with families to remove them;
 - Accurately complete admission and attendance registers and have effective day to day processes in place to follow-up absence;
 - Regularly monitor and analyse attendance and absence data to identify pupils or cohorts that require support with their attendance and put effective strategies in place;
 - Share information and work collaboratively with other academies in the area, local authorities, and other partners when absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe.
 - Building a culture of safeguarding: ensuring all students feel safe, protected and valued;
 - Having clear and swift responses to address concerns including patterns of absence;

2. The Law on School Attendance

- 2.1 The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent/carer to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at school or by education otherwise than at a school.

2.2 Where parents / carers decide to have their child registered at a school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child 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.

2.3 By law, all schools (except those where all pupils are boarders) are required to keep an attendance register, and all pupils must be placed on this register.

2.4 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
- Every entry in the attendance register will be preserved for 3 years after the date on which the entry was made.

2.5 The attendance register will mark whether every pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

See Appendix 1 for the DfE attendance codes.

3. Key Attendance Academy Staff

3.1. Helping to create a pattern of regular attendance is everybody's responsibility including parents, carers, pupils and all members of academy staff.

3.2. The strategic attendance lead for Astrea Academy Sheffield is Jill Arezoo, who works with the whole academy team to monitor and improve attendance at individual and whole academy level.

3.3. The day to day contact for reporting attendance and attendance queries is Jill Arezoo

3.4. The attendance pastoral support / family support is Tracy Hill, who monitors attendance and works with parents/carers/ families and pupils to listen to and understand barriers to attendance and works with families to remove them.

4. Academy Expectations and Procedures

• Daily Routines

- Pupils must arrive at the academy by 8.55am on each day
- Breakfast club is available at an additional charge between 8.00-8.45am
- Gates open 8.45am and close 8.55am (Nursery gates will open at 9.00am)
- Children enter the school grounds at 8.45 and go straight to classrooms (Nursery at 9.00am)
- Meet and greet by SLT on the school gates
- Staff meet and greet at classroom doors for registration time

4.1. Attendance Register

- Class teachers are required to take an electronic register at the beginning of each morning and afternoon session using Bromcom.

- The register for the first session will be taken at 8.55am and will be kept open until 9.00am
- Arrivals after 9.00am will be recorded as 'L'
- Arrivals after 9.30am will be recorded as 'U' – this will affect attendance percentage
- The register for the second session will be taken at 1.00pm and will be kept open until 1.05pm (KS1) or 1.15pm until 1.20pm (KS2).

4.2. Lates & Punctuality

- It is an expectation of the Academy that pupils will arrive on time and be ready to learn. Lateness and punctuality will be monitored daily.
- A pupil who arrives late, after the register has closed, will be marked as 'U,' unless another code is more appropriate due to the reason for lateness after register (such as unplanned medical).
- We may send a letter to parents/carers, by way of notification of our concerns in relation to their child's punctuality and may request a meeting to discuss the concerns in order to work together to resolve any issues.
- Persistent lateness can result in a significant amount of learning time being lost, resulting in gaps in learning and can also indicate a safeguarding concern. All class teachers must be alert to emerging patterns or concerns in relation to punctuality and inform both the Attendance Lead and Designated Safeguarding Lead if they have concerns. *(please refer to punctuality flowchart appendix 2)*

5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

5.1. Unplanned Absence

- It is an expectation of the academy that parents/ carers will notify the academy on the first day of an unplanned absence – for example, if their child is unable to attend due to ill health by 9.30am.
- Parents/ carers must keep in touch every day that their child cannot return to the academy, unless the academy has agreed otherwise. Parents/ carers can contact school in the following ways:
 - My Child at School app
 - telephone 0114 553 9110
 - in person at the School Office
- The reported absence message may be an answering phone service and as such a message can be left at any time. If a message is left it should include: Pupil's name, reason for absence, anticipated return date
- Absence due to illness will be authorised unless the academy has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.
- Only the Principal can authorise absence from the academy. Absence will not be authorised unless the reason you offer is accepted by the academy.
- Absences not reported will be followed up by the academy attendance / pastoral staff.

5.2. Planned Absences- Medical and Leave of Absence

Medical or dental appointments

- We encourage parents/ carers to make medical and dental appointments out of academy hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of academy for the minimum amount of time necessary. It is expected that parents/carers inform the

academy of the appointment as soon as possible; failure to do this may result in an unauthorised absence.

Leave of absence during term time

- By law, Principals cannot grant any leave of absence to pupils during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- **We define exceptional to mean very rare, unusual or unforeseeable circumstances.**
- The academy considers each application for term-time absence individually, considering the specific facts, circumstances, and relevant context behind the request. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the Principal's discretion.
- All parents/carers must complete a leave of absence form at least two weeks in advance and may be invited in the academy to discuss with a member of the attendance team.
- Extended leave of absence is considered to be absences that extend beyond two weeks. Parents/ carers will be invited into the academy for a meeting to discuss these requests.
- Taking leave in term time will affect pupil's education as much as any other absence and we expect parents to support the academy by not taking pupil's away in term time. Fixed Penalty notices may be issued for unauthorised leave of absence, such as holidays.

5.3. Valid reasons for authorised absence include:

- Illness and medical/dental appointments
- 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 academy 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 g 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 academy, but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision

5.4. Re-integration following Long-term Absence

- Where a pupil has been absent for a prolonged period, due to illness, the academy will:
 - Welcome the pupil back to the academy and value their return
 - Provide support for the pupil in consultation with parents/carers to enable a successful return to the academy.
 - Ensure that all relevant staff are informed of the circumstances.
 - Work with other agencies, where appropriate, to ensure a successful outcome.
 - Consider a personalised programme of return if appropriate
 - Nominate a key member of staff to monitor and review the pupil's return.

