



St Catherine of Siena Catholic School Attendance & Punctuality Policy

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| Person responsible | Mrs Sue Leck |
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Signed: S Leck
Headteacher

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Contact Details

The name and contact details of the senior leader responsible for the strategic approach to attendance in our school is:

Name Mrs Sue Leck

Contact Details 01942 671 528 enquiries@admin.lowtonsaintcatherines.wigan.sch.uk

The name and contact details of the school staff member pupils and parents should contact about attendance on a day-to-day basis is:

Name Mrs Denise Gradwell

Contact Details 01942 671528/ enquiries@admin.lowtonsaintcatherines.wigan.sch.uk

The name and contact details of the school staff member pupils and parents should contact for more individual support with attendance is our Pastoral Teacher

Name Mrs Angela Penn

Contact Details 01942 671528 enquiries@admin.lowtonsaintcatherines.wigan.sch.uk

We are committed to ensuring that systems and processes are in place regarding promoting attendance and would encourage parents to make contact with school as soon as possible if they have any concerns about their child.

Introduction and Aim

Introduction

The Governors and staff at our school expect all children on roll to attend every day, when the school is in session, as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so. We do all we can to encourage the children to attend, and to put in place appropriate procedures. We believe that the most important factor in promoting good attendance is development of positive attitudes towards school. To this end, we strive to make our school a happy and rewarding experience for all children. We will reward those children whose attendance is very good. We will also make the best provision we can for those children who, for whatever reason, are prevented from coming to school. 'This is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment'. Working Together to Improve School Attendance (Statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities) August 2024 At Lowton West we believe that successfully treating the root cause of absence and removing barriers to attendance, at home, in school or more broadly requires schools and local partners to work together in partnership with families.

St Catherine's recognises the importance of good attendance and the impact it has on children's progress, attainment, enjoyment of learning and relationships within school. Good attendance helps children to realise their potential and ensures they are motivated, confident, and able to enjoy a diverse range of curricular opportunities and experiences. Children must attend school every day during term time unless an exceptional circumstance applies.

Our school policy and information promotes good attendance, which is recognised and rewarded as an achievement. The school monitors attendance to ensure quick and early intervention if a problem is identified. We recognise that whole school preventative and proactive approaches are key to promoting the children's wellbeing and attendance.

Our policy is accessible to leaders, staff, pupils, and parents, and is published on our school website. Please find a copy via this link [Attendance page - school website](#) . It will be sent to parents with any initial information when pupils join the school, and they will be reminded of it at the beginning of each school year. Parents/Carers will be informed if any updates are made to this policy.

The school recognises that barriers to attendance evolve quickly and as such this policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

This Policy is based on the premise of equal opportunities for all.

Legal Duty

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 to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at school or by education otherwise than at school.

Regular and punctual attendance at school is essential to enable children to maximise their educational attainment, opportunities, and further development.

Relevant Legislation and Legal Background:

- Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that '*The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him/her to receive efficient full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise*'.
- Section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1996 states that '*if a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school his parent is guilty of an offence*'.
- Section 576 Education Act 1996 stipulates that for the purposes of Education Law, parent includes:
 - All biological parents, whether they are married or not.
 - Any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or

other relative.

- any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person. This could be one parent, both parents and/or carers.

School commitment

Everyone in school is committed to promoting the importance of good attendance and punctuality.

We will support pupils and parents to achieve good attendance and punctuality, and we will work closely with parents where absence is a cause for concern.

St Catherine's Primary School strives for 100% attendance for all pupils. The whole school attendance target is **96%**.

We are committed to promoting a positive and welcoming atmosphere in which all pupils feel safe, secure, and valued. We will ensure that attendance is monitored effectively and reasons for absences are recorded promptly and consistently.

We will work with all pupils and their parents to maximise attendance and where necessary, we will put in place additional support and adjustments. If required we will engage additional support from wider services and external partners, making timely referrals.

