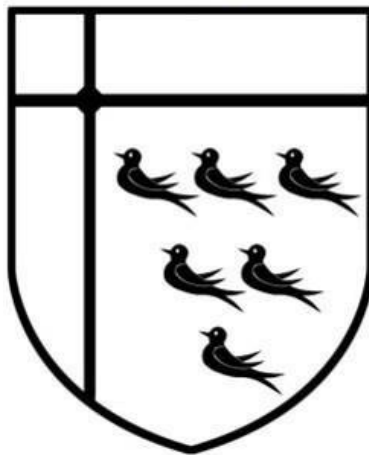


St Wilfrid's
Cof E Primary School



ST WILFRID'S CofE PRIMARY

Attendance and Punctuality policy

St Wilfrid's CofE Primary

Attendance and Punctuality policy

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Introduction

Regular and punctual attendance is vital to ensuring all children have full access to the learning opportunities in school. Valuable learning time is lost when children are absent or late. This disadvantages their progress. It can also cause the children to feel isolated from their peers as they do not have the same shared experiences.

Every day in every year of a child's primary school education lays the foundation blocks for success.

This policy sets out The Hurst Education Trust's policy. Each school has its own arrangements to comply with the policy and these are set out in Appendix 2 and there are links within the relevant sections of the policy.

1. Aims

This policy aims to show our commitment to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance, including those laid out in the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#), through our whole-school culture and ethos that values good attendance, including:

- Setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils
- Promoting good attendance and the benefits of good attendance
- Reducing absence, including persistent and severe absence
- Ensuring every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence
- Building strong relationships with families to ensure pupils have the support in place to attend school

We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#) and [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- 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](#)

It also refers to:

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools](#)

This policy also complies with our trust's funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The board of trustees

The board of trustees is responsible for:

- Setting high expectations of all trust and school leaders, staff, pupils and parents
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties, including:
 - Making sure all schools in the trust record attendance accurately in the register, and share the required information with the DfE and local authorities
 - Making sure all schools in the trust work effectively with local partners to help remove barriers to attendance, and keep them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate
- Recognising and promoting the importance of school attendance across the trust's policies and ethos
- Making sure the school's attendance management processes are delivered effectively, and that consistent support is provided for pupils who need it most by prioritising staff and resources
- Making sure the trust has high aspirations for all pupils, but adapts processes and support to pupils' individual needs
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on individual pupils or cohorts who need it most
- Working with school leaders to set goals or areas of focus for attendance and providing support and challenge
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole trust, and repeatedly evaluating the effectiveness of the school's processes and improvement efforts to make sure they are meeting pupils needs
- Where the school is struggling with attendance, working with school leaders to develop a comprehensive action plan to improve attendance

- Making sure all staff receive adequate training on attendance, including with teachers from across the trust, as part of the regular continued professional development offer, so that staff understand:
 - The importance of good attendance
 - That absence is almost always a symptom of wider issues
 - The trust's legal requirements for keeping registers
 - The trust's strategies and procedures for tracking, following up on and improving attendance, including working with partners and keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate
- Making sure dedicated training is provided to staff with a specific attendance function in their role, including in interpreting and analysing attendance data
- Sharing effective practice on attendance management and improvement across the trust and providing regular opportunities for staff from different schools to come together, learn from each other and share resources
- Holding the headteachers to account for the implementation of this policy
- Identifying and monitoring attendance patterns across the trust's schools to identify common issues and barriers, and share effective practice between schools

3.2. The local governing body

The local governing body is responsible for:

- Promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data for the school
- Making sure staff receive adequate training on attendance
- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy

3.3. The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementation of this policy at the school
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors and the trustees
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary
- Working with the parents of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with SEND, including where school transport is regularly being missed, and where pupils with SEND face in-school barriers
- Communicating with the local authority when a pupil with an education, health and care (EHC) plan has falling attendance, or where there are barriers to attendance that relate to the pupil's needs
- Communicating the school's high expectations for attendance and punctuality regularly to pupils and parents through all available channels

3.4. The designated senior leader responsible for attendance at each school

The designated senior leader is responsible for:

- Leading, championing and improving attendance across the school
- Setting a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Having a strong grasp of absence data and oversight of data analysis
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating progress in attendance
- Establishing and maintaining effective systems for tackling absence, and making sure they are followed by all staff
- Liaising with pupils, parents/carers and external agencies, where needed
- Building close and productive relationships with parents/carers to discuss and tackle attendance issues
- Creating intervention reintegration plans in partnership with pupils and their parents/carers
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families

[Designated senior leader with responsibility for attendance and contact details](#)

3.5. The school attendance officer

The school attendance officer at each school is responsible for:

- Monitoring and analysing attendance data (see section 7)
- Benchmarking attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Providing regular attendance reports to school staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the designated senior leader responsible for attendance, and the headteacher
- Working with education welfare officers to tackle persistent absence
- Advising the headteacher when to issue fixed-penalty notices

3.6. Class teachers

All class teachers are responsible for recording attendance for both morning and afternoon sessions on a daily basis, using the correct codes, and submitting this information to the school office.

3.7. School administration/office staff

School administration/office staff will:

- Take calls from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system
- Transfer calls from parents/carers to the appropriate staff member in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance

3.8. Parents/carers

Where this policy refers to a parent, it refers to the adult the school and/or local authority decides is most appropriate to work with, including:

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not
- All those who have parental responsibility for a child or young person
- Those who have day-to-day responsibility for the child (i.e. lives with and looks after them)

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Make sure their child attends every day on time
- Call the school to report their child's absence on the day of the absence and advise when they are expected to return. [How parents should notify the school of unplanned absence](#)
- Provide the school with more than 1 emergency contact number for their children
- Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day
- Seek support, where necessary, for maintaining good attendance, by contacting the [Designated senior leader](#)

3.9 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Attend school every day on time

4. Recording attendance

4.1 Attendance register

We will keep an electronic 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. It will mark, using the appropriate national attendance and absence codes from the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, whether every pupil is:

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

Any amendment to the attendance register will include:

- The original entry
- The amended entry
- The reason for the amendment
- The date on which the amendment was made
- The name and position of the person who made the amendment

See appendix 1 for the DfE attendance codes.

We will also record:

- Whether the absence is authorised or not
- The nature of the activity if a pupil is attending an approved educational activity
- The nature of circumstances where a pupil is unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

We will keep every entry on the attendance register for 6 years after the date on which the entry was made.

[Timings of school day and registration](#)

4.2 Unplanned absence

The pupil's parent/carer must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by or as soon as practically possible by calling the school administration/office staff.

[How parents should notify the school of unplanned absence](#)

We will mark absence due to physical or mental illness as authorised unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.

Where the absence is longer than 5 days or there are doubts about the authenticity of the illness, the school will ask for medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily.

If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and parent/carer will be notified of this in advance.

4.3 Planned absence

Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment.

[How parents/carers should request leaves of absence](#)

However, we encourage parents/carers to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

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. Go to section 5 to find out which term-time absences the school can authorise.

4.4 Lateness and punctuality

Children should be on time every day, as lateness results in lost learning time, makes it difficult for the children to understand the learning and can make it difficult for them to settle for the day.

A pupil who arrives late:

- Before the register has closed will be marked as late, using the appropriate code
- After the register has closed will be marked as absent, using the appropriate code

[How the school identifies and responds to ongoing punctuality issues](#)

4.5 Following up unexplained absence

Where any pupil we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, without reason, the school will:

- Call the pupil's parent/carer on the morning of the first day of unexplained absence to ascertain the reason. If we cannot reach any of the pupil's emergency contacts, we may take additional action e.g. contacting the police.
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not
- Identify the correct attendance code to use and input it as soon as the reason for absence is ascertained – this will be no later than 5 working days after the session
- Call the parent/carer on each day that the absence continues without explanation to ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, the school will consider involving an education welfare officer
- Where relevant, report the unexplained absence to the pupil's youth offending team officer

- Where appropriate, offer support to the pupil and/or their parents to improve attendance
- Where support is not appropriate, not successful, or not engaged with: issue a notice to improve, penalty notice or other legal intervention (see section 5.2. below).