6. Strategies for Promoting Attendance

6.1. To promote high levels of attendance and to recognise individual and collective high attendance or improvement, Astrea Academy Sheffield uses a range of rewards and positive reinforcement strategies.

6.2. These include:

- Display of individual attendance with 100% attendance

- Display of class attendance
- Certificates
- Letters / Newsletters
- Celebration assemblies
- Reinforcement through prizes
- Inclusion in prize draws
- Special awards
- Postcards home
- Text messages home

6.3. The academy runs a breakfast club. This supports parents/ carers in ensuring good attendance and punctuality, by giving the opportunity to drop off pupils before the start of the academy day. Breakfast club operates from 8.00 to 8.45am and places must be booked in advance at the school office.

6.4. The 'Astrea Attendance Tree' **Appendix 3** is used to illustrate our whole academy attendance target and levels/percentages of pupil's attendance. The tree is used and displayed across the academy, by all staff. Pupils should be able to articulate which color level/percentage they are currently at and have opportunities to talk to staff about their attendance.

7. Safeguarding procedures - Following up absence

- 7.1. The academy will follow up any absences to ascertain the reason, ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary, identify whether the absence is approved or not and identify the correct attendance code to use.
- 7.2. The academy operates a "first day call" system. This will mean that all parents/carers can expect to be contacted on the first day of any absence if the academy has not been previously informed, via text/ My Child at School APP / telephone message.
- 7.3. First day absence texts/App messages calls are made within an hour of the register closing. If a child/young person is absent and parents/carers/primary contacts are uncontactable, the 1st and 2nd emergency contacts will be used.
- 7.4. If we are unable to establish the reason for absence via telephone and by 9.30am, we will follow the steps as set out within **Appendix 4** of this policy.
- 7.5. A Home-visit should always be considered on the first day of absence however if this has not been conducted, then on the second consecutive day of absence a home visit should be conducted (if a reason for absence has still not been established through both the primary and emergency contacts). At least two emergency contacts should be held for each child. The academy may also consult with the Police to request a 'Safe and Well' visit should contact not be made.
- 7.6. If through daily calls or home-visits, concerns arise regarding the need for Early Help support or a possible safeguarding concern is identified, the matter should be passed to the academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately (both verbally and recorded on CPOMS).
- 7.7. Any unexplained absences will be followed up on a weekly basis by way of a letter home.
- 7.8. If at any stage, further concerns are identified, and the attendance lead/DSL is unsure of what action to take, the Astrea Head of Safeguarding should be contacted for consultation.
- 7.9. If a pupil has a social worker or external family support worker that they should be contacted by the DSL on day of absence to inform and to agree actions to be taken to safeguard the pupil.

8. Children Missing in Education

- 8.1. The academy will always follow up with parents/carers when pupils are not at school. This means we need to have a least two up to date contacts numbers for parents/carers/emergency contacts. Parents should remember to update the academy as soon as possible if the numbers change.
- 8.2. All staff are informed of the Children Missing in Education Policy. This procedure is to be used for searching for, and if necessary, reporting, any pupil missing from the academy.
- 8.3. The academy recognises that a child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect, and will follow guidance from Annex B, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2023 and 'Children Missing Education' 2016 to promote their safety and wellbeing. The procedures in this policy will be followed when dealing with children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help to identify the risk of abuse and neglect and to help prevent the risk of them going missing in the future.
- 8.4. The academy shall inform the applicable Local Authority of any pupil who fails to attend the academy regularly, or has been absent without the academy's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more, at such intervals as are agreed between the academy and the Local Authority (or in default of such agreement, at intervals determined by the Secretary of State). *(Please refer to Appendix 5 of this policy and Appendix 4 of the Astrea Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy)*

9. Pupils with Medical conditions or Special Educational needs and disabilities

- 9.1. Some pupils face greater barriers to attendance than their peers. These can include pupils who suffer from long term medical conditions or who have educational needs and disabilities. At Astrea Academy Sheffield our ambition for good regular attendance applies to all pupils.
- 9.2. To support pupils with medical needs, the academy will:
 - Ensure the pupil has a comprehensive health care (or similar) plan which addresses medical, educational social, emotional and mental health needs, where needed.
 - Consider whether additional support from external agencies (including the Local Authority and health services) would be appropriate and work together with those services to deliver appropriate support.
 - Work with Local Authorities, families and pupils to develop support approaches and strategies for attendance for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities including access to provision outlined in the pupils education, health and care plan.
- 9.3. The academy will contact their Local Authority Education Welfare Service when it is clear that the pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative due to health needs, to establish additional support which may be required in order for pupils to continue their education.

10. Part Time Timetables

- 10.1. All pupils, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full-time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have.
- 10.2. In very exceptional circumstances there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet a pupil's 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.
- 10.3. A part-time timetable will not be treated as a long-term solution. Any individual support programme or other agreement will have a time limit by which point the pupil is expected to attend full-time.
- 10.4. There will be an identified lead person with responsibility for monitoring the part-time timetable
- 10.5. Part-time timetables will last no longer than 6 weeks and formal written reviews will take place at least fortnightly and will include the pupil, parents/carers and other professionals as appropriate.
- 10.6. In agreeing to a part-time timetable, the academy has agreed to a pupil being absent from the academy for part of the week or day and therefore must record it as authorised absence.

11. Nursery Education

- 11.1. Should a parent/carer choose to accept a nursery or reception place for their child, we strongly encourage good attendance. This ensures continuity of education and minimises disruption to learning.
- 11.2. If a child is under five and has been allocated a place in our academy, we expect parents to follow this attendance policy.