Recording attendance

We will keep an attendance register and place all pupils onto this register. We will take our attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session. During both the first and second session we will record whether each pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved educational activity.
- Absent; or
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

The school will follow up any absences to:

- Ascertain the reason for absence.
- Ensure the proper safeguarding action is taken.
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not.
- Identify the correct code to use before entering it on to the school's electronic register, or management information system as a priority and returned to the school office in a timely manner. This is used to download data to the School Census.
- Consider early identification, assessment, intervention, and support processes that may need to be implemented.

The register is marked using the codes as advised by the Department for Education (DfE) 'Working together to improve School Attendance Guidance' (for maintained schools, academies,

independent schools, and local authorities), for further information, please visit – [working together to improve attendance](#)

Procedure

Children are expected to attend school regularly, unless there is good reason for absence. There are two types of absence:

- Authorised (where the school approves a pupil absence)
- Unauthorised (where school will not approve the absence)

The school has a duty to safeguard all pupils. If a child is absent, the parents/carers must inform the school on the first day of absence and each following day of absence, stating the reason.

Parents/Carers should phone school on the morning of the first day of absence and each following day of absence unless it has been agreed by school that this is not necessary if the absence is or likely to be long term.

Parents should call Densie Gradwell who is responsible for the day-to-day monitoring of attendance and will work with the pastoral team and wider staff to support attendance.

In the event a child is absent from school and the parent/carer has not notified the school of the absence, the school office will contact home as soon as possible. If no contact is established or the reason for absence is not accepted, the absence will be deemed unauthorised. Should contact be established later with parent and a reason for absence is provided, the school may amend this to authorised if they are satisfied with the reason given.

Please be aware that when a parent telephones the school with information that their child is unable to attend due to illness, or other circumstances, this may not be automatically authorised. Your child's current and previous school attendance will be taken into consideration and, as a result, the absence may be unauthorised. **The head teacher or a member of staff instructed by the head teacher can make the decision to authorise or un-authorise an absence. Please be aware that when a parent telephones the school with information that their child is unable to attend due to illness, or other circumstances, this may not be automatically authorised. Your child's current and previous school attendance will be taken into consideration and as a result the absence may be unauthorised.**

Communication between Parents/Carers and School

Communication between parents/carers and the school is extremely important as this enables us to ensure that children are supported and feel settled in school. If your child is absent, you must inform the school immediately in line with the procedure as outlined above.

As a school we recognise that building respectful relationships with families and working in collaboration is essential to ensuring the best outcomes for children/young people. We require all parents to actively support the work of the school, including promoting attendance and

engagement. We are committed to ensuring that systems and processes are in place with regards to promoting attendance and would encourage parents to make contact if they have concerns about their child.

In the event there is a persistent lack of engagement by parents, we may seek to secure engagement and school attendance through formal legal procedures.

Absence monitoring

School robustly monitors and analyses attendance data to promptly identify and address possible concerns. This allows for early interventions to support the child/family's underlying needs.

This monitoring will include:

- Weekly attendance code analysis
- Weekly analysis of types of persistent absence
- Specific cohort and group monitoring – particularly for vulnerable groups i.e. children with a social worker

Absence monitoring allows the school to use data to identify individuals who need support and to work towards reducing persistent and severe absence.

Persistent Absence (PA)

A pupil is classified as a persistent absentee if they miss 10% or more of their own possible sessions. In response to this and to try and prevent pupils from falling into this category, the school tracks and monitors any pupils who have an attendance figure of 95% and under. Pupils are closely monitored, and appropriate interventions are made. This includes, letters, phone calls, home visits and meetings.

After all appropriate interventions have been sort alongside parents/carers and attendance remains a concern, we may refer to Wigan Council's Attendance Team.

Early Identification and Intervention: assess, plan, do, review.

Every pupil has a right to a full-time education and St Catherine's sets high attendance expectations for all pupils. St Catherine's will consider the individual needs of pupils and their families who have specific barriers to attendance.