4.6 Reporting to parents/carers

The school will regularly inform parents/carers about their child's attendance and absence levels.

[How the school informs parents/carers](#)

5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

5.1 Approval for term-time absence

The headteacher will allow pupils to be absent from the school site for certain educational activities, or to attend other schools or settings.

The headteacher will only grant a **leave of absence** to a pupil during term time if the request meets the specific circumstances set out in the [2024 school attendance regulations](#). These circumstances are:

- Taking part in a regulated performance, or regulated employment abroad
- Attending an interview
- Study leave
- A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable
- Exceptional circumstances

A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher's discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for.

Leave of absence will not be granted for a pupil to take part in protest activity during school hours.

As a leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.

The headteacher considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request. The headteacher may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

'Exceptional circumstances'

Across the year there are just 190 school days. That means there are already 175 days set aside for weekends, holidays, family visits and rewarding days out. We believe every school day counts to give your child the greatest opportunity of attaining a good education and to support a happy and healthy future.

With 175 days already marked out as 'non-school days', you should have an exceptional reason to withdraw your child from school. The following are considered illegitimate reasons and are likely to be rejected and unauthorised.




- Trips to visit family/friends
- Your child's birthday
- Cheaper family holidays
- Tickets to sports/culture events

100% is recognised as an expected level of school attendance. If your child is out of school for 3 days each term, then their attendance is below 95% and they're spending more days out of school than in it! Should your child need time off due to illness, this figure will quickly become even lower.

Because five days of school equates to 25 hours of learning, catching up with extra work out of school is unrealistic.

From a young person's perspective, missing schools means:

- Missing out on fun projects and school activities
- Struggling to catch up on work
- Disconnecting with school friends

WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE?					
190 days	180 days	178 days	163 days	161 days	143 days
100%	95%	94%	86%	85%	75%
Good		Worrying		Serious Concern	
					
Only 1-2 day missed per term		Between 3-8 days missed per term		More than 9 days missed per term	

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated before the absence, and in accordance with the school's procedures. [How to request term-time absence](#)

The headteacher may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

Other valid reasons for **authorised absence** include (but are not limited to):

- Illness (including mental-health 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/carers belong. If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parent's/carer's religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart
- Parent(s) travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh gypsies, Irish and Scottish travellers, showmen (fairground people) and circus people, barges (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
- If the pupil is currently suspended or excluded from school (and no alternative provision has been made)

Other reasons the school may allow a pupil to be absent from the school site, which are not classified as absences, include (but are not limited to):

- Attending an offsite approved educational activity, sporting activity or visit or trip arranged by the school
- Attending another school at which the pupil is also registered (dual registration)
- Attending provision arranged by the local authority
- Attending work experience
- If there is any other unavoidable cause for the pupil not to attend school, such as disruption to travel caused by an emergency, a lack of access arrangements, or because the school premises are closed

5.2 Sanctions

Our school will make use of the full range of potential sanctions – including, but not limited to, those listed below – to tackle poor attendance. Decisions will be made on an individual, case-by-case basis.

Penalty notices

The headteacher (or someone authorised by them), local authority or the police can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age, by issuing a penalty notice.

If the school issues a penalty notice, it will check with the local authority before doing so, and send it a copy of any penalty notice issued.

Before issuing a penalty notice, the school will consider the individual case, including:

- Whether the national threshold for considering a penalty notice has been met (10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks)
- Whether a penalty notice is the best available tool to improve attendance for that pupil
- Whether further support, a notice to improve or another legal intervention would be a more appropriate solution
- Whether any obligations that the school has under the Equality Act 2010 make issuing a penalty notice inappropriate

A penalty notice may also be issued where parents allow their child to be present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification, during the first 5 days of a suspension or exclusion (where the school has notified the parents that the pupil must not be present in a public place on that day).

Each parent who is liable for the pupil's offence(s) can be issued with a penalty notice, but this will usually only be the parent/parents who allowed the absence.

The payment must be made directly to the local authority, regardless of who issues the notice. If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice.

If issued with a **first** penalty notice, the parent must pay £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days.

