



Alburgh with Denton C of E Primary Academy

Whole School Attendance Policy

Our School Vision:

“Mighty Oaks from Tiny Acorns Grow”

Our Vision is based upon the parable of the mustard seed: “The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, that seed is the smallest of all seeds. But when it grows, it is one of the largest garden plants” [Matthew 13 V31-32] This is underpinned by the common language of our core values: Hope, Forgiveness and Justice.

Alburgh with Denton Primary School is committed to providing a full and efficient education to all pupils and embraces the concept of equal opportunities for all.

We will endeavour to provide an environment where all pupils feel valued and welcome.

We appreciate that in the event of illness pupils need to be absent from school.

For a child to reach their full educational achievement a high level of school attendance is essential. We will consistently work towards a goal of 100% attendance for all children. Every opportunity will be used to convey to pupils and their parents or carers the importance of regular and punctual attendance.

School attendance is subject to various education laws and this school attendance policy is written to reflect these laws and the guidance produced by the Department for Education

Each year the school will set attendance/absence targets.

The school will review its systems for improving attendance at regular intervals to ensure that it is achieving its set goals.

This policy will contain within it the procedures that the school will use to meet its attendance targets.

Promoting attendance

The foundation for good attendance is a strong partnership between the school, parents and the child.

The Home/School agreement will contain details of how we will work with parents and our expectations of what parents will need to do to ensure their child achieves good attendance.

We will ensure that our pupils are made aware of the importance of good attendance and how this will benefit them.

Leave of absence in term time

Leave of absence during term time will be discouraged. Parents will be reminded of the effect that absence can have on a pupil's potential achievement. The school will consider any application for leave of absence and will only agree to authorize the absence in exceptional circumstances; parents must apply in advance for permission for their child to have leave of absence.

Please refer to the school's Policy for Leave of Absence in Term Time for more details.

School Procedures

Any child who is absent from school at the morning or afternoon registration period must have their absence recorded as being authorised, unauthorised or as an approved educational activity [attendance out of school]. Only the headteacher or a member of staff acting on their behalf can authorise absence. If there is no known reason for the absence at registration, then the absence will be recorded in the first instance as unauthorised.

The coding for any absences will be in accordance with the guidance provided by the Department of Education.

Registers

The register is a legal document and as such needs to be called at the start of both the morning and afternoon sessions. It also acts as our checklist of children attending in case of a fire.

There is an information sheet in the front of the register and in the staff handbook, giving details of the way absences should be recorded.

The school day for pupils, starts at 8.50 a.m. and registers are 'closed' at 9.00 a.m. (i.e. any child who comes into school after this time is deemed as being late, and as such is marked with an appropriate code to indicate this) The morning session ends at 12.00 with the afternoon session commencing at 1pm, ending at 3.30 p.m. If pupils are continually late, a letter may be sent home pointing out the importance of punctuality and requesting parents co-operation in ensuring children are sent to school at the appropriate time. 'Reminders' are also put into the Newsletter on a regular basis.

If a child is absent at the time the registers are closed and we have not been informed as to the reason, the school secretary will contact the parents to ascertain the reason for absence.

Lateness

Morning registration will take place at the start of school at 8:50am. The registers will remain open for 10 minutes. Any pupil arriving after this time will be marked as late between 9:00 and 9:15am. Any child arriving after 9:15 will be marked as having a U code until 9:30am. After 9:30am pupils will receive an unauthorised absence unless there is an acceptable explanation i.e. school transport was delayed or adverse weather conditions. In cases for example, where the absence at registration was for

attending an early morning medical appointment, the appropriate authorised absence code will be entered.

The afternoon registration will be at 1:15pm. The register will be open for 10 minutes.

Pupils arriving after the start of school but before the end of the registration period will be coded as late before registers close.

First Day Absence

When a child is absent, parents are expected to contact the school as early as possible. If no contact is made, the school will telephone the parents to request an explanation. If the parents are unavailable, the school will contact the child's emergency contact person as detailed in their school records.

Ten Day's Absence

Any pupil who is absent without an explanation for 10 consecutive sessions will be notified to the Local Authority, by submitting a referral to the Children's Services Attendance Staff for the local area. [*This is a legal requirement*]. The school will include details of the action that they have taken.

Absence notes

Notes received from parents explaining absence should be kept for the remainder of the academic year. If there are attendance concerns about the pupil, that may require further investigation, then the notes may need to be retained for a longer period.

Frequent Absence

Within the school it is the responsibility of /the Headteacher and Secretary to be aware of and bring attention to, any emerging attendance concerns. In cases where a pupil begins to develop a pattern of absences, the school will try to resolve the problem as soon as possible with the assistance of our School Attendance Officer.