For any child / young person who is absent from school, it is essential to fully understand the reasons for this so that targeted, evidence-based interventions and support can be put into place. All staff have a part to play in promoting attendance. We recognise the importance of ensuring that key members of staff from across the school, including class teachers, attendance, pastoral and SEND staff work in collaboration to consider and identify the holistic needs of the child/young person and to overcome barriers to attendance. In accordance with the principles of early intervention, a graduated approach of assess, plan, do and review will be followed, utilising a range of school-based resources, evidence-based interventions and seeking advice and support

from external services at an appropriate stage, where required.

Appropriate assessments will be important to help understand the underlying reasons that may be contributing to attendance difficulties. This may be an assessment that focuses on the individual child's needs and will include the views of the child/young person as well as parents/carers and identify strengths (what is working well) and needs (what is working less well).

Assessments undertaken may identify that a child/young person is experiencing underlying emotional based needs that are contributing to non-attendance. As a school we will access appropriate guidance developed by Wigan Local Authority in respect of this: Emotionally Based School Attendance – best practice tool. This is a whole school framework with a graduated approach to support the early identification and intervention of children/young people who may struggle to cope in school/attend school.

Information from assessments will inform a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Targets) action plan with focussed targets developed in partnership with families, and other services as appropriate. For example, Start Well and Social Care may have a part to play in the delivery of support and intervention to promote engagement and attendance. SMART plans should be personalised to effectively meet a child / young person's needs and improve attendance and wellbeing outcomes.

Regular reviews of support and attendance plans are essential to monitor the impact of interventions and to adjust these accordingly. If, despite targeted support and intervention, attendance and wellbeing concerns persist, we may seek further advice and support from external services including mental health services, specialist teaching and education services.

Medical absence

Absence due to sickness must be reported to the school by phone on the first day of absence. The school must be kept informed during longer periods of absence. School will contact parents during the first day if no satisfactory reason for absence has been received.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose, or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. Please read this link for further information [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health/a-z/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/)

If a medical absence is likely to be ongoing or long term, we will offer support in accordance with the school's and Local Authority's policies relating to children with health needs. As a school we need to plan how children can access education during periods of long-term absence and how and when the child will return to school. School will make reasonable adjustments for pupils where necessary and appropriate.

To ensure we have the appropriate pathway of support we will follow our 'Early identification' model and implement an individual plan tailored to a child's medical needs to enable access to suitable education.

As a school we will adhere to the Local Authority policy [Education of pupils with medical needs \(wigan.gov.uk\)](http://wigan.gov.uk) This policy includes a graduated response, supporting inclusive practice across all settings to ensure children's continued links to their education provider when their health needs may impact their access to education.

Absences due to Medical Appointments

We request that where possible, any dental, GP and other medical appointments are made outside of school time. If it is imperative that such an appointment must be arranged to take place in school time, we request that details of the same are provided to us as soon as possible.

Lateness and punctuality

School begins at 8:55am and all pupils are expected to be in school for registration at that time.

- Register taken at 9:00am
- Registers close at 9:30am

Any pupil arriving at school after the end of their class's registration period, will need to inform the school office that they are late. There will not be staff available to supervise latecomers after the gates have closed.

Parents need to inform school of the reason for lateness (via the school office).

Any queries in relation to a pupil's lateness will be followed up by the school office staff, or Pastoral and Safeguarding Manager.

Pupils at St Catherine's are expected to arrive on time every day.

In order to support and encourage this, staff members will regularly monitor the school gates and late arrivals.

All pupils' punctuality will be tracked by number of sessions late and monitored. Any pupil who is arriving late on a regular basis will be followed up with the appropriate intervention. This could include letters, phone calls, home visits and meetings in school

- If pupils are not in class when the register is taken, they will be coded as 'L'.
- If pupils arrive after registers close, they will be coded as 'U'.