If a **second** penalty notice is issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil, the parent must pay £160 if paid within 28 days.

A **third** penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the issue of the first penalty notice. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead.

Notices to improve

If the national threshold has been met and support is appropriate, but parents do not engage with offers of support, the school may offer a notice to improve to give parents a final chance to engage with support.

Notices to improve will be issued in line with processes set out in the local code of conduct for the local authority area in which the pupil attends school.

They will include:

- Details of the pupil's attendance record and of the offences
- The benefits of regular attendance and the duty of parents under section 7 of the Education Act 1996
- Details of the support provided so far
- Opportunities for further support, or to access previously provided support that was not engaged with
- A clear warning that a penalty notice may be issued if attendance doesn't improve within the improvement period, along with details of what sufficient improvement looks like, which will be decided on a case-by-case basis

- A clear timeframe of between 3 and 6 weeks for the improvement period
- The grounds on which a penalty notice may be issued before the end of the improvement period

6. Strategies for promoting attendance

[Rewarding and improving attendance](#)

7. Supporting pupils who are absent or returning to school

[How the school supports pupils who are absent or returning to school](#)

8. Attendance monitoring

8.1 Monitoring attendance

The trust and schools will monitor attendance and absence data half-termly, termly and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil level, year group and cohort level.

Specific pupil information will be shared with the DfE on request.

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 trust and the school will benchmark its attendance data at whole trust, school, year group and cohort level against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement, and share this with the governing boards.

8.2 Analysing attendance

The trust and schools will:

Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify pupils or cohorts that need additional support with their attendance

- Identify pupils whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence

Conduct thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full-year data to identify patterns and trends

Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns

- Identify attendance patterns across the trust to identify common issues and barriers and share effective practice between schools

8.3 Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

Develop targeted actions to address patterns of absence (of all severities) of individual pupils, groups or cohorts that it has identified via data analysis

- Provide targeted support to the pupils it has identified whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severed absence, and their families (see section 8.4 below)

Provide regular attendance reports to class teachers, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families and to the governing board and school leaders (including special educational needs co-ordinator, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium lead)

Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies

- Share information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, local authorities and other partners where a pupil's absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe, including keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate

7.4 Reducing persistent and severe absence

Persistent absence is where a pupil misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence is where a pupil misses 50% or more of school. Reducing persistent and severe absence is central to the trust's and school strategy for improving attendance.

The trust and schools will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence
- Consider potential safeguarding issues and, where suspected or present, address them in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Hold regular meetings with the parents/carers of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable, or at risk of persistent or severe absence, or who are persistently or severely absent, to:
 - Discuss attendance and engagement at school
 - Explain the help that is available
 - Explain the potential consequences of, and sanctions for, persistent and severe absence
 - Review any existing actions or interventions
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance, in conjunction with the local authority, where relevant
- Consider alternative support that could be put in place to remove any barriers to attendance and re-engage these pupils. In doing so, the school will sensitively consider some of the reasons for absence
- Implement sanctions, where necessary (see section 5.2, above)

[Strategies for reducing absence](#)

9. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy

10. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority or DfE is updated, and as a minimum every three years. At every review, the policy will be approved by the full board of trustees.

Document History:

Attendance and Punctuality Policy	
Policy Type:	Statutory – Customisable Trust Policy
Policy Source:	Based on The Key model June 2024 (effective from 19 August 2024)
Model Policy Approval:	HET Trust Board
Customised Policy Approval:	Individual Academy LGB
Review period:	Three years

Date Reviewed	Amendments Made	Date Model Approved by Trust Board	Date Customised Policy Approved By LGB	Next Review Due
Oct 2023	New Trust customisable model policy	3 rd October 2023		October 2026
June 2024	Updated following DfE statutory guidance effective from 19 August 2024	19h July 2024	12/7/2024	July 2027