Persistent Absence [PA]

All pupils whose attendance level falls below 90% will be subject to an action plan to support their return to full attendance. These action plans will be set up by the Headteacher with support from the School Attendance Officer. If a child is absent because of medical issues the school may request supporting medical evidence or may wish to make a referral to the school nursing team.

The action plan will include engagement with all parties who can support the pupil's attendance.

A Welcome Back

It is important that on return from an absence all pupils are made to feel welcome. This should include ensuring that the pupil is helped to catch up on missed work and brought up to date on any information that has been passed to the other pupils.

Attendance Awards

The school will use the following system to inform parents and reward pupils who have good or improving attendance.

- Every term, parents will receive their child's attendance report which will clearly show attendance for the term and the academic year so far
- An 'attendance trophy' will be awarded to the class with the best attendance record each week
- The class which achieves the most trophies during the term will be rewarded with a non-uniform day at the end of the term

In addition, the following attendance awards will take place each term:

- Children with 100% attendance records for the term will receive a special 100% attendance certificate.

Categorisation of Absence

Any pupil who is on roll but not present in the school must be recorded within one of these categories.

1. Unauthorised Absence
2. Authorised Absence
3. Approved Educational Activity

1. Unauthorised absence

This is for those pupils where no reason has been provided, or whose absence is deemed to be without valid reason.

2. Authorised absence

This is for those pupils who are away from school for a reason that is deemed to be valid under the Education Act 1996.

3. Approved Educational Activity

This covers types of supervised educational activity undertaken off site but with the approval of the school.

Note Pupils recorded in this category are deemed to be present for attendance returns purposes.

This would include:

- Work experience placements
- Field trips and educational visits
- Sporting activities
- Link courses or approved education off site

If a pupil is receiving education off site or is attending at a school where they are dual registered with, the school will liaise with the other education provider to check on attendance.

The registration system

The following national codes will be used to record attendance information.

CODE	DESCRIPTION	MEANING
/	Present (AM)	Present
\	Present (PM)	Present
B	Educated off site (NOT Dual registration)	Approved Education Activity
C	Other Authorised Circumstances (not covered by another appropriate code/description)	Authorised absence
D	Dual registration (i.e. pupil attending other establishment)	Approved Education Activity
E	Excluded (no alternative provision made)	Authorised absence
F	Extended family holiday (agreed)	Authorised absence
G	Family holiday (NOT agreed <u>or</u> days in excess of agreement)	Unauthorized absence
H	Family holiday (agreed)	Authorised absence
I	Illness (NOT medical or dental etc. appointments)	Authorised absence
J	Interview	Approved Education Activity
L	Late (before registers closed)	Present
M	Medical/Dental appointments	Authorised absence
N	No reason yet provided for absence	Unauthorized absence
O	Unauthorized absence (not covered by any other code/description)	Unauthorized absence
P	Approved sporting activity	Approved Education Activity
R	Religious observance	Authorised absence
S	Study leave	Authorised absence
T	Traveller absence	Authorised absence
U	Late (after registers closed)	Unauthorized absence
V	Educational visit or trip	Approved Education Activity
W	Work experience	Approved Education Activity
X	Untimetabled sessions for non-compulsory school-age pupils	Not counted in possible attendances
Y	Enforced closure	Not counted in possible attendances
Z	Pupil not yet on roll	Not counted in possible attendances
#	School closed to pupils	Not counted in possible attendances

Record preservation

We will ensure compliance with attendance regulations by keeping attendance records for at least 3 years.

Computer registers will be printed out at least once a month and bound into annual volumes.

Register Security

Registers or attendance marking sheets if used must be safely stored.

Attendance Targets

The school will set attendance targets each year. A system for analysing performance towards the targets will be established and a senior school manager will be responsible for overseeing this work. The school will make use of the attendance data available on the "RAISEONLINE" system, when setting its target. Targets will relate to national averages.

This policy will be Reviewed in October 2023

Appendices

1 The Law

The Education Act 1996 Part 1, Section 7 states:

The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable-

[a] To his age, ability and aptitude and

[b] To any special needs he may have.

either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

For educational purposes the term parent is used to include those that have parental responsibility and/or those that have the day to day care of the child.

The legislation that appertains to children who are of compulsory school age and are registered at school is contained within this Act.

Part V1 Section 444 contains the details of when an offence is committed if a child fails to attend school.

Register and Admission Roll keeping.

The legal requirements are found in:

The Education [Pupil Registration] (England) Regulations 2006

Attendance Targets

The legal requirements are found in:

The Education (School Attendance Targets)(England) Regulations 2007

Guidance documents on attendance.

The following DfE documents are used to guide attendance recording.

Absence and Attendance codes (Guidance for Schools and Local Authorities)

Keeping Pupil Registers (Guidance on applying the Education Pupil Registration Regulations)

These and other guidance documents are available on the DfE website.