



**WROXALL
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

CHALLENGE • ACHIEVEMENT • RESILIENCE • ENJOYMENT

Wroxall Primary School

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ATTENDANCE POLICY

September 2026

Signed

T. Hopkinson

Headteacher

Date: 16 September 2026

Review date: September 2028

Signed

J. Johnston

Chair of Governors

Date: 16 September 2028

1. Introduction/Aim

At **Wroxall Primary School**, we believe that regular school attendance is essential for children to get the most from their education. We value the attendance of all children. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind and can put them at risk of wider harm. There is a wide range of evidence as to the health and wellbeing benefits of school-age education. Research commissioned by the Department for Education shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances. As set out in this policy, we will work with families to identify the reasons for low attendance and try to resolve any difficulties at the earliest opportunity.

Our Attendance Policy aims to give clear guidance to staff, parents, pupils, and governors to:

- Support pupil's achievement by establishing the highest possible levels of attendance and punctuality;
- Recognise the key role of all staff in promoting good attendance;
- Provide a clear framework for monitoring and responding to pupil absences;
- Make parents / carers aware of their legal responsibilities and ensure their children have access to the education to which they are entitled.

We recognise that attendance is a matter for the whole school community. Our Attendance Policy should not be viewed in isolation; it is a strand that runs through all aspects of school improvement, supported by our policies on safeguarding, prevention of bullying, behaviour, and inclusive learning. This policy also considers the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other relevant legislation.

2. Legal Framework

Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act states that parents must ensure that children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability, and aptitude to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. A child is of compulsory school age at the beginning of the term following their 5th birthday. A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach the age of 16.

The government expects all schools and local authorities to:

- Promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent and severe absence;
- Ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled;
- Act early to address patterns of absence.

Parents are expected to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly.

In accordance with the Education Act 1996, we will work with parents and carers and the Local Authority to ensure that parents are supported to secure education for children of compulsory

school age. Where required, we will formalise support and where necessary, work with the LA to use legal measures.

A “Parent” is defined as:

- Any natural parent, whether married or not
- Any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person

3. Roles and Responsibilities

At **Wroxall Primary School**, we believe that improving school attendance is everyone’s business. That it is a shared responsibility by governors, all school staff, parents, pupils, and the wider school community.

Role	Name	Contact details
Attendance Lead	Tara Hopkinson	01983 852290
Office Manager	Natalie Breeze	01983 852290
Family Liaison Officer	Meg Lever	01983 852290

The Governing Board of Wroxall Primary School, recognises the importance of school attendance and promotes it across the school’s ethos and policies. They take an active role in attendance improvement by:

- Setting high expectations of all leaders, staff, pupils, and parents so that children attend school every day and are safeguarded from harm.
- Identifying a member of the governing body to lead on attendance matters and ensuring that there is a named senior staff member to lead on attendance.
- Ensuring school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties by rigorously evaluating the effectiveness of the school’s attendance procedures so that consistent attendance support is provided for all pupils.
- Ensuring the school engages and work effectively with the Local Authority Attendance Team and wider local partners and services to address barriers to school attendance.
- Regularly reviewing attendance data, discussing, challenging trends, and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Ensuring high aspirations are maintained for all pupils and processes for support are adapted to the individual needs of pupils including those with long term illnesses, special educational needs and disabilities, pupils with a social worker and pupils from cohorts with historically lower attendance such as those eligible for free school meals.
- Ensuring all school staff receive adequate training on attendance and that relevant staff have access to opportunities to share and learn from good practice in other schools.
- Ensuring that attendance data is shared with the Local Authority or Department for Education as required and on time.
- Reviewing the school’s Attendance Policy on at least an annual basis, ensuring that the required resources are available to fully implement the policy.

The Headteacher of **Wroxall Primary School** will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents.
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents.
- Ensure that there is a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance, with good teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve.
- Monitor the implementation of the Attendance Policy and ensure that the policy is reviewed annually.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the Attendance Policy and adequately trained to address attendance issues.
- Ensure that the regulations and other relevant legislation are complied with.
- Return school attendance data to the Local Authority and the Department for Education as required and on time.
- Report the school's attendance and related issues through termly reporting to the Governors
- Ensure that systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site are implemented.
- Ensure that attendance data is collected and analysed frequently to identify causes and patterns of absence.
- Interpret the data to devise solutions and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.
- Develop a multi-agency response to improve attendance and support pupils and their families.
- Document interventions used to a standard required by the local authority should legal proceedings be instigated.