Children who are consistently late for school are disrupting not only their own education, but also that of other children. Where persistent lateness gives cause for concern, parents/carers will be invited to a meeting to resolve the issues. If there is no improvement following this meeting, further action will be taken which may include referral to external agencies.

Unauthorised absence

An absence may be coded as 'unauthorised' if:

- no reason for absence has been given.

- reason for absence is deemed insufficient by School.
 - a request for a leave of absence has been unauthorised.
 - a pupil arrives at school after registration has closed at 9.30am
-
- Parents/carers should be aware that St Catherine's may contact the Local Authority if a pupil has 10 or more unauthorised absences within a rolling 10 school week period, with a view to issuing an Education Penalty Notice or other legal action. There has been an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.
 - If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
 - If a parent then commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them

[Consequences of not attending school \(wigan.gov.uk\)](http://wigan.gov.uk)

Incentives and Rewards for good attendance

At St Catherine's we believe it is important to recognise good attendance and provide incentives and recognition for those with good attendance.

- Attendance league – this runs over each half term and tracks cumulative class attendance. The winning class each half term receive a treat afternoon.
- Any class who complete a full week of 100% attendance come to school in their own clothes the following Monday.
- Children with 100% attendance across a half term are rewarded with recognition and a certificate/sticker.
- Children with 100% attendance across the year, at the end of each term a raffle takes place and 1 name is picked out and the child receives an Amazon voucher of increasing amounts. Autumn term - £10, Spring term - £20 and summer term £30

Application for leave of absence

A Head Teacher may not grant any leave of absence (holiday) during term time unless it is deemed that there are exceptional circumstances.

The Head Teacher will determine what constitutes an exceptional circumstance on an individual basis. If parents/carers need to request a Leave of Absence, they must complete a 'Leave of Absence' form available from the school office. It should be noted that if any application is declined and absence occurs of a consecutive 5 or more unauthorised days, then school may apply to the Local Authority for an Education Penalty Notice to be issued to each parent/carer.

The following will not be deemed to be exceptional circumstances:

- Family holiday
- Availability of less expensive holiday
- Availability of holiday accommodation
- Parent/carer's working commitments
- Holiday pre-booked by another family member

A child's absence during term time seriously disrupts their continuity of learning. Not only do they miss the teaching on the days they are away but are less prepared for the lessons building on that teaching when they return to school. There is a consequent risk of under achievement, which we must seek to avoid.

Religious observance

We recognise that some pupils may need to participate in days of religious observance.

Where a day of religious observance:

- falls during school time and;
- has been exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil belongs

We ask that parents/carers notify St Catherine's in writing in advance where absence is required due to a religious observance.

Enforced school closure

If St Catherine's was forced to close for a period, we have the facility to operate an online virtual school. In such circumstances, children are expected to engage with ALL activities when work is set. Procedures for online learning will be sent to parents as and when required.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually as a minimum by Mrs Sue Leck . At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing board.

In the occurrence of an unprecedented situation, temporary changes of this attendance policy may be implemented. The changes may be influenced by scientific guidance, government policy or school risk assessments which may take one of many forms. The plan for school attendance will be shared with parents when required. This will be communicated via social media, letters and emails or other methods that will be deemed appropriate at the time.

Links with other policies

This policy links to the following school policies:

- Safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy
- SEND policy

Other guidance/policies:

- [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [Working together to improve school attendance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [Children missing education \(wigan.gov.uk\)](http://wigan.gov.uk)
- [Consequences of not attending school \(wigan.gov.uk\)](http://wigan.gov.uk)

Appendices

Appendix 1: Leave of Absence During Term Time Request Form

Leave of Absence During Term Time

Guidance Notes

- Please ensure this form is completed at least 1 month prior to requesting leave. Completing this form **does not** mean your request has been approved.
- The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2013 states that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances** (see below).
- If your leave of absence is either approved and you fail to ensure that your child returns to school by the agreed date or your child takes leave when your leave of absence request is not approved, then the absence will be marked as 'unauthorised' on the attendance register.
- For such 'unauthorised' absence, you may be liable to be issued with a penalty notice (fine). The fine is £60 per parent per child if paid within 21 days, increasing to £120 per parent per child if paid between 21 and 28 days. If one or both parents fail to pay the penalty notice in full, then you may be prosecuted. The school also reserves the right to remove your child from the roll of the school. Where this happens, please be aware that it may not always be possible to re-admit your child to the school.