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
Attending a place other than the school		
K	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority	Pupil is attending a place other than a school at which they are registered, for educational provision arranged by the local authority
V	Attending an educational visit or trip	Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised or approved by the school
P	Participating in a sporting activity	Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school
W	Attending work experience	Pupil is on an approved work experience placement
B	Attending any other approved educational activity	Pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is not a sporting activity or work experience
D	Dual registered	Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered
Absent – leave of absence		
C1	Participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad	Pupil is undertaking employment (paid or unpaid) during school hours, approved by the school
M	Medical/dental appointment	Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment
J1	Interview	Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment
S	Study leave	Pupil has been granted leave of absence to study for a public examination
X	Not required to be in school	Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend

C2	Part-time timetable	Pupil is not in school due to having a part-time timetable
C	Exceptional circumstances	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
Absent – other authorised reasons		
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	Pupil is a 'mobile child' who is travelling with their parent(s) who are travelling for occupational purposes
R	Religious observance	Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	Pupil is unable to attend due to illness (either related to physical or mental health)
E	Suspended or excluded	Pupil has been suspended or excluded from school and no alternative provision has been made
Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause		
Q	Lack of access arrangements	Pupil is unable to attend school because the local authority has failed to make access arrangements to enable attendance at school
Y1	Transport not available	Pupil is unable to attend because school is not within walking distance of their home and the transport normally provided is not available
Y2	Widespread disruption to travel	Pupil is unable to attend because of widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national or international emergency
Y3	Part of school premises closed	Pupil is unable to attend because they cannot practicably be accommodated in the part of the premises that remains open
Y4	Whole school site unexpectedly closed	Every pupil absent as the school is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to adverse weather)
Y5	Criminal justice detention	Pupil is unable to attend as they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In police detention • Remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or • Detained under a sentence of detention
Y6	Public health guidance or law	Pupil's travel to or attendance at the school would

		be prohibited under public health guidance or law
Y7	Any other unavoidable cause	To be used where an unavoidable cause is not covered by the other codes
Absent – unauthorised absence		
G	Holiday not granted by the school	Pupil is absent for the purpose of a holiday, not approved by the school
N	Reason for absence not yet established	Reason for absence has not been established before the register closes
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	No reason for absence has been established, or the school isn't satisfied that the reason given would be recorded using one of the codes for authorised absence
U (Unauthorised)	Arrived in school after registration closed	Pupil has arrived late, after the register has closed but before the end of session
Administrative codes		
Z	Prospective pupil not on admission register	Pupil has not joined school yet but has been registered
#	Planned whole-school closure	Whole-school closures that are known and planned in advance, including school holidays

Appendix 2: School specific information

St Wilfrid's CofE Primary

Attendance and Punctuality Arrangements

The designated senior leader responsible for attendance is: Simon Hateley and can be contacted via office@stwilfrids-hh.school.

Timings of school day and registration

	KS1	KS2
School gates open at	8.35 am	8.35am
Doors open at	8:50 am	8.50am
Gates will be closed	8.55am	8.55am
School day starts - morning	8.55am	8.55am
Child deemed late – before register closed (L)	Before 9.30 am	Before 9.30 am
Child deemed late – after register closed (U)	After 9.30 am	After 9.30 am
Afternoon session starts	1.00pm	1.00pm
Day ends	3.20 pm	3.20 pm

- Pupils must arrive in school by 8.55am on each school day.
- The register for the first session will be taken at 9am and will be kept open until 9.05am
- The register for the afternoon session will be taken at 1pm and will be kept open until 1.05pm.

Unplanned absence

The pupil's parent/carer must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9am or as soon as practically possible by calling the school office staff.

If your child is ill and unable to attend school, please notify the school office by 9.00am.

This can be done by emailing the school using the school absence inbox absence@stwilfrids-hh.school or calling 01444 413707 and leaving a message on our answerphone.

We need notification on the first and each subsequent day of absence. If we do not receive notification, we follow this up immediately to assure the child's safety. This may, in some circumstances, involve a welfare check and parent/carers will be notified of this via school ping.

We are required by law to record any unauthorised absences so if we are not in receipt of the reason for a child's absence, this will be recorded as unauthorised.

Planned absence

Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment.

Parents/Carers must use the school absence request form.

Lateness and Punctuality

Parent/Carers will be contacted to discuss with the Deputy Head Teacher if there is a sequence of lates recorded.