All staff at **Wroxall Primary School** will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents.
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents.
- Contribute to a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance; with good teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve.
- Comply with the regulations and other relevant legislation.
- Implement systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site.
- Ensure that registers are recorded accurately and in a timely manner.
- Contribute to the evaluation of school strategies and interventions.
- Work with other agencies to improve attendance and support pupils and their families.

The staff members responsible for attendance will work to further develop relationships with families to bring about improved attendance. This may involve seeking multi-agency support.

The staff members responsible for attendance will support good attendance, respond to concerns, and promote improvement in attendance by:

- Monitoring and analysing pupil attendance data.
- Implementing the identified strategies for promoting excellent whole school attendance.
- Implementing the identified strategies for tackling unsatisfactory attendance.
- Coordinating individual action plans for pupils causing concern including the instigation of an Early Help Assessment and Plan

- Ensuring first day calling procedures are adhered to if a child is absent from school without contact from parents.
- Taking an active lead in delivering whole school initiatives such as reward schemes.
- Making referrals to appropriate external agencies.

Wroxall Primary School requests that parents:

- Take a positive interest in their child's work and educational progress.
- Ensure their child has regular attendance at school.
- Instill the value of education and regular school attendance within the home environment.
- Contact the school if their child is absent to let them know the reason why and the expected date of return.
- Avoid unnecessary absences; for example, by making medical and dental appointments for outside of school hours.
- Ask the school for help if their child is experiencing difficulties with any aspect of their schoolwork or home and family life.
- Inform the school of any change in circumstances that may impact on their child's attendance.
- Support the school by becoming involved in their child's education, forming a positive relationship with school, and acknowledging the importance of children receiving the same messages from both school and home.
- Maintain effective routines at home to support good attendance.
- Attend all meetings requested to discuss attendance issues.

Pupils will be encouraged to:

- Be aware of the school's attendance policy and when and where they are required to attend. This will be communicated to them by school staff and parents.
- Speak to their class teacher or another member of staff if they are experiencing difficulties at school or at home which may impact on their attendance.
- Follow the school procedure if they arrive late. This will help the school to monitor attendance and keep accurate records for the child's individual attendance. This is also vital for health and safety in the event of a school evacuation.

4. Categorising Absence and Attendance

When marking our registers, we will apply the national codes as outlined and regulated by the Department for Education guidance to accurately record and report attendance.

4.1 Leave of Absence

Since September 2013, changes to Government regulations and guidance mean that Headteachers can no longer authorise leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. All absences associated with a holiday (without exceptional circumstance) during term time will be marked as unauthorised within the register. Any parents known to have removed their child from school for the sole purpose of a holiday may be referred to the Local Authority and be issued with a penalty notice fine or referred to the Local Authority to consider prosecution.

We believe that children need to be in school for all sessions so that they can make the most progress possible. However, we do understand that there are times where a parent may legitimately request leave of absence for a child due to 'exceptional circumstances. At **Wroxall Primary School**, leave of absence is only granted at the discretion of the Headteacher and shall not be granted unless there are 'exceptional circumstances. **Wroxall Primary School** will respond to all applications for leave of absence in writing.

Parents wishing to apply for leave of absence during term time must apply in writing to the Headteacher no later than 14 days before the planned leave (see Appendix 1). If a written request for leave of absence is not completed and the leave is taken without a request being submitted, the leave will not be considered by the Headteacher, and it will be marked as unauthorised. **Wroxall Primary School** will treat each application individually and may discuss with parents the circumstances of the application before a decision is made. Retrospective requests will not be considered and therefore will result in the absence being categorised as unauthorised. In such cases the school may make a referral to the Local Authority to request that a fixed penalty notice is issued or consider prosecution.

A penalty notice request or a referral for prosecution may be submitted to the Local Authority should: -

- The parent fails to submit a leave of absence request in advance of taking the leave.
- An application for a leave of absence is not agreed by the Headteacher but is still taken.
- A longer period is taken more than the agreed number of days.

When absence is granted by the Headteacher, the parents will need to agree a date of return. If a pupil fails to return on the expected date and contact is not received from, or made with the parents, school will seek advice from the Local Authority. This could result in possible children missing from education procedures being instigated.