12. Monitoring Attendance

- 12.1. Senior Leaders and members of the attendance team regularly analyse attendance data to identify pupils with good and improving attendance and to provide additional support to pupils and pupil cohorts where attendance is causing a concern.

12.2. Daily Monitoring

- Jill Arezoo checks registers and contacts any family that has not informed school of their child's absence and follows set procedures. (*Appendix 3*)

12.3. Weekly Monitoring

- Whole school attendance is monitored and analysed on a weekly basis.
- Attendance patterns and trends are monitored through the 'Bromcom Dashboard' and 'Astrea Attendance Tracker' in order to provide intervention and support in a targeted way for individual pupils, families, cohorts and groups (including their punctuality) This data is analysed weekly by the attendance lead and as part of the academy 'Behaviour, Attendance, Safeguarding and Inclusion (BASI) meeting.
- BASI meetings are used to monitor individual pupil attendance and identify pupils who need support and identify staff and targeted actions for those cases.

- BASI meeting attendance data is shared weekly with class teachers to facilitate discussions with pupils.
- Individual pupil attendance is monitored to check on:
 - Improvement in attendance.
 - Patterns of non-attendance.
 - Number of absences.
 - Vulnerable pupils.
 - Pupils with low attendance.

12.4. Termly Monitoring

- Attendance Meetings are held each half term with Senior leaders, Attendance leads, Astrea Attendance Lead and as relevant the Local Authority attendance school support to monitor data and trends. This includes analysis of pupils and cohorts and identifying patterns in uses of attendance codes, days of poor attendance and from this data analysis devise specific interventions to address areas of poor attendance for individual cases / cohorts of pupils.
- The impact of school wide attendance strategies are monitored termly, this analysis is then used to inform future strategies linked to the attendance action plan and Academy Improvement Plan
- Attendance data, patterns and trends are reported to Local Governance Committees and Transition Management boards half termly.

13. Reporting to Parents / Carers

- To support parents / carers in meeting their legal requirements and to maximise individual pupil attendance, Astrea Academy Sheffield seeks to keep parents informed of their child's attendance and to actively involve parents with any attendance issues.
- Methods include:
 - Weekly texts to celebrate good and improving attendance
 - Active involvement by teaching staff
 - Discussion at Parents' Meetings/Evenings.
 - Weekly newsletters
 - Attendance is reported on annual reports
 - Absence letters asking for reasons for unexplained/unaccounted absences
 - Parent letters where attendance is of concern
 - Home visits
 - Parent meetings
- All parents / carers are encouraged to download the My Child at School App. This enables parents to track their child's attendance daily. The platform also has functionality for parents to report a child's absence and the reason for absence.

14. Unauthorised Attendance Procedures and Intervention

- Astrea Academy Sheffield uses a range of positive strategies and interventions to ensure the highest levels of attendance. However, when normal academy procedures do not result in good attendance, a range of further measures, including legal action, must be considered.
- Where attendance concerns have been identified or pupils are at risk of becoming Persistent Absentees the attendance team will contact any parent whose child's attendance is of concern, particularly where reasons for absence are not clear or are unauthorised.
- Parents / carers will be invited into the academy to meet the attendance team to discuss any problems with getting pupils to school -whether any help or support is needed to improve attendance and whether any multi agency support is needed.
- Pupils with medical or additional needs may need to be discussed further to make sure that the correct support is in place.
- A signed attendance plan may be written with the attendance lead and parent and will be given a period of time for attendance to improve and, if successful, no further involvement is needed.
- If attendance does not improve during this period of time, despite help being offered the academy will escalate to the Local Authority who can decide to take further action against any parent/carer, including legal action which may result in fines or a summons to Magistrates' Court.

(See appendix 6 for escalation procedures)

15. Legal Sanctions

- The local authority can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from academy, where the child is of compulsory academy age.
- If issued with a penalty notice, parents / carers must pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority.
- The decision on whether to issue a penalty notice rests with the Principal, following the local authority's code of conduct for issuing penalty notices **Appendix 5**. This may take into account:
 - A number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year
 - One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as Leave of Absence, for example holidays) taken in term time without permission
 - Where an excluded pupil is found in a public place during academy hours without a justifiable reason
- If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the Local Authority can decide whether to prosecute the parent / carer or withdraw the notice (this is in consultation with the Academy)

16. Roles and Responsibilities

16.1. The Trust

- The Trust is responsible for monitoring attendance figures for the whole academy on at least a half termly basis. It also holds the Principal to account for the implementation of this policy.
- Attendance data is presented at every Transition Management Board (TMB) or Local Governance Committee (LGC) meeting with Trust representatives and local committee members present.
- Trust Attendance Leads – work alongside academy attendance leaders to prioritise attendance improvement strategies and whole school cultures.

- Trust Attendance Leads ensure academy regular training on attendance is available for academy staff.

16.2. The Local Education and Consultative Committee / Transition Management Board

- Identify a member to take responsibility for attendance
- Receive reports from the Principal and review the working of the policy
- Regularly review attendance data and help leaders focus support on the pupils who need it.
- Ensure that the policy is promoted and implemented throughout the academy and is known by the parents.