Reporting to parents/carers

The school will inform parents about their child's attendance and absence levels in their end of year reports.

However, where attendance falls between 93% and 95% at the end of a term then we will report this to families. Where it falls lower than this, then a meeting will be scheduled with the families to discuss the need for attendance to improve.

Strategies for promoting attendance

The most vital part of encouraging good attendance is to ensure that the school is a place to which the children want to come: that the school is a place where the children are treated with respect and feel valued; a place where their needs are recognised and are being addressed; a place where all children can experience success within a rich, relevant and diversified curriculum.

On our monthly newsletter, we highlight attendance figures to the school community.

It is clear that children alone cannot ensure their regular and punctual attendance at school. From the outset, parents are encouraged to take an active interest in the work of the School and to build and support their children's enthusiasm for attending school.

All staff make children aware of the importance of good attendance and children are praised.

Each child's attendance record is shared with the parents as part of annual written reports and at Parent Consultations, attendance is discussed. It follows that individual records of attendance are kept and are passed onto subsequent schools.

Supporting pupils who are absent or returning to school

➤ Pupils absent due to complex barriers to attendance

The school will seek to understand specific and complex barriers to pupils attending school. The Senior Leadership Team will be available to meet with parents and discuss ways in which the school can support attendance. The school has high expectations for attendance for all pupils and will work with families to create bespoke support, where appropriate. This may include earlier or later drop off and pick ups, phonecalls home through the day or a time-limited part-time timetable.

➤ Pupils absent due to mental or physical ill health or SEND

Identified pupils with specific medical, therapy or Special Educational needs, who have a high level of absence, will be supported by the following strategies:

- Weekly monitoring of attendance and absence
- Working with the Local Authority to record such absences as authorised to reflect attendance as good as can be expected for these pupils and the school
- Provide home visits where appropriate
- Recognise that some pupils are not 'available for learning' and work with the LA and other agencies to allocate appropriate provision which may not be within our school
- Where a pupil has an education health and care (EHC) plan and their attendance falls, or the school becomes aware of barriers to attendance that related to the pupil's needs, the school will inform the local authority.

➤ **Pupils returning to school after a lengthy or unavoidable period of absence**

Where a pupil has been absent due to an unavoidable period of absence, a meeting may be arranged to co-ordinate support between parents and the school that will facilitate a positive return to school. A bespoke support package may be created that enables pupils to return to school quickly.

Reducing absence

Persistent absence is where a pupil misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence is where a pupil misses 50% or more of school.

The school will:




- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence
- Issue letters
- Hold regular meetings with the parents of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable, or are persistently or severely absent, to discuss attendance and engagement at school
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance

Appendix 3: Attendance letters

Dear <<salutation>>

Re: <<forename>> <<surname>> (Class <<year_reg>>)

As part of our commitment to improving the attainment of our pupils, we monitor their attendance on a regular basis. During our regular monitoring of pupil attendance we identify any pupil whose attendance has dropped below a good level of attendance. The table below outlines the impact of missing days at school and is helpful in giving us a picture of how absence from school adds up in terms of days missed per term.

WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE?					
90 days	80 days	78 days	63 days	61 days	43 days
100%	95%	94%	86%	85%	75%
Good		Worrying		Serious Concern	
					
Only 1-2 day missed per term		Between 3-8 days missed per term		More than 9 days missed per term	

I have just completed a review of pupils’ attendance for the year to date and I am writing to inform you that <<forename>>’s level of attendance has been calculated at <<percentage_attendance>>%, a figure which is below a good level of attendance and could be classed as worrying.

Although we recognise the impact illness has had on children this year and the reason many of our children have been off school, certainly in the run up to Christmas, it is important to bring it to your attention and hopefully we will see an improvement over the rest of the year.

Kind Regards,
Mr Simon Hateley

Dear «salutation»

Re: «forename» «surname» (Class «year_reg»)

I have just completed a review of pupils’ attendance for the last term and I am writing to inform you that I am concerned at «forename»’s level of attendance. I have calculated «his_her» percentage attendance for the term as «percentage_attendance»%, a figure which, I am sure you will agree, is a cause for concern.

