



WEST GRANTHAM

Church of England Primary Academy

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Policy	Attendance Policy
Approved by	Local Governing Body
Date	March 2026
Review cycle	Annual

Ratified by the LGB on 26 March 2026

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To champion and rejoice in those we serve, creating an environment where excellence is achieved and potential fulfilled

VERSION CONTROL			
VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	CHANGES
2023	Jan	YM	Full Policy Review
2024	Jan	NS	Throughout the policy: <i>IEB</i> is replaced with <i>Governing Body</i> On page 4: <i>School office staff</i> <i>To record any attendance concerns onto CPOMS.</i>
2025	Jan	NS	Page 4- change of title Page 7- change of fine amount, change in strategies for attendance Pages 9-11- change in DfE'S attendance codes Page 12- Adaptations to procedures Page 13- change of job title
2026	March	NS	Full Policy Review Pg3- additions to legislation, pg4- additional Headteacher responsibilities, pg5- additional Attendance Officer responsibilities, pg5- additional parent responsibilities and change of school system, pg7- change of wording, pg9- additional linked policies named

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1. Aims

We are committed to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance by:

- Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence
- Ensuring every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence

We will also support parents to perform their legal duty to ensure their children of compulsory school age attend regularly and will promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

2. Legislation and guidance

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:

- Education Acts 1996 and 2002
- The Children Act 1989
- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- The Sentencing Act 2020
- The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024
- The Education (Parenting Contracts and Parenting Orders) (England) Regulations 2007
- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended
- The Education (Information about Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013
- The Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and 1963
- Equality Act 2010
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (As amended)
- The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014
- DfE 'Working together to improve school attendance'
- DfE 'Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE) 2025'
- DfE 'Children missing education'

- DfE 'Providing remote education: guidance for schools'
- DfE 'Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance'
- DfE 'Sharing daily pupil attendance data'
- Part 6 of [The Education Act 1996](#)
- Part 3 of [The Education Act 2002](#)
- Part 7 of [The Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#) (and [2010](#), [2011](#), [2013](#), [2016](#) amendments)
- [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

This policy also refers to the DfE's guidance on the [school census](#), which explains the persistent absence threshold.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The Governing Body

The Governing Body is responsible for monitoring attendance figures for the whole school on at least a termly basis. It also holds the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

3.2 The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementation of this policy at the academy
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils
- Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary
- Sharing information and working collaboratively with the LA by notifying them where a pupil's name is added to or deleted from the school's admission register outside of standard transition times.
- Providing the LA with the names and addresses of all pupils of compulsory school age who fail to attend school regularly or who have been absent for a continuous period of ten school days where their absence has been classed as unauthorised.
- Ensuring all parents are aware of the school's attendance expectations and procedures.
- Ensuring that every pupil has access to full-time education and will act as early as possible to address patterns of absence.
- Working with parents of pupils with SEND to develop specific support approaches for attendance, including where school transport is regularly being missed and where pupils with SEND face barriers within school.

3.3 The Attendance and Family Liaison Officer:

The school attendance and family Liaison Officer:

- Monitors attendance data across the school and at an individual pupil level
- Reports concerns about attendance to the headteacher
- Works to tackle persistent absence and lateness

- Arranges calls and meetings with parents to discuss attendance issues
- Advises the headteacher when to issue fixed-penalty notices
- Attends a weekly inclusion meeting where key individuals and families with attendance concerns are discussed with members of the safeguarding and pastoral team
- Leading a compassionate approach when listening to parents and pupils regarding barriers to attendance.
- Following up on incidents of persistent poor attendance.
- Enforcing attendance through statutory interventions in cases of persistent poor attendance where other supports have not succeeded.

3.4 Class teachers

Class teachers are responsible for recording attendance on a daily basis, using the correct codes, and submitting this information to the school office in a prompt and timely manner.

3.5 School office staff

School office staff are expected to take calls from parents about absence and record it on the school system, Arbour To record any attendance concerns onto CPOMS.

3.6 Parents

Parents are responsible for

- Ensuring their children attend regularly and punctually
- Ensuring that they contact the school whenever their child is unable to attend, preferably by 8.30am
- Ensure medical appointments are made outside of school time
- Contact the school in a timely manner for each day of student's absence via Dojo, email or phone
- Contacting the school of any concerns around their child's attendance
- Ensuring that their children arrive well prepared for the day
- Providing medical evidence of illness as requested by the school
- Attending meetings when requested to discuss concerns around their child's attendance
- Providing accurate and up-to-date contact details.
- Providing the school with more than one emergency contact number.
- Updating the school if their details change.
- Requesting leave of absence only in exceptional circumstances, and in advance.
- Following any family-based support implemented by the school to improve attendance.

4. Recording attendance

4.1 Attendance register

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 again at the outset of the afternoon sessions. It will mark whether every pupil is:

- Present

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

Amendments may be made by authorised staff when new information has been received and a note of this will be made on the electronic register.