Exceptional Circumstances: In considering whether any 'exceptional circumstances' apply, the Headteacher will consider if the reasons are **rare, significant, unavoidable, and short**. The Headteacher will also take into consideration the factors listed below:

- can the event for which leave of absence is requested be reasonably taken during school holidays?
- levels of attendance and unauthorised absence over the last 12 months
- any leave of absence taken previously
- whether the leave is during the exam period, controlled exam periods or will result in not meeting assessment deadlines
- age and year group of the pupil

CHILD'S DETAILS

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Surname | | First Name | |
| Date of Birth | | Year Group | |
| Address | | | |

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S DETAILS

| | | | |
|--|--|-------------------|--|
| Surname | | First Name | |
| Relationship to child | | | |
| Address (if different to above) | | | |
| Telephone no. | | Mobile no. | |
| Email | | | |

| DETAILS OF REQUEST FOR LEAVE | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|
| Date of Departure | | Date of Return | |
| No. of School Days Absence | | Destination | |
| <i>Local</i> emergency contact name | | Emergency contact number | |
| Address resident atwhilst on leave | | | |
| Please provide details and reasons for requesting leave of absence and in particular any 'exceptional circumstances'. If necessary, please provide any documentary evidence in support of your request. | | | |
| | | | |
| I certify that the information provided on this form is correct. I understand that the school reserves the right to issue a penalty notice or remove my child from the school register for unauthorised leave. | | | |
| Signature | | Date | |

**– FOR COMPLETION BY THE
SCHOOL –**

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|--|
| Authorised | YES / NO | | |
| Exceptional Circumstances | | | |
| Signature | | Date | |
| Name | | Position | |

Appendix 2: Attendance codes

| Code | Full name | Description |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| The student is counted as present. | | |
| / or \ | Present am or pm | Present in school during registration. |
| L | Late | Late arrival before the register has closed |
| The student is counted as present, at an Approved Educational Activity. | | |
| B | Educated off Site | The student is at an off-site supervised educational activity approved by the school. |
| K | Education provision provided by LA | Education provision arranged by a local authority, rather than the school |
| P | Sporting Activity (Approved) | Pupil is taking part in a sporting activity that has been approved by the school and supervised by someone authorised by the school. |
| V | Educational trip | A residential trip organised by the school or a supervised strictly educational trip arranged by an approved organisation. |
| W | Work Experience | A student in the final two years of compulsory education is attending work experience. |
| The student is counted as absent, authorised. | | |
| C | Other Authorised Absence | Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance |
| C1 | Other Authorised Absence | Absence for a regulated performance or employment abroad |
| C2 | Other Authorised Absence | Pupils on part-time timetables |
| J1 | Interview | Leave of absence to attend an interview for employment or admission into another educational institution |
| E | Excluded | If a student is excluded but still on the admission register, they should be marked E, for up to the sixth consecutive day of any fixed period (referred to as 'suspensions' by the DfE from Autumn 2021) or permanent exclusion. |
| M | Medical/Dental Appointments | The student is absent due to a medical or dental appointment that could not be made outside of school hours. |
| R | Religious Observance | The student is absent for religious observance on a day designated by the religious body. |
| S | Study Leave | Study leave should be used sparingly and only granted to Year 11 pupils for public exams. Students should still be able to come into school to revise. |