A figure of 80% attendance would mean your child would miss more than a term each year. At this rate, over a child’s school career, they will have missed 2 whole years of education. As a parent or carer, you are legally responsible for your child’s regular school attendance.

I would be grateful if you could contact me as soon as possible, so that we can arrange a mutually convenient time to meet, to discuss how we can work together to support «forename» in an attempt to improve «his_her» attendance.

I look forward to hearing from you within the next week.

Kind Regards,
Mr Simon Hateley

WELFARE CHECK SLIP

DATE

This is to inform you that as is/are absent from school today and we have been unable to contact you to ascertain a reason, we have visited your home address.

Visits are made to hopefully make contact, check if a child/ren or their family requires assistance in anyway, and if possible, to facilitate getting the child/ren into school.

When you receive this message, it would be appreciated if you could call the school on the number above to confirm the reason for absence and, if appropriate, whether your child/ren will be coming to school today.

Thankyou.

Notice to Improve Letter for Unauthorised absence coded; 'O', 'U' and 'N'.

Dear parent/guardian,

Pupil Name:

Pupil DOB:

Year Group:

School attendance is hugely important. For your child to gain the full benefit from their education, for their learning, wellbeing, and wider development, they need to attend on time, every day possible.

If a child of compulsory school age who is registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, the child's parent may be guilty of an offence under S.444 Education Act 1996. The offences under the Education Act 1996 also include when a pupil is accessing alternative provision.

On reviewing our records, it is clear we have raised our concerns with you regarding Pupil Name's attendance and this included:

(Outline actions interventions taken/offered to improve the pupil's attendance and/or where information was sought – this should reflect each set of circumstances – below is some examples.)

- **Telephone Calls** – We have contacted you every day your child was absent to understand the reason for this and to offer support with any issues your child may be having.
- **Attendance Concern Letter** – We have written to you, letting you know of our concerns around your child's attendance at school and the impact of their continued absence, inviting you to contact us to discuss the situation further.
- **An Attendance Support Meeting Invite** – We have invited you to a meeting to discuss your child's attendance and absence. We notified you of the consequences should your child continue to have unauthorised absence and you did not effectively engage in the support offered.
- **Timetable Amendments** – We introduced an individualised timetable as a method of improving your child's attendance. This has not been engaged with regardless of the adaptations implemented.

- **Attendance Contract** – We proposed an attendance contract and this was implement/declined or failed to be met.

Unfortunately, despite the actions taken attendance remains a cause of concern and your child has been recorded as absent without authority for ?? sessions; each school day is made up of 2 sessions.

You now have 20 school days in which to improve your child's attendance. During this time, you must ensure your child shows significant improvement in attendance and avoid them having any unauthorised absence from school.

Should further unauthorised absence occur, a referral may be made to the Local Authority for consideration of a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) and/or Court action including the use of Education Supervision Orders (ESO). It remains the Local Authority's decision on the type of intervention offered or used.

If a FPN is used, they are issued per parent, per child and are charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. In some cases, you may be offered the opportunity to pay a reduced amount of £80 if paid within 21 days.

Please note a referral may be made as soon as any further unauthorised absence is recorded, and we do not have to wait until the end of the 20 day period.

Should you wish to discuss your child's attendance please do make contact at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Contact Name Title

Penalty Notice Warning

Dear Name

Student name and form
Current % attendance: %

WARNING OF POTENTIAL ISSUE OF PENALTY NOTICE

We are concerned to note that there is a pattern of unauthorised absence emerging in relation to Name's attendance to school. In order to avoid this becoming a serious problem we would urge you to ensure that Name attends school each day and registers promptly.

If you have any medical evidence which states Name was unfit or so unwell **he/she** could not attend school, please send this information into school immediately.

Regular attendance, which includes punctuality, is not only an important educational requirement but is also a legal requirement.

Please be advised that if punctuality does not improve and a further 10 sessions of lateness, and any other unauthorised absence, accrues during the next 10 weeks, we will refer the matter to the Education Support, Behaviour & Attendance Service and a Penalty Notice will