16.3. The Principal

- The Principal is responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented consistently across the academy, and for monitoring school-level absence data, reporting it to the Trust and the TMB/LGC.
- The Principal will oversee, direct and co-ordinate the academy's work in promoting regular and improved attendance and will ensure the Attendance Policy is consistently applied.
- The Principal will develop and maintain and whole school culture that promotes the benefit of good attendance and maintains this ambition for all pupils.
- The Principal supports staff in monitoring the attendance of individual pupils, cohorts and vulnerable groups.
- The Principal will set attendance targets as part of the Academy Development Plan and target-setting process and monitor and evaluate progress towards these targets.
- The Principal will ensure that there is a dedicated senior leader in the academy with responsibility for championing and improving attendance.
- The Principal will ensure that strategies are in place to promote attendance and implement the policy throughout the academy
- The Principal will determine (in collaboration with relevant senior staff) whether to authorise any proposed absences requested , or absences which have taken place for which no request was made
- The Principal will notify parents / carers as appropriate if a pupil fails to attend regularly
- The Principal will liaise (in collaboration with relevant staff) with the appropriate multi-agencies (including the Local Authority's agencies) where necessary in order to improve attendance or where support is not working follow the Local Authorities legal intervention procedures.

16.4. The Strategic Attendance Lead will:

- Work with all attendance staff to ensure this policy is implemented consistently
- Develop and maintain and whole school culture that promotes the benefit of good attendance
- Ensure good attendance is promoted and rewarded
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents
- Ensure admission and attendance registers are accurately completed
- Proactively use data to identify cohorts with, or at risk of low attendance and develop strategies to support them.
- Monitor and evaluate progress towards attendance targets as part of the Academy Development Plan and target-setting process

- Ensure that weekly attendance is tracked at BASI meetings and appropriate action is taken as a result
- Ensure additional support and adjustments are made where required for pupils with additional needs.
- Make regular checks on absence notes and the reasons for absence
- Arrange appropriate training for staff
- Advise the Principal on any strategies that could be initiated or improved
- Ensure that unaccounted-for absences are followed up appropriately
- Work with staff, identified pupils and families at risk of poor attendance to understand and address reasons for absence, including any in school barriers to attendance.
- Hold formal meetings with parents / carers where attendance is not improving.
- Will liaise (in collaboration with relevant staff) with the appropriate bodies (including the Local Authority's agencies) where necessary in order to improve attendance

16.5. The Attendance Lead / Pastoral Support will:

- Monitor attendance data at academy and individual pupil level on a daily basis
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents
- Report concerns regarding attendance and safeguarding to SLT/ Designated Safeguarding lead
- Ensure good attendance is promoted and rewarded
- Input / check daily attendance figures and follow robustly the daily procedures for following up attendance
- Ensure admission and attendance registers are accurately completed
- Ensure that unaccounted-for absences are followed up appropriately
- Work with staff, identified pupils and families at risk of poor attendance to understand and address reasons for absence, including any in school barriers to attendance.
- Arrange calls and meetings with parents to discuss attendance concerns
- Inform parents/ carers of pupils if attendance is a concern
- Hold informal / formal meetings with parents/ carers where attendance is not improving.
- Monitor the attendance tracker on a weekly basis and input any actions taken
- Contact parents over pupil absence patterns where appropriate
- Liaise with the Attendance Lead over training needs
- Produce attendance data / statistics for the Attendance Lead and Principal
- Signpost and support access to multi agency services where attendance is a concern
- Work with Local Authority Education Welfare Officers to tackle persistent absence
- Work with pupils / parents on attendance plans, strategies and interventions to improve attendance.
- Act as lead practitioner in order to support families where school is best placed lead service
- Take an active part in multi-agency efforts with the Local Authority and other agencies as required.
- Contribute to the evaluation of academy strategies and interventions

16.6. Office / Admin Staff

- Take calls from parents / carers about absence and record it on Bromcom in a timely manner.
- Retrieve messages from the App and record on Bromcom in a timely manner.
- Inform attendance leads for reasons of pupil absence
- Follow first day absence procedures as outlined in the policy

- Report concerns regarding attendance and safeguarding to SLT/ Designated Safeguarding lead
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents/ carers

16.7. Class Teachers will:

- Record attendance daily in Bromcom, using the correct codes, and submit this information in a timely manner.
- Reward and promote attendance and maintain a positive culture towards attendance
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents/ carers
- Hold regular conversations with pupils to promote attendance and identify any barriers to attendance
- Raise any concerns regarding absence and or punctuality with the attendance lead
- Have initial conversations with parents/pupils regarding attendance concerns
- Direct parents / carers to the school office / attendance lead to report absences
- Work with attendance / pastoral staff on interventions / adaptations for individual pupils to improve attendance.
- Liaise with attendance staff regarding information that may affect a pupils attendance and where the authenticity of an illness/ absence is in doubt.

16.8. Parents / carers are required to:

- Ensure their child attends every day the academy is open unless they are too ill to do so or have an authorised absence
- To not arrange leave of absence during term time
- To immediately inform the academy if their child is unable to attend before 9.30am, including the reason for absence
- Continue to liaise with the academy on each day of absence unless agreed otherwise by the academy
- Wherever possible make medical appointments outside of school hours
- Ask the academy for support if their child is experiencing difficulties
- Attend and meet with academy staff with regards to attendance
- Inform the academy of any change in circumstance that may impact on their child's attendance.
- Ensure that all contact numbers held by the academy are up to date.
- Form a positive relationship with academy staff, recognising the importance of good attendance.

17. Statutory and Regulatory Framework

This policy meets the requirements of the school attendance guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on school attendance parental responsibility measures. These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023](#)
- [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) \(England\) Regulations 2014](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)
- [School attendance Guidance: Working together to Improve School Attendance](#)
- [School attendance parental responsibility measures Statutory guidance for local authorities, school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and the police January 2015 \(update May 2020\)](#)
- [Children Missing Education 2016](#)

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education Act 2002](#)
- [The Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2011](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2016](#)
- [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

18. Associated Policies

18.1. This policy should not be seen in isolation but is a strand that underpins all other policies related to the well-being of children including safeguarding, behaviour, anti-bullying and support for children with medical needs.