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| T | Traveller Absence | Used when Roma, English and Welsh Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers, Showmen (fairground people) and Circus people, Bargees (occupational boat dwellers) or New Travellers are known to be travelling for occupational purposes and have agreed this with the school. |
| I | Illness | This illness code can be used for any form of illness, if you don't want to distinguish Covid-19 illness. |
| I01 | Illness | This code maps to the statutory mark of I. This is for students absent due to non-coronavirus related illness (unless the truthfulness of the claim is in question). This code should not be used for medical or dental appointments. |
| I02 | Confirmed case of Covid-19 | This code maps to the statutory mark of I. This is for pupils who have a confirmed case of coronavirus. |
| The student is counted as absent, unauthorised. | | |
| G | Family Holiday (Not Agreed) | The Holiday was not authorised by the school or in excess of the period determined by the headteacher. |
| N | No Reason | The reason for the absence has not been provided. If no reason for an absence is provided after a reasonable amount of time, it should be changed to O. |
| O | Unauthorised Absence | If the school is not satisfied with the reason given for absence they should record it as unauthorised. |
| U | Late (After Register Closes) | Schools should keep registers open for a reasonable amount of time, after which the student should be marked with a U. |
| These codes are not counted so will not affect attendance figures. | | |
| D | Dual Registration | The student is registered at another school and attends it during this lesson e.g. students at a pupil referral unit. Schools should only record attendance and absences for sessions the pupil is scheduled to attend at their school. |
| X | Non-statutory school age absence | Sessions non-compulsory school-age children are not expected to attend. This code should only be used for early years students who have not yet passed the 1st January, 1st April or 1st September following their 5th birthday. |

| | | |
|----|-------------------------|--|
| Y1 | Unable to attend | Absence due to transport normally provided not being available. |
| Y2 | Unable to attend | Widespread disruption to travel |
| Y3 | Unable to attend | Part of school closed. |
| Y4 | Unable to attend | Unexpected whole school closure (different from # for planned closures). |
| Y5 | Unable to attend | Pupils in the criminal justice system. |
| Y6 | Unable to attend | Absence due to public health guidance or law. |
| Y7 | Unable to attend | Any other unavoidable cause. |
| Z | Pupil Not On Roll | This code can be used when setting up registers in advance of pupils joining. Schools must take attendance for pupils from the first day the student should be attending the school. |
| # | School Closed To Pupils | This code should be used for whole or partial school closures that are known or planned in advance such as if the school is used as a polling station. |

Appendix 3: Attendance and absence data

The tables below equate percentage attendance to time missed from school.

Table 1: Attendance over one whole school year for each pupil

| Attendance | Missed Days |
|------------|--|
| 100% | 0 |
| 98% | Less than 4 days / 8 sessions |
| 97% | Less than 5 days / 10 sessions (school target) |
| 95% | Less than 10 days / 20 sessions |
| 90% | 20 days / 40 sessions |
| 85% | 27 ½ days / 55 sessions |
| 80% | 37 ½ days / 75 sessions |

Table 2: Attendance over 5 years for each pupil

| Attendance | Missed Weeks |
|------------|--|
| 85-90% | 19 weeks – ½ year absence from school |
| 80% | 38 weeks = 1 full year absence from school |

What does ‘percentage attendance’ mean?

Parents/carers should be advised that the Government have categorised those pupils who have attendance of 90% and below as ‘Persistent Absent’ pupils (PA). The table below shows the learning time lost against percentage attendance figures.

| Attendance during one school year | Equivalent Days Missed | Equivalent Sessions Missed | Equivalent Weeks missed | Equivalent Lessons Missed |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 95% | 9 days | 18 sessions | 1.4 weeks | 45 lessons |
| 90% | 19 days | 38 sessions | 3.4 weeks | 95 lessons |
| 85% | 29 days | 58 sessions | 5.4 weeks | 145 lessons |
| 80% | 36 days | 72 sessions | 7.1 weeks | 180 lessons |
| 75% | 48 days | 96 sessions | 9.3 weeks | 240 lessons |

As of May 2022, the Department for Education have categorised those pupils who have attendance of 50% and below as ‘Severely Absent’ pupils. The Department for Education advise for all pupils who fall within this category to have a robust multi-agency plan and approach in place to support.

CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION REFERRAL & CHECKLIST

June 2022 v5

As outlined in the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Children Missing from Education' are children of compulsory school age who are not a registered pupil at a school or are not receiving suitable education other if they are not registered at a school.

Where a pupil has not returned to school for ten days without authorisation the school and the local authority have a responsibility to jointly make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child. The appropriate completion of this checklist ensures that the Local Authority and school have fulfilled this responsibility.

It is school's responsibility to follow up all unexplained and unexpected absences in a timely manner and every effort should be made to establish the reason for a pupil's absence. If you require advice and guidance, please contact the Children Missing Education inbox CME@wigan.gov.uk. Where there are concerns in relation to safeguarding or child protection issues contact the Children First Partnership Hub on 01942 828300.

It is important that one checklist is completed for each child within the family, please do not include all children on one.

During the first 10 days of absence (reason unknown), school must complete this referral form and checklist. Once completed if the child's whereabouts remains unknown, please make a referral to the Children Missing Education CME@wigan.gov.uk within 5 days or earlier if all checks have been completed.

At any point if you feel a child is at risk of significant harm, FGM, human trafficking or sexual exploitation refer immediately to social care please contact 01942 828300

Please note that if the child is residing or located in the Wigan Borough, they are not a CME and should not be removed from school roll. Policies in relation to school attendance should be followed in these cases.

CHILD'S INFORMATION:

| | | |
|---|--|------|
| Child's Name: | | DOB: |
| Child's Address: | | |
| Previous Address: (if known) | | |
| School: | | |
| Parent/carer's names: | | |
| Parent/carer's address: | | |
| Contact names & numbers: (include emergency) | | |
| Any known siblings & school: | | |

| <u>Name of Member of staff completing form</u> | | | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>School checklist</u> | <u>Dates/Times</u> | <u>Outcomes</u> | <u>Name</u> |
| School to attempt to contact parent on first day of absence. This includes Truancy Call, First Day calling, Text, Email, all emergency contacts. Please detail all contact methods - whether a message was left, if the phone is working, is there an international dialling tone. | | | |
| School to check possible whereabouts with staff and pupils? This should include checking with family friends, all staff members, the child's friends, social media Contact all emergency contact numbers you hold in school. | | | |
| Visit to address(es) by school. Leave card if no answer Does the property look empty? Is someone at home but not answering the door? NB if school policy does not permit home visit a police welfare check to be requested | | | |
| Contact made with involved agencies within 5 working days (Social Care, EMAS team, School Nurse etc) | | | |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Contact made with agencies to understand when they last had contact/saw the child (no consent needed) - Social care - school nurse (when did health have any contact with the child) | | | |
| School to contact the new school or Local Authority the child is believed to have moved to? What were the outcomes? https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council | | | |
| NB – Has the child been seen? State when & by whom If not seen, what further action has been taken? (Refer to CME Policy Doc for advice) | | | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Reason for CME checks: | |
| Any other agencies involved: | |
| Known vulnerability/risk factors Do you feel this child is at risk of harm or neglect Y/N please provide detail: | |
| Is this child Gypsy Roma Traveller? Y/N | |
| Is this child parents service personnel? Y/N | |
| Has this child had any Missing from home episodes? Y/N | |
| Is this child known to the Youth Justice System? Y/N | |
| Does this child have any SEN/learning needs? Y/N | |
| Are there any other vulnerabilities you are aware of? Please provide detail; | |
| Date: | |

All boxes must be completed, of not relevant please enter N/A

ALL BOXES MUST BE COMPLETED, IF NOT RELEVANT PLEASE ENTER N/A

Please submit this referral to CME@wigan.gov.uk