4.2 Medical Appointments and absence due to illness

Parents should try to make appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. Where appointments during school time are unavoidable, we ask that parent notifies the school in advance of the appointment wherever possible. The pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment. In most circumstances, a child should not miss a whole day at school for an appointment. If a pupil must attend a medical appointment during the school day, the parent must sign the pupil out on collection and provide evidence of the appointment. No pupil will be allowed to leave the school site without parental confirmation.

In most cases, absences for illness which are reported following the school's absence reporting procedures will be authorised without the need for parents to supply medical evidence unnecessarily. In line with Department for Education guidance, if we do have a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness, we may ask the parent to provide medical evidence, such as a prescription, appointment card, or other appropriate form of evidence. If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Where a child has an emerging a pattern of non-attendance, we will discuss the reasons for

absence with the child's parent/carer. We will invite parents to attend an Education Support Meeting as an appropriate early intervention strategy. As part of this support, we may seek consent from parents and the pupil as appropriate to make a referral to the School Nursing Team and/or to liaise with the child's healthcare professional.

Where a pupil has a verified and chronic health condition, we will aim to work with parents to ensure children have access to education and provide appropriate support in line with Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school and Isle of Wight Council policies regarding supporting children with health issues. We will also consider whether an Individual Healthcare Plan is required.

4.3 Pupil Absence for the purposes of Religious Observance

Wroxall Primary School acknowledges the multi-faith nature of British society and recognises that, on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods or weekends and is recognised as such by a relevant religious authority. Where this occurs, the school will consider either authorising the pupil absence or making special leave for religious observance. Parents are requested to give advance notice to the school.

4.4 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils are among the lowest achieving groups of pupils at every key stage in education, although some GRT pupils achieve very well at school. There are many complex and interwoven factors that may influence the educational attainment of GRT pupils. Schools and Local Authorities can make a big difference to their life chances through:

- Clear high expectation of all pupils, regardless of their background
- An inclusive culture that welcomes all communities
- Strong engagement from parents

In line with The Education Act 1996, Section 444(6) the school will authorise the absence of a pupil of no fixed abode who is unable to attend school because:

- the parent is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as to require him/her to travel from place to place,
- that the child has attended at a school as a registered pupil as regularly as the nature of that trade or business permits, and if the child has attained the age of six, that he has made at least 200 attendances during the period of 12 months ending with the date on which the proceedings were instituted.

This provision applies *only* when the family are engaged in a trade or business that requires them to travel and when the child is attending school as regularly as that trade permits. In these circumstances, parents have a duty to ensure that their children are receiving suitable education when not at school.

When a family is trading or otherwise conducting their business on the Isle of Wight, if a family can reasonably travel back to their base school then the expectation is that their child will attend full-time. **Wroxall Primary School** will be regarded as the base school if it is the school where the child normally attends when he or she is not travelling. However, the pupil must have attended **Wroxall Primary School** in the last 18 months. Parents can register their children at other schools temporarily while away from their base school; in such cases, the pupil's school place at **Wroxall Primary School** will be kept open for them whilst travelling. This is to protect

them from unfairly losing their place at their school of usual attendance.

To ensure we can effectively support all our pupils, we ask that, parents:

- Advise the school of their forthcoming travelling patterns as soon as these are known and before they happen; and
- Inform the school regarding proposed return dates.

4.5 Unauthorised Absence

Absence will not be authorised unless parents have provided a satisfactory explanation and it is accepted as such by the school. The decision to authorise absences is at the discretion of the Headteacher. Examples of unsatisfactory explanations include but are not limited to:

- A pupil's/family member's birthday
- Shopping for uniforms
- Arrangements or appointments for cutting the pupil's hair
- Closure of a sibling's school for INSET (or other) purposes
- An unwillingness to attend school, or inability to attend owing to inadequate personal/family organisation
- A refusal to attend school on health grounds but where the pupil is considered well enough to attend
- Holidays taken without the authorisation of the school

5. Our Procedures

5.1 Register Keeping and Recording

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, as amended by 2016 regulations, require schools to take an attendance register twice a day, once at the start of the morning session and then again during the afternoon session. The register must record whether the pupil was:

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

For the purpose of this policy, the school defines:

“Absence” as:

- Arrival at school after the register has closed
- Not attending school for any reason

“Regular” attendance as:

- Attendance at every session the school is open to pupils unless their absence has been authorised

An “authorised absence” as:

- An absence for sickness for which the school has granted leave
- Medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall during school time, for which the school has granted leave
- Religious or cultural observances for which the school has granted leave
- An absence due to an unforeseen emergency involving a close family member

An “unauthorised absence” as:

- Parents keeping children off school unnecessarily or without reason
- Truancy before or during the school day
- Absences which have never been properly explained
- Arrival at school after the register has closed
- Shopping, looking after other children or birthdays
- Day trips and holidays in term-time which have not been agreed
- Leaving school for no reason during the day

5.2 Late Arrival at School

At **Wroxall Primary School** all pupils are expected to arrive on time for every day of the school year. The school day begins at 8:20am. We ask all parents to ensure their child is on site prior to the gates closing at 8:30am. The school register will be taken in class and will be open between 8:20am and 8:30am. All pupils arriving after this time are required to report to the main office with their parents, who will be expected to sign them in and provide a reason for their late attendance. If their arrival is between 8:45am and 9:00am the mark recorded will be ‘L’ for Late.

The school register will officially close at 9:00am. All pupils arriving on or after this time will be marked as having an unauthorised absence for the morning session - U code (Late after the close of register). This is categorised as an unauthorised absence for the session.

Parents will be contacted to discuss any patterns of late arrival. Repeated arrival after the close of registration will result in appropriate interventions being instigated and may also result in a penalty notice being issued or prosecution.

Please note: L or U codes will be used if a pupil arrives after the close of the afternoon register for the PM session.

5.3 Expected absence procedure for parents:

A parent has a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly. If a child is unavoidably absent from school parents are expected to contact school by telephone call on the morning of the first day of absence between 8:20am and 9:00am, and on each subsequent day, identifying the reason for absence and the expected date of return. If no contact is received, then absence protocols will be instigated.

If a child is absent, the following actions will be initiated by the school:

- The first day calling procedures will be activated for all pupils who are not in school after close of register at 9:00am and where no reason for absence is known.
- If there is still no contact made from the pupil's parents, a further telephone call home will be made again that morning. If no response can be gained, the child's named emergency contacts will be telephoned
- If school cannot contact a parent and are concerned about a pupil, a home visit may be carried out
- School will telephone home if a pupil leaves the school without permission

In certain circumstances the school may also:

- Visit the home of the pupil
- Write to the parents of a pupil to highlight attendance or punctuality issues
- Invite parents to discuss how school can support the family to make improvement
- Refer to Education Inclusion Service to offer support, guidance, and advice
- Refer to the Local Authority for joint enquiries to be made to establish the whereabouts of the child through the Isle of Wight CME (Child Missing in Education) Policy
- Refer to the Local Authority to consider issuing a penalty notice or to consider prosecution when all other interventions have failed, or an unauthorised leave of absence has been taken
- Refer the matter to an appropriate external agency for multi-agency support, such as implementing a Family Support Plan or consulting with the Children's Social Care or the police, where there are safeguarding concerns.

5.4 Wroxall Robins Preschool Absence Procedure

Reporting absence: Parents must inform Wroxall Robins Preschool by phone or message on the Seesaw app before 9am that their child will be absent. Absences may include illness, medical appointments, religious observances, exceptional family circumstances, or family holidays. While we recognise that preschool attendance is non-statutory, we strongly discourage holidays in term time as they can disrupt children's learning and routines.

Persistent absence: If a child's attendance is low or levels of punctuality are poor, the setting will meet with parents to discuss concerns and agree on a plan of support.

Unexplained absence: If a child is absent without notification, we will attempt to contact the parent/carer using the primary contact number provided. If we are unable to reach the parent/carer, we will attempt to contact the secondary emergency contact provided. All contact attempts and outcomes will be recorded in the child's attendance record and on CPOMs. If we are unable to make contact and have concerns about the child's welfare, we will follow our safeguarding procedures and may conduct a home visit or notify the Local Authority.

Prolonged absence: A prolonged absence is defined as 3 consecutive sessions of absence without a valid explanation. If a child is absent for a prolonged period, we will:

- Make repeated attempts to contact parents/carers and emergency contacts.
- Send a written communication (e.g., email or letter) to the parent/carer.

- Consider a home visit, if appropriate and following internal procedures.
- Consult with our safeguarding lead if there are concerns about the child's welfare.
- Where appropriate, notify the local authority in line with Children Missing Education guidance.

