

Church Aston Infant School



Attendance Policy

February 2023

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September 2013	October 2014 and 2015, September 2016 and 2017, 26 th March 2019, 2 nd February 2021, 1 st February 2022, 7 th February 2023	February 2024

The senior leader with responsibility for the strategic approach for attendance is Mrs Jenny Griffiths (Headteacher).

This policy will be applied fairly and consistently whilst taking into account the individual needs of pupils and their families who may have specific barriers to attendance. In the development and implementation of this policy we will consider our obligations within the Equality Act 2010 and the UN convention on the rights of a child.

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 a school or by education otherwise than at a school.

The framework for a whole-school attendance policy is based on the 5 'Ps' - namely, Philosophy, Principles, Procedures, Performance and Practice.

Philosophy

Church Aston Infant School is committed to providing a full and efficient educational experience to all pupils. We believe that, if pupils are to benefit from education, punctuality and good attendance is crucial. As a school, we will organise and do all we can to ensure maximum attendance for all pupils.

Any problems that impede punctuality and regular attendance will be identified and addressed as speedily as possible.

We have high expectations regarding attendance and punctuality. Our school encourages all our children to want to be part of it, ready to learn and achieve.

It is the policy of our school to celebrate achievement. Attendance is a critical factor to a productive and successful school career. Our school will actively promote and encourage the goal of 100 per cent attendance for all our pupils.

Our school will give a high priority to conveying to parents and pupils the importance of regular and punctual attendance. We recognise that parents have a vital role to play and there is a need to establish strong home-school links and communication systems that can be utilised whenever there is concern about attendance.

If there are problems which affect a pupil's attendance we will investigate, identify and work in partnership with parents and pupils to resolve those problems as quickly and efficiently as possible. We will adopt a clearly focused approach aimed at the pupil resuming full attendance and consistent punctuality.

Principles

The school will:

- ensure that all staff are aware of the registration procedures and receive in-service training on registration regulations and associated education law,
- complete registers accurately at the beginning of each morning and during the afternoon session,

- stress to parents/carers the importance of contacting staff early on the first day of absence,
- display attendance rates around the school and reward good and improved attendance of all pupils,
- promote positive staff attitudes and support to pupils returning after absence,
- consult with all members of the school community and the Attendance Support Team in developing and maintaining the whole-school attendance policy,
- ensure regular evaluation of attendance procedures by senior managers and the school governors,
- use our weekly newsletters to inform parents and pupils of attendance rates and related issues, additionally maintain and update information on the school website with any attendance related issues,
- work towards ensuring that all pupils feel supported and valued. We will send a clear message that, if a pupil is absent, she/he will be missed,
- have in place procedures which allow absentees to catch up on missed work without disrupting the learning of other class members, consider remote learning opportunities where necessary,
- take responsibility for Children not Receiving Education (CNRE), so that school are in regular contact with the pupil and parent, ensuring the pupils safety, working together so that the pupil can resume full time education,
- monitor and regularly review those pupils subject to a modified timetable, ensuring it is a short term intervention and have a clear plan for reintegration back into full time attendance at school.

Procedures

The school doors open at 8:50am with all children expected to be in school by 9:00am for the register to be taken. Any child arriving between 9:00am and 9:30am will be recorded as late on the register. If a child arrives after 9:30am they will be marked as late and arriving after the register has closed.

If your child is going to be absent through sickness, or be late e.g. for a medical appointment, we ask that you let us know by 9:00am. If you have not informed us of the absence by 10:00am we will telephone you to ascertain the reason for the absence and to ensure your child is safe.

For attendance on a day-to-day basis e.g. to notify of absence, lateness or medical appointments please contact the School Business Manager on 01952 386390.

If no contact is received from the parents/carers of an absent pupil on the first morning of absence we will:

- Follow 'first day contact' procedures and contact the parent by telephone, or if the parent is unavailable, continue to attempt contact by telephone or send an email or standard letter requesting information,
- Consider sending a second email or letter if an explanation has still not been received after three days of unexplained absence or send a School Attendance Letter (SAL),
- Refer to the school's Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to follow up absence if no response is received after 5 days of absence and refer to the family social worker or to '*Family Connect*' if there are additional concerns regarding the family and no contact can be made with the parent,
- where there are safeguarding or similar concerns regarding the pupil/family additional services should be contacted immediately if the school is unable to make contact with the family. (e.g social care, strengthening families)
- Invite the parents into school for an 'Attendance Concern Meeting' (ACM) after a maximum of 10 days absence, unless other action is planned. This meeting should include a senior member of staff, parent, pupil and the EWO. The aim of this meeting will be to identify and resolve the difficulties which are preventing the pupil from attending school. The parents/carers will be made aware of the legal requirements regarding school attendance,
- support the pupil's re-integration where a pupil is returning to school after an absence of longer than two weeks. In the event of a pupil returning after a long-term absence then a 'Reintegration Plan' can be implemented. The plan should include all members of the school staff and will be designed to be as supportive of the pupils needs as possible
- provide Early Help advice and support to the family, undertaking an Early Help Assessment if appropriate and make a referral to Strengthening Families if it is felt the family would benefit from additional support.

In order to ensure the success of this policy every member of the school staff will make attendance a priority and convey to the pupils the importance of their education.

We realise that some parents and pupils may need greater support when dealing with attendance issues. We will listen and aim to understand to ensure barriers to attendance and punctuality can be addressed quickly and effectively. We will liaise with other relevant agencies if necessary and we will formalise support in a plan if required.

Performance

It is important to set realistic targets for both attendance and persistent absence; these targets will be set during the autumn term of each academic year, in consultation with the Governing Body. The Governing Body must approve the school target for attendance to be set for the following academic year and will be recorded in the Governing Body minutes. Ideally, the target should be sent to the Attendance Support Team by the end of the autumn term at the latest. In compiling an 'Action

Plan' the school will look at those interventions which have been successful as part of the evaluation process.

When monitoring attendance success the school will consider the impact of the work on school attendance by whether or not:

- Attendance has improved
- Persistent absence has reduced
- Punctuality has improved
- Parental response to absence has improved
- Re-integration plans, where implemented, have been successful
- There are specific key groups where a targeted approach is appropriate to raise attendance, e.g. children in receipt of pupil premium.
- The school has been successful in raising the profile of attendance both within the school, Governing Body and the local community
- Pupils are fully aware of the importance of punctuality and regular attendance and the attendance procedures operating within school
- Attendance issues have been included as topics in school assemblies, Personal and Social Education (PHSE) lessons, or as a theme for any other lessons

Practice

The school will recognise the importance of good practice by:

- Keeping and maintaining registers accurately
- Maintaining a consistent approach to marking registers
- Regularly analysing attendance data & comparing it against both the local and national average and considering the performance of key groups in comparison to the national data for that particular group.
- Ensuring prompt follow-up action in cases of non-school attendance
- Liaising closely with the school's EWO, if appropriate
- Recording (and retaining) carefully, a record of all telephone messages/email or contact from parents
- Ensure all LA removal from roll procedures are followed when necessary
- A signed copy of any correspondence to parents is retained by the school
- Liaising closely with the school's EWO, if appropriate and any concerns regarding attendance are raised with the Education Welfare Officer (EWO)
- A referral is made to AST (the Attendance Support Team) for intervention using the electronic ASTR form.