See appendix I for the DfE attendance codes.

We will keep every entry on the attendance register for three years after the date on which the entry was made.

Pupils must be in school by 8.50am when the register is taken.

4.2 Unplanned absence

The pupil's parent/carer must notify the school on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9am or as soon as practically possible (see also section 7) on the school absence phone line (01476 563963, option 2) or by email to office@wgpa.snmat.org.uk.

Only the Headteacher (or their delegate) can approve an absence from school. That is the law. Absence will be recorded using the code recommended by the Department for Education guidance on School Attendance. Absences due to illness are recorded as authorised absence and medical evidence to verify this illness may be requested by the Academy, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily. Children with persistent absence may be requested to provide evidence for all absences. Other absences may be unauthorised unless C coded for exceptional circumstances or other authorised reasons.

4.3 Planned absence

Parents are expected to make dental and medical appointments outside of school time, however essential or emergency medical or dental appointments will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment. Appointment cards or other evidence may be required.

The pupil's parent/carer must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence. Leave of absence from school will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.

4.4 Lateness and punctuality

Pupils who arrive late to registration are recorded as L (late before registration closes.) or as U (unauthorised absence) if arrival is after 9.30am.

Registration closes at 9am at The West Grantham Church of England Primary Academy. Pupils should be on school site at least 5 minutes before registration.

Frequent late arrival will be challenged by the Academy and letters sent to parents/carers. Persistent late arrival will result in parents/carers being asked to attend a meeting with the Attendance and Family Liaison Officer.

4.5 Following up absence

Where any child we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, the school will:

- Follow up on their absence with their parent/carer to ascertain the reason for the day's absence.

- Ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not
- Identify the correct attendance code to use
- Make home visit as necessary
- May contact the police to request a safe and well check

4.6 Reporting to parents

Attendance is reported to parents through termly parents consultations and in their annual school reports. If letters of concern are issued the attendance certificate will form a part of the parents meeting and shared with parents, and with the pupil as appropriate.

5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

5.1 Approval for term-time absence

The headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to pupils during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher's discretion.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request.

Valid reasons for **authorised absence** include:

- Illness and medical/dental appointments (see sections 4.2 and 4.3 for more detail)
- 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 school 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 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 school, but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision

5.2 Reducing persistent absence

Persistent Absence is defined by less than 90% attendance, but the school will monitor all absence to target unauthorised absence.

If a pupil is absent from school for a period of time that is deemed unacceptable, daily contact will be maintained by the school office. The Attendance and Family Liaison Officer will contact the family to discuss any issues which may be contributing to poor attendance and letters of concern will be sent.

Parents of students with poor attendance are required to attend an attendance meeting. The panel will be by invitation of the Attendance and Family Liaison Officer and the panel may include any professionals involved in the student's welfare. This may include a member of the safeguarding team, headteacher or a member of the interim executive board. The aim of this meeting is to improve future attendance and prevent the need for referral to targeted support to begin legal proceedings

5.3 Legal sanctions

The school or local authority can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age.

If issued with a fine, or penalty notice, each parent must pay £80 within 21 days or £160 within 28 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority.

Penalty notices can be issued by a headteacher, local authority officer or the police.

The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice may take into account:

- The number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year
- One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission
- Where an excluded pupil is found in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason

If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice.

6. Strategies for promoting attendance

Pupils are encouraged to attend regularly and punctually. The school promotes these good habits through the pupils' education and recognises good attendance through various reward systems which motivate and recognise good, and improved, attendance. These rewards may involve such things as:

- 100% attendance is rewarded with prizes and certificates at the end of each academic year
- Awards for the highest attendance in each key stage are presented each term

7. Attendance monitoring

The Attendance and Family Liaison Officer at our school monitors pupil absence on a weekly basis.

Pupil-level absence data will be collected each term and published at national and local authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases. The underlying school-level absence data is published alongside the national statistics. The school will compare attendance data to the national average and share this with the governing board.

Monitoring attendance is achieved through

- Completion of daily registers by tutors and monitored by the school office in the first instance to ensure consistent daily good practice
- Monitored weekly by the Attendance and Family Liaison Officer to recognise patterns, poor attendance, and monitoring of groups (eg classes, EAL, SEN, PPG etc)
- Sharing of class data with class teachers weekly for comparative purposes.
- Tracking of individuals who have raised concern (PA, on-going medical issues, new to school etc)
- Impact of interventions, panel meetings, home visits.
- Half termly reports are prepared for head teacher and Governors by the Attendance and Family Liaison Officer

8. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority or DfE is updated, by the Attendance and Family Liaison Officer. At every review, the policy will be approved by the full governing board.

9. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour and relationship policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- SEND Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy
- Children Missing Education Policy

10. Appendices

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
K	Local Authority education provision	Pupil is attending an education provision arranged by the local authority
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
C1	Authorised leave of absence	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance
C2	Authorised leave of absence	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence as subject to a part-time timetable
E	Excluded	Pupil has been excluded but no alternative provision has been made

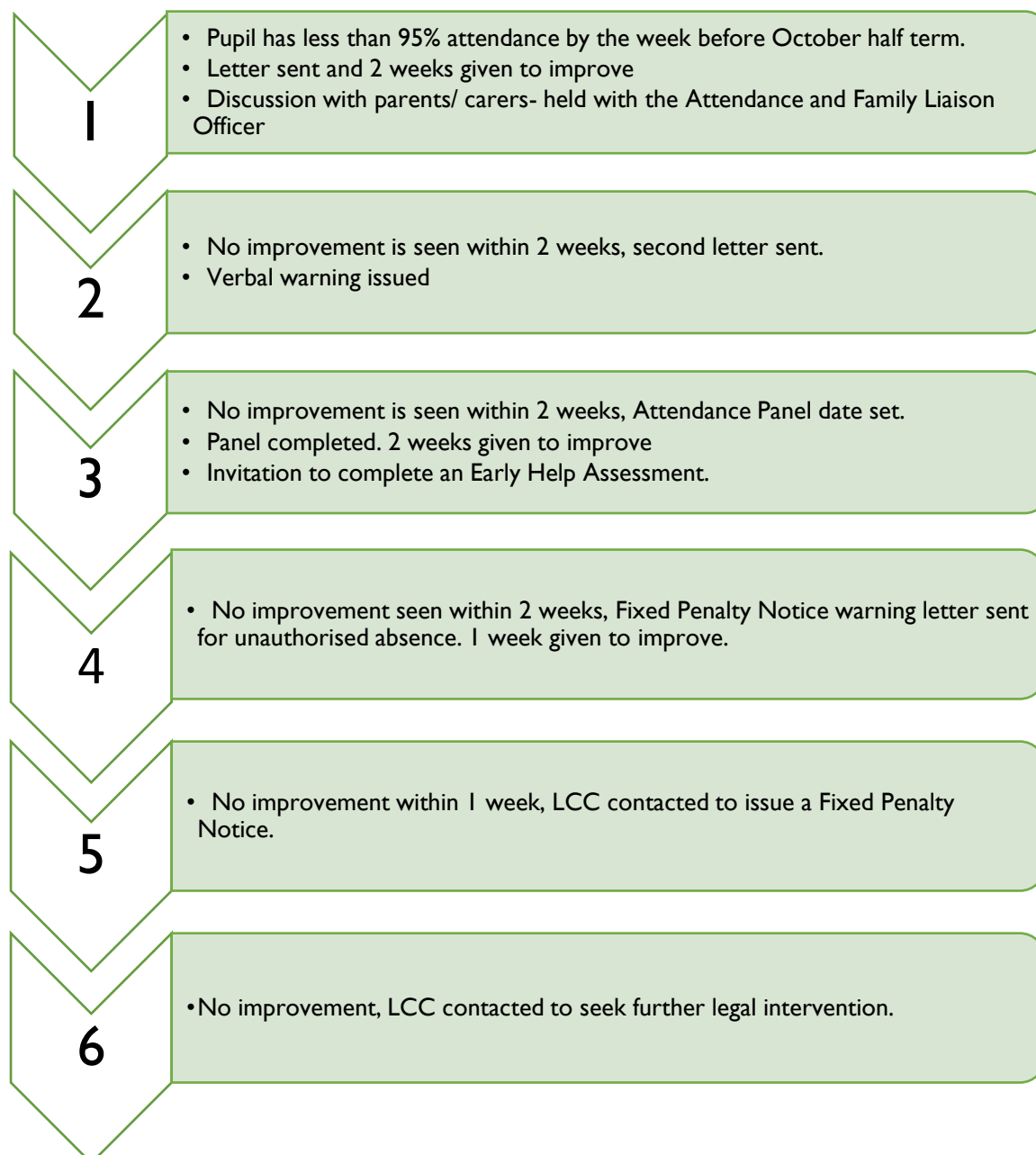
H	Authorised holiday	Pupil has been allowed to go on holiday due to exceptional circumstances
I	Illness	School has been notified that a pupil will be absent due to illness
Jl	Interview	Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment
M	Medical/dental appointment	Pupil is at 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	Absence from school has not been authorised
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

Y1	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available
Y2	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel
Y3	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed
Y4	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	Unable to attend due to whole school being closed
Y5	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention
Y6	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	Absent in accordance with public health guidance or law
Y7	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	Unable to attend because of other unavoidable cause
Q	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements
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: Attendance Procedure

This procedure is designed to be followed in a linear pattern. If an improvement is seen at any step, then the process will freeze. If the improvement is not sustained it will continue to the next step. This procedure, although in place, can be used with discretion by the Senior Leaders.



Appendix 3: Attendance Flowchart



The West Grantham Church of England Primary Academy

Attendance flow chart in response to pupil absence