18.2. This Policy should be read alongside the Academy's:

- Astrea Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Astrea Inclusion Policy
- Astrea Exclusion Policy
- Academy Behaviour Policy
- Missing Pupils Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy

18.3. Policy Monitoring arrangements

- This policy has been authorised by the Trustees of Astrea Academy Trust, is published on the Academy website and is available in hard copy to parents on request. This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required. This policy and its procedures apply to all Astrea Primary Academy Trust schools, whilst taking account of the local context and Local Authority procedures and code of conduct for attendance escalation such as the the issue of fixed penalties.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Trust and adapted by the Principal. At every review, the policy will be shared with the TMB/LECC.

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| Authorised by | Rachel Flemming |
| Date | 01 September 2023 |

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| Effective date of the policy | 01 September 2023 |
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Appendix 1: attendance codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's guidance on school attendance.

| Code | Definition | Scenario |
|------|-------------------------------|---|
| / | Present (am) | Pupil is present at morning registration |
| \ | Present (pm) | Pupil is present at afternoon registration |
| L | Late arrival | Pupil arrives late before register has closed |
| B | Off-site educational activity | Pupil is at a supervised off-site educational activity approved by the school |
| D | Dual registered | Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered |
| J | Interview | Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment |
| P | Sporting activity | Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school |
| V | Educational trip or visit | Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised, or approved, by the school |
| W | Work experience | Pupil is on a work experience placement |

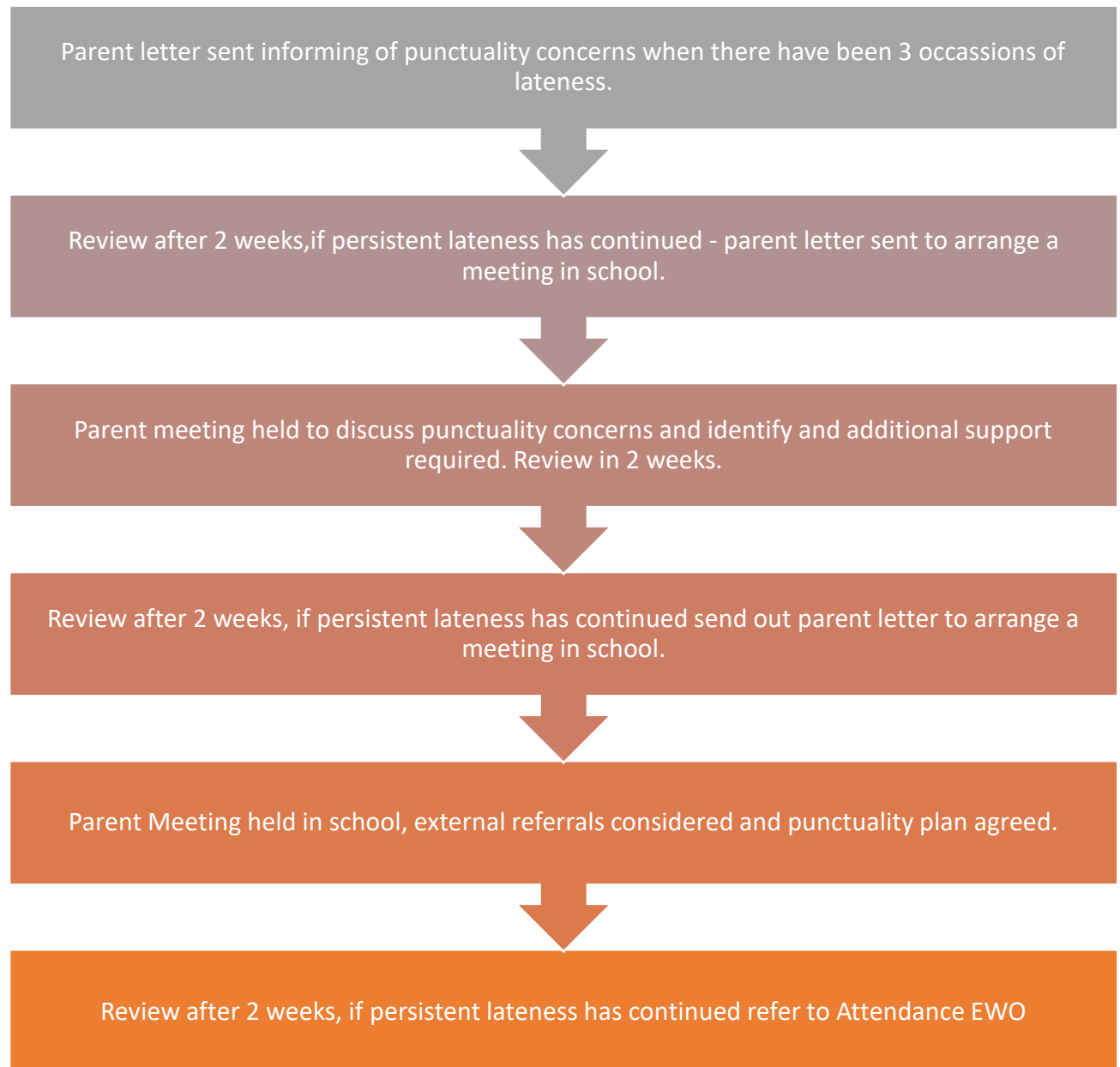
| Code | Definition | Scenario |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Authorised absence | | |
| C | Authorised leave of absence | Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances |
| E | Excluded / Suspended | Pupil has been suspended/ excluded but no alternative provision has been made |
| H | Authorised holiday | Pupil has been allowed to go on holiday due to exceptional circumstances |
| I | Illness | School has been notified that a pupil will be absent due to illness (not medical or dental appointment) |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| M | Medical/dental appointment | Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment |
| R | Religious observance | Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance |
| S | Study leave | Year 11 pupil is on study leave during their public examinations |
| T | Gypsy, Roma and Traveller absence | Pupil from a Traveller community is travelling, as agreed with the school |
| Unauthorised absence | | |
| G | Unauthorised holiday | Pupil is on a holiday that was not approved by the school |
| N | Reason not provided | Pupil is absent for an unknown reason (this code should be amended when the reason emerges, or replaced with code O if no reason for absence has been provided after a reasonable amount of time) |
| O | Unauthorised absence | No reason for absence established or the school is not satisfied that the reason is an authorised absence |
| U | Arrival after registration | Pupil arrived at school after the register closed |