5.5 Attendance Rewards and Interventions

At **Wroxall Primary School** our target for attendance is 96%. Attendance is monitored on a daily basis by office staff, the Family Liaison Officer and the Headteacher.

Details of Whole School and Class Attendance is published in the weekly newsletter and the class with the highest weekly attendance also receives an Attendance Cup, presented in our weekly celebration assembly. At the end of each term, pupils are presented with Attendance Awards for above 96%.

Parents are reminded about the importance of school attendance each week in the newsletter and during parent consultation meetings.

At **Wroxall Primary School** we will explore the reasons for absence for any pupils who are on track to be persistently absent (PA) and will not wait until attendance is below 90%.

“Persistent absenteeism” (PA) is defined as:

- Missing 10% or more of schooling across the year for any reason

“Severe absence” (SA) is defined as:

- Missing 50% or more of schooling across the year for any reason

5.6 Support Systems

At **Wroxall Primary School**, we recognise that poor attendance can be an indication of difficulties in a family's life. This may be related to problems at home and/or in school. Parents are encouraged to inform school of any difficulties or changes in circumstances that may affect their child's attendance and or behaviour in school, for example, bereavement, divorce/separation, emerging health concerns. This will help the school identify any additional support that may be required.

We also recognise that some pupils are more likely to require additional support to attain good attendance. The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance based on the individual needs and circumstances of the child.

To plan the correct support, we will always invite parents and pupils to attend a meeting to discuss the concerns and devise a plan to support the child's regular attendance. Support offered to families will be child-centred and planned in discussion and agreement with both parents and pupils.

5.7 Persistent Absence, Severe Absence and the use of legal interventions

A pupil becomes a 'persistent absentee' (PA) when their attendance drops to 90% and below for any reason. Absence at this level could cause considerable damage to a child's educational prospects.

A pupil becomes a 'severe absentee' (SA) when their attendance drops to 50% and below for any reason. Absence at this level is causing considerable damage to a child's educational prospects.

The attendance of all pupils at our school are monitored to identify children who are PA, or are on track to becoming PA. Where emerging concerns are identified we will instigate appropriate and timely interventions. Referrals may also be made to external agencies for targeted support.

If parents fail to engage with support and their child continues to have unsatisfactory attendance/punctuality, a request may be made to the Local Authority to pursue legal proceedings either through a penalty notice, consideration of an Education Supervision Order or prosecution via the Magistrates' Court.

Parents found guilty of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school under the provisions of the Education Act 1996, will receive a criminal record and a maximum penalty of a £1000 fine under a Section 444 (1) offence or a £2500 fine or up to a 3-month prison sentence, under a Section 444 (1a) offence.

5.8 Reduced Timetables

All schools have a statutory duty to provide full-time education for all pupils and we are committed to every child's right to a suitable, full-time education offer. In very exceptional circumstances, we may decide to implement a temporary, reduced timetable to meet a pupil's individual needs and only where it is safe to do so. We will not use a reduced timetable to manage a pupil's behaviour. We will never put a reduced timetable in place without written agreement from parent/carer and/or other professionals working with the family as appropriate. This intervention will only be used as part of a comprehensive package of support for the pupil; it will be reviewed regularly in partnership with the child, parent and any other relevant professionals working with the family

In line with Isle of Wight Council guidance, we will notify the Education and Inclusion Service of all reduced timetables as soon as a plan has been agreed.

6. Deletions from the Register

At **Wroxall Primary School**, we will add and will only delete pupils from our school roll in line with the Pupil Registration Regulations. In most circumstances, we will know in advance about pupils leaving our school; this will be planned and discussed with the parent in advance of the pupil leaving. At **Wroxall Primary School**, we will always work with families to gain information about the pupil's next school and/or address before the pupil leaves to reduce the risk of pupils becoming a child missing education through lack of shared information.

We follow Isle of Wight Council's Child Missing in Education procedures and will inform the Education and Inclusion Service of all removals from our school roll no later than the date the child is removed in line with statutory responsibilities.

If a child is removed from roll to home educate, we can only de-register the child if we receive, in writing, the parent's intention to educate their child other than at school. The pupil will be de-registered on receipt of such a letter and Isle of Wight Council will be informed of the removal from roll as outlined above.

Wroxall Primary School will follow Isle of Wight Council's CME Policy when a pupil's whereabouts is unknown, and the school will carry out joint enquiries with Isle of Wight Council to establish the whereabouts of the child.