| Code | Definition | Scenario |
|-------------|---|--|
| X | Not required to be in school | Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend |
| Y | Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances | School site is closed, there is disruption to travel as a result of a local/national emergency, or pupil is in custody |
| Z | Pupil not on admission register | Register set up but pupil has not yet joined the school |
| # | Planned school closure | Whole or partial school closure due to half-term/bank holiday/INSET day |



Appendix 2 – Punctuality Flowchart



Did not attend the meeting / Refused Support or to engage / Failed to improve punctuality. If still no improvement after this process refer to LA. The LA would require a breakdown of 'U' codes, how much learning lost and how this is impacting on the child academically and socially. What is the number of 'O' and 'U' codes? Has a referral to Social Care been considered?

Appendix 3 – Astrea Attendance Tree

Astrea Attendance Tree

Whole Academy Attendance
From.....

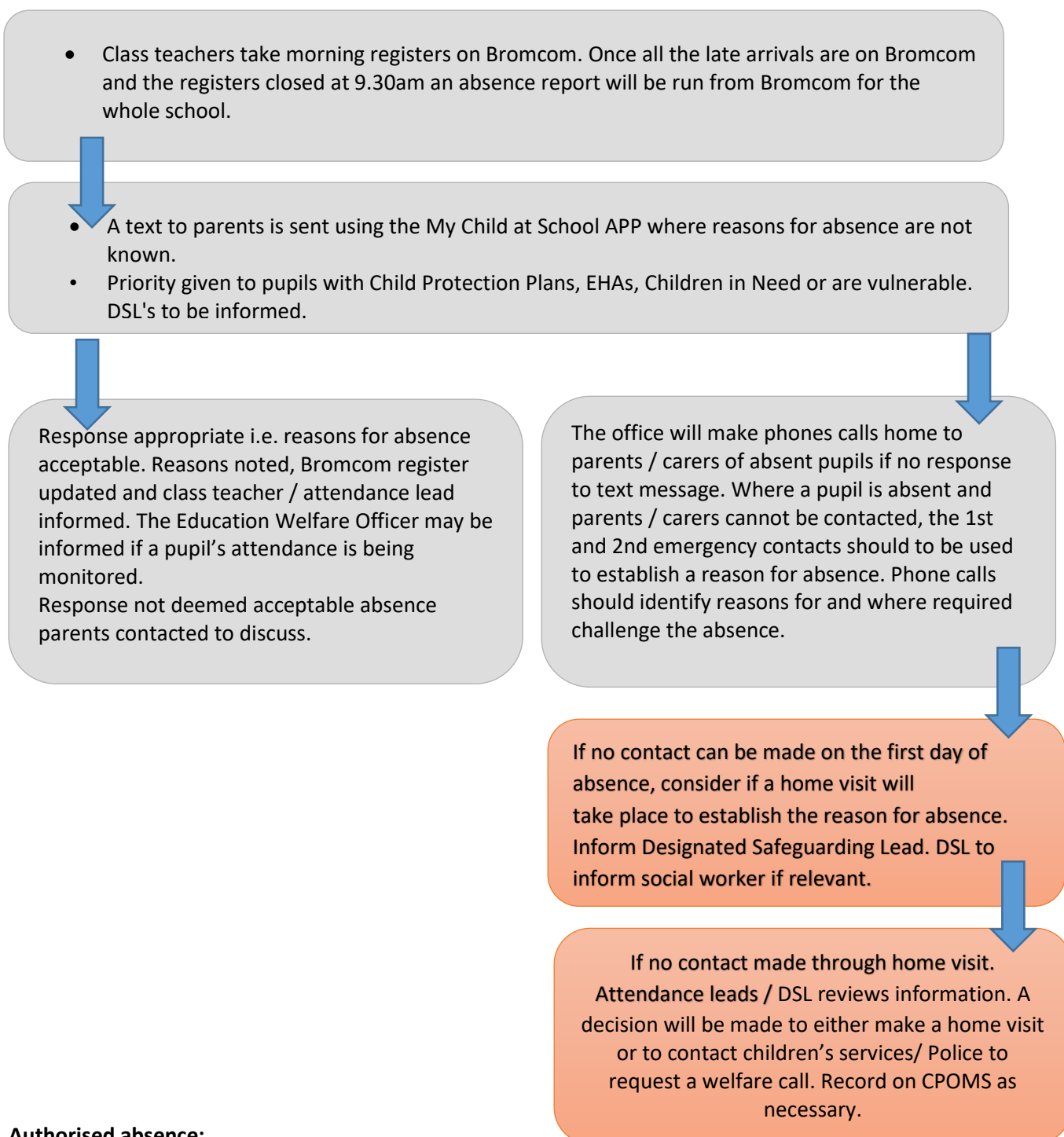
Equates to:



Class.....
Whole Class Attendance

Appendix 4 – First Day Calling Procedures

First Day Response: Persons Responsible: Jill Arezoo



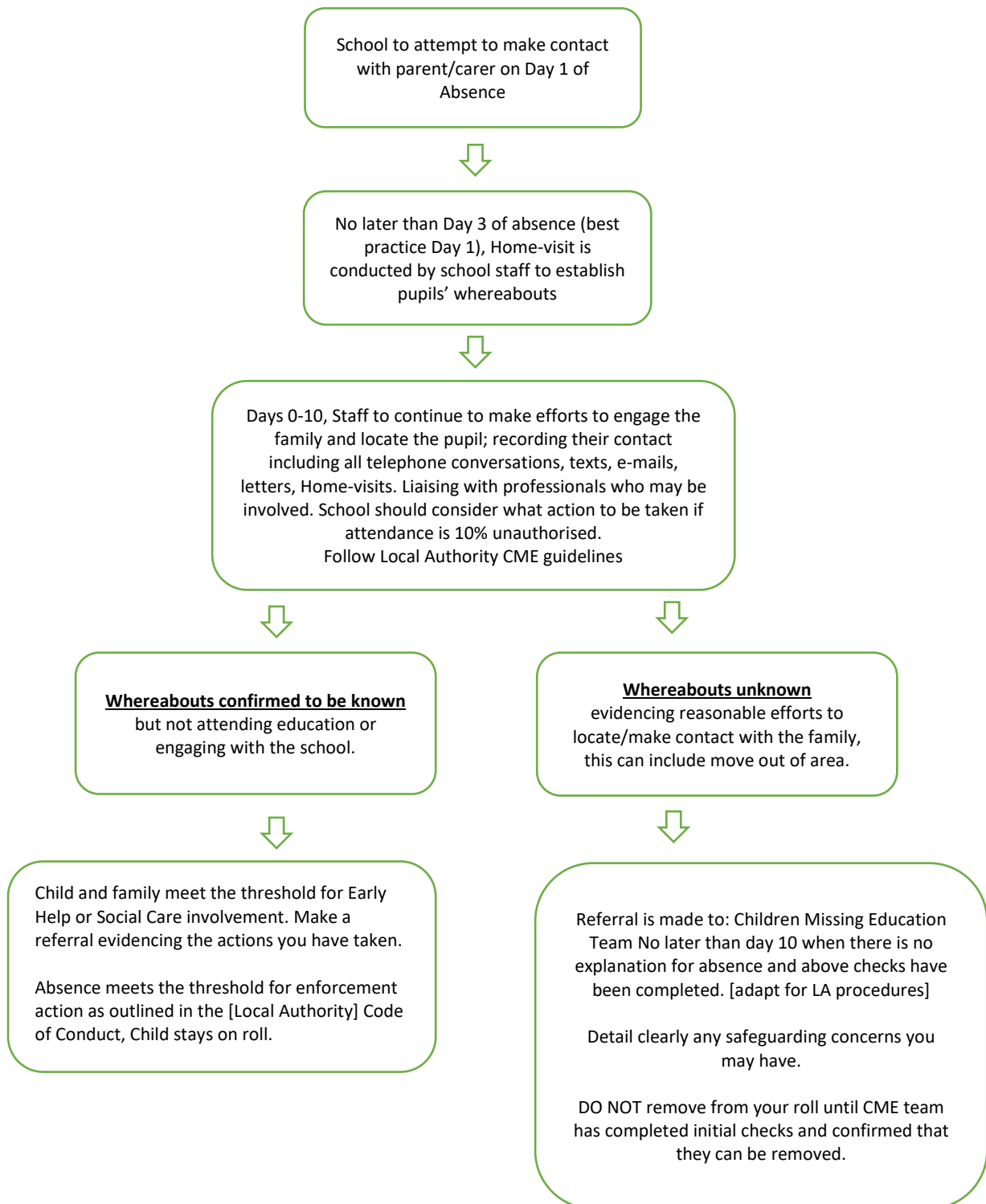
Authorised absence:

An absence is classified as authorised when a child has been away from school for a legitimate reason and the school has received notification from a parent or carer. Only the school can make an absence authorised. Consequently, not all absences supported by parents will be classified as authorised.

Unauthorised absence:

School have the right to record a child's absence as unauthorised if there has been no contact from the parent or carer or if the reason provided for the absence is not accepted by school. Parents are to be made aware that merely providing an explanation for their child's absence does not automatically constitute an 'authorisation' for this absence. This is the school's decision.

Appendix 5 – Children Missing in Education Flowchart





Appendix 6 – Attendance Monitoring and Intervention

| Number of days absence (in full academic year) | Attendance at year end: | Responsible | Actions: |
|--|-------------------------|---|--|
| 0 days absence | 100% – | SLT Class teachers Pastoral Staff | Warm welcome Praise for good attendance Rewards – stickers, acknowledgement Positive text messages Attendance celebrations |
| 3 days absence (6 sessions absent) | 98.4% | | Request reasons for absences from parents and update Bromcom |
| 4 days absence (8 sessions absent) | 97.8 % | Office/ attendance staff Pastoral staff | 4 days absence – Parents informed of pupil attendance (Letter 1) Expressing concerns about attendance in the academy. Informing the parent/carers of current attendance level. Reminding parents/carers of their legal responsibility & the nature of “persistent absence”. Welcoming the parents/carers to arrange contact with the academy if they wish to discuss attendance further. Attendance is monitored. Attendance monitoring Praise for good attendance Attendance rewards (No further day’s absence for rest of year = 98.4% attendance) |
| 7 days absence (14 sessions absent) | 96.3% | Attendance Lead | 12/14 sessions: 6/7 days absence: Parents invited into the academy Letter 2 meeting to discuss attendance concerns and advise that no further absences to be authorised without medical proof. Additional support for attendance discussed and attendance action plan agreed for a specified time period (4 weeks) Individual attendance target set, praise and rewards for improving attendance. Attendance continues to be monitored. (No further day’s absence for rest of year = 96.8%/ 96.3%) If attendance becomes a concern prior to the 4 week review, continue to the next stage immediately |
| 8 days absence (16 sessions absent) | 95.7% | SLT Lead/ LA Representative | 18/20 sessions: 9/10 days absence: After 4 week review (or shorter as appropriate) attendance remains a concern, parents invited to a formal attendance panel in school. Local Authority representative may be in attendance. Support and external agency support identified, Early Help support offered. Date for review of attendance contract to be agreed. (No further day’s absence for rest of year = 95.2%/ 94.7%) If attendance becomes a concern prior to the 4 week review, continue to the next stage immediately |
| 13 days absence (26 sessions absent) | 93.1% | | |
| 14 days absence (28 sessions absent) | 92.6% | | 14 days absence Attendance remains a concern at the 4 week review Parents notified that the academy will be referring to the EWO services in the local authority and at risk of legal intervention procedures. |
| 20 days absence (40 sessions absent) | 89.4% | | |
| 21+ days absence | Under 89% | | Consult with Local Authority - legal intervention procedures |