7. Related Policies

To underpin the values and ethos of our school and our intent to ensure that pupils at our school attend school regularly, the following policies are integral to this approach:

- safeguarding including child protection
- admissions
- anti-bullying
- special educational needs
- supporting pupils with medical needs

8. Attendance Interventions Threshold Document

Attendance Interventions Threshold Document

Reminder percentages are a guide. Consideration should be given to number of absences from school and reasons given when identifying support for student/family.

Attendance above 96% -

Schools should promote good attendance in school. Ideas may include:

- Attendance displays.
- School-wide assemblies
- Regular attendance updates in newsletters
- Attendance displays in school.
- Communication with all stakeholders.

Schools should regularly analyse school and student attendance data, and identify any areas of concern. There should be clear systems in place to raise a concern about attendance. Parents should regularly be updated on their child's attendance in school linked to attainment.

Schools should communicate the school attendance policy with all stakeholders, and parents and pupils should have an awareness of what is expected of them.

Attendance >95% Up to 10 days absent in an academic year.

- Class teacher/tutor to discuss attendance with student where age-appropriate, and to discuss concerns with family.
- Regular contact with family to update on progress and achievements as well as academic attainment.
- Write to parents to explain concerns, linked to attainment, sharing attendance data so parents can see the absence patterns.

Attendance >92%

Severe risk of underachievement, upwards of 22 days absent in an academic year.

- If absences continue calls to the family may require intervention from Year/House Manager at Secondary, Attendance Officer and in some cases Senior Leaders.
- As the child is at risk of becoming Persistently Absent the case (including all school actions to date) should be discussed in school attendance meetings.
- Regular contact with family to update on progress and achievements as well as academic attainment.
- Write to parents to explain concerns, linked to attainment, sharing attendance data so parents can see the absence patterns.
- School should consider an Early Help Plan support for the family.*
- School should be updating all parents on their child's attendance each half term.
- Each child who is Persistently Absent should have an individualised plan to support an improvement in attendance. *
- E&I may contact family at this point (for SLA Schools) which often identifies issues impacting on attendance.

Additional support offered by E&I for SLA Schools.*

Attendance >90% Student is recorded as Persistently Absent Extreme risk of underachievement. Upwards of 22 school days absent in the academic year.

- Student should have an Education Support Plan. Review Actions from this meeting in due course. *
- Consider if additional SEN support is needed.
- Where a child already has an EHCP an interim review should be held.
- Consider a Supporting Families Referral for families on Early Help. (Cases open to E&I can be processed at this stage without an Early Help)
- Is there a role for support from the MHST/Wellbeing Service/Youth Trust/CAMHS due to Mental Health Issues?
- Consider if support from Education Psychology Team is required
- Is there a need for Speech and Language Support
- Regular contact with family to update on progress and achievements as well as academic attainment.
- Write to parents to explain concerns, linked to attainment, sharing attendance data so parents can see the absence patterns.
- School may wish to consider an Early Help Plan support for the family.*
- School should be updating all parents on their child's attendance each half term.
- Each child who is Persistently Absent should have an individualised plan to support an improvement in attendance. *
- E&I may contact family at this point (for SLA Schools) which often identifies issues impacting on attendance.

Additional support offered by E&I for SLA Schools.*

Attendance >85%

Extreme risk of underachievement.

- Social Care intervention if required.
- Schools should consider Early Help Assessment to identify need. (E&I will support SLA schools with this). *
- Family to be signposted to support by professionals considering Local Offer.*
- Consider behaviour plan to reduce suspensions and on-site truancy.*
- Is parenting support needed*
- Would the student benefit from AP to assist in reengaging with education.
- Consider Outreach support.
- E&I can access medical advice via school nursing team, or other services such as CAMHS and GP's*
- E&I to consider legal options, including Truancy Penalty Notice, Education Supervision Order, or parental prosecution. *
- Non-SLA Schools will need to request a place at the School Attendance Enforcement Panel to make a case for legal intervention.

Additional support offered by E&I for SLA Schools.*

9. Appendices

The following pages contain appendices relevant to this policy.

Appendix 1: Example leave of absence request form

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

As parents, you have the legal responsibility to ensure your child's regular attendance at school. Applications for leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and the number of days given determined by the Headteacher.

If you wish to apply for a leave of absence for your child in term time, you will need to complete this form and return it to the school office no later than 14 days before the requested date.