Appendix 6b - Attendance Monitoring and Intervention

4 days absence

- Parents are informed that pupil attendance has dropped and invitation to discuss any concerns with school.

Attendance not improved - 7 days absence

- Parents/ Carers are now invited to a meeting in school with the Attendance Officer (Letter 2)

Parent Meeting

- Parents invited into the academy Letter 2 meeting to discuss attendance concerns and advise that no further absences to be authorised without supporting evidence
- Additional support for attendance discussed and attendance action plan agreed for a specified time period (4 weeks)
- Individual attendance target set, praise and rewards for improving attendance.

Attendance Improves

- Attendance has improved, pupils receive praise and rewards for improving attendance, parents notified of improving attendance, however child's attendance will still be monitored.

Attendance not improved - 10 days absence

- Letter 3 Meeting. After 4 week review attendance remains a concern, parents invited to a formal attendance panel in school with [insert relevant staff] Local Authority representative may be in attendance
- Support and external agency support identified, Early Help support offered. Date for review of attendance contract to be agreed.

Attendance Improves

- Attendance has improved, pupils receive praise and rewards for improving attendance, parents notified of improving attendance, however child's attendance will still be monitored

Attendance has Not Improved

- Attendance remains a concern at the 4 week review
- Parents notified that the academy will be referring to the Local Authority. Legal process is followed and Penalty Warnings and / or a summons to court may be required.

Appendix 7 LA code of conduct for the use of Fixed penalties

INSERT your LA code of conduct or summary of key points and hyperlink

School Attendance, Unauthorised Leave of Absence and Excluded Pupils Present in a Public Place during School Hours.

The LA has the prime responsibility for developing a Code of Conduct within which all partners named in the Act will operate. The Multi Agency Support Teams in Children and Families Service delivers this LA responsibility.

Rationale: 1.1 Regular and punctual attendance of pupils at school is both a legal requirement and is essential in order for pupils to maximise the educational opportunities available to them. Sheffield City Council (the “LA”) will continue to investigate cases of regular absence from school and following appropriate casework intervention, will instigate legal action if applicable. The Multi Agency Support Teams in Children and Families Service delivers this LA responsibility. ‘Section 7 Education Act 1996 - parents are responsible for making sure that their children of compulsory school age receive efficient full time education that is suitable to the child’s age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs the child may have.’

1.2 In law, an offence occurs if a parent/carer or person with parental responsibility fails to secure a child’s attendance at a school at which they are a registered pupil and that absence is not authorised by the school.

1.3 Also in law, an offence occurs if a parent/carer or person with parental responsibility fails to ensure that their child is not present in a public place during school hours, without reasonable justification during the first 5 days of a fixed period of exclusion and for permanent exclusion.

1.4 Penalty Notices supplement the existing sanctions currently available under Section 444, Education Act 1996 or Section 36, the Children Act 1989 to enforce attendance at school where appropriate, subject to statutory defences

1.6 Parents and pupils are supported at school and the LA will work to overcome barriers to regular attendance through a wide continuum of assessment and intervention strategies. Sanctions of any nature are for use only where parental co-operation in this process is either absent, or deemed insufficient to resolve the presenting problem.

1.7 Sanctions are never used as a punishment, only as a means of enforcing attendance where there is a reasonable expectation that their use will secure an improvement.

1.8 In order to comply with Human Rights legislation, it is essential that Penalty Notice Fines are issued in a consistent manner. This Code of Conduct will govern the issuing of Penalty Notice Fines for Sheffield City Council, in respect of poor school attendance, unauthorised absence from school, for leave taken in term time and for Excluded pupils.

1.9 Schools should have regard to the Exceptional Leave during Term-time Policy and operate within the framework of the policy.

2. Legal Frameworks:

2.1 The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007 came into force on 1 September 2007 and set out the form and content of the notices, how they are to be served and the level of penalty that applies.

2.2 The issuing of Penalty Notices must conform to all requirements of the Human Rights Act and Race, Equality and Disability Legislation.

2.3 The LA procedures apply to parents of children of compulsory school age who are registered at a maintained school, an Academy or Trust school, Pupil Referral Unit (Sheffield's Inclusion Centre), or at any registered alternative provision.

There are two circumstances in which penalty notices can be issued, these are school attendance and school exclusion. They both require the LA to be satisfied that the parents have committed an offence.

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/sites/default/files/docs/schools-and-childcare/attendance/Fixed%20Penalty%20Notices%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20%282015%29%20new.pdf>

Appendix 8 – Attendance Letters
INSERT your attendance letters