Any leave of absence during term time which is not applied for or agreed to by the school will be recorded as unauthorised and will be referred to the Local Authority. This may result in a Truancy Penalty Notice (TPN) being issued or Prosecution under Section 444 Education Act for failure to secure regular attendance at school (see note below):

Name of Child:	Class:	
I am applying for leave of absence for my child from / to:	From:	To:
Number of school days that will be missed:		
Full names of Parent and/or Carers:		
Home address of Parent and/or Carers:		
Reason for absence, ie family holiday, funeral etc		
This leave cannot be taken during the school holidays because		
I have requested leave of absence previously this academic year:	YES / NO	
I have requested leave of absence last academic year:	YES / NO	
I also have children at (please name school/s):		
Parent/Carer signature:		
Date of request:		
OFFICE USE		
Having considered your request carefully, my decision is	Authorised / Unauthorised	

Signed:	Date:
---------	-------

Unauthorised absence and persistent lateness may result in the issue of a Truancy Penalty Notice to each parent/carer, for each child for the period of absence from school. This will be issued as an alternative disposal to prosecution for failing to secure regular attendance at school.

The Penalty Notice is £80 per pupil, per parent/carer if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 per pupil, per parent/carer. If a second penalty notice is issued within a rolling 3 year period, the fine will be at the flat £160 rate per pupil, per parent. A third period would be considered for prosecution.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice within the specified time will result in its withdrawal and will result in a prosecution under Section 444 Education Act for the non-attendance where the maximum fine is £2,500 and up to 3 months imprisonment.

Appendix 2: Example reply to leave of absence request

Dear Parent Name(s),

RE: ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME – PUPIL NAME (DATES OF ABSENCE)

Thank you for your completed leave of absence form requesting [pupil name/s] absence from school between [date absent] to [date absent] for the purpose of a family holiday. I very much appreciate your honesty and thank you for alerting the school.

I am writing to advise you that the absence is considered unauthorised. This decision is in line with the School Attendance framework as defined by the Department for Education which state that Headteachers may only authorise absences from school in exceptional circumstances; which would largely be of an unforeseen or emergency nature.

Parents have a duty to ensure their child's regular attendance at school and failure to do so is an offence under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996. As a family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance this absence will be referred to the Local Authority and you may be issued with a Truancy Penalty Notice (TPN) in accordance with the Local Authority's procedures in respect of leave during term time.

Please note that a Truancy Penalty Notice is issued by the Local Authority to each parent/carer for each child taken out of school. A Truancy Penalty Notice is £160 which is reduced to £80 if paid within the first 21 days for an initial period of unauthorised absence. A second Truancy Penalty Notice issued within three years is not eligible for the reduction to £80 (from August 2024). Thereafter if the Truancy Penalty Notice remains unpaid after 28 days this may result in legal action be taken against you.

Please note that for absences in excess of 15 days (30 sessions) prosecution under Section 444 Education Act 1996 may be considered, in accordance with the IW Council's Code of Conduct which can be found at:

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-attendance/family-holidays-and-school-holidays/>

If you would like to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me on Phone Number.

Yours sincerely

Appendix 3: School Attendance Meeting Invite Letter

Dear

Re: Child Name

As you are aware in accordance with Education and Inclusion best practice, all schools monitor children's attendance closely and regularly. We write to advise you that NAME's current attendance stands at %.

We appreciate that there are often good reasons for a child's absence such as illness. However, as NAME's attendance falls below 90% which is the threshold for "persistent absence", Education and Inclusion would like to hold a review meeting with you.

We would therefore like to invite you for a School Attendance Meeting on XX at XX. This will be with me and our Education and Inclusion Officer from the Isle of Wight Council. The purpose of the meeting is to see how we can further support you to improve NAME's attendance.

We would be grateful if you could please confirm you are able to attend the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Tara Hopkinson
Headteacher

Appendix 4: Attendance Policy Quick Guide for Parents

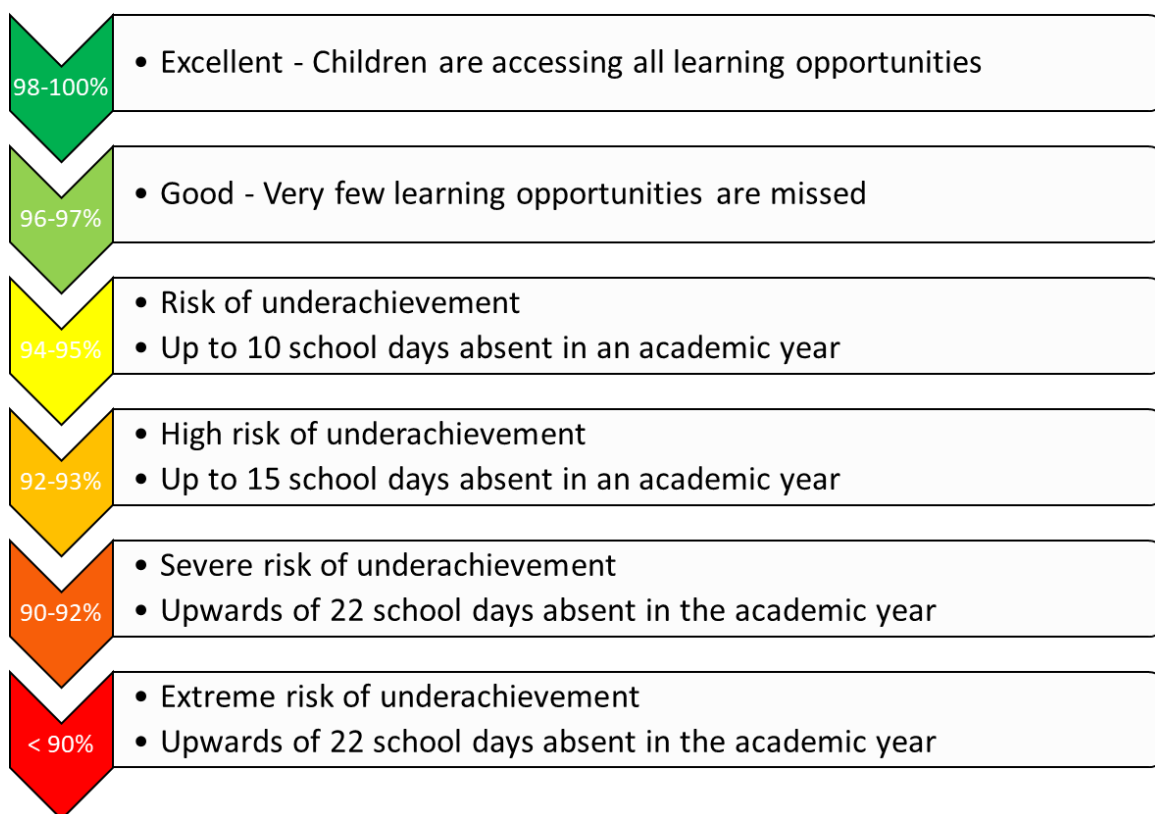
Attendance Policy Quick Guide for Parents

We expect children to attend school for 100% of the academic year wherever possible.

You can support your child to have excellent attendance by taking these steps:

- Ensure your child arrives on time for school every day and is ready to learn. Arriving after registration is recorded as an unauthorised absence. Children must be in school by 8:30am
- Avoid taking holidays during term time.
- If your child appears to be only slightly ill, send them in to school. We will monitor them closely and will contact you if their condition deteriorates.
- Book any medical appointments outside of school hours. If this is unavoidable, please book for as late in the afternoon as possible and inform the school of appointments in advance.
- Supply a copy of the appointment card or hospital letter if your child has an appointment during school hours.

If your child becomes reluctant to go to school or you need help, please contact the school immediately; we are more likely to be able to work together to solve any problems if we act early.



‘On the day’ absences: what should I do if my child is not ‘fit’ to go into school?

On each day your child is unfit to come to school, please report this absence by telephone to let us know no later than 9:00am. In the message you must leave your child’s full name, class and give the specific reason for absence. The information you give will be recorded on our official register.

Leave of Absence

There may be exceptional circumstances where you need to request a leave of absence for your child. Please use our ‘Leave of absence request’ form to make these types of requests. The form should be submitted to the school office in advance of the leave of absence. You will receive a letter in response, to advise if the request has been granted or declined.

Punctuality

Children are expected to arrive on time for school in the morning and for every lesson during the day.

The Government remains very clear that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must continue to take steps to reduce absence to support children’s attainment. I hope we can count on your support in this matter.

Please contact the school if you require any support with ensuring your child’s regular school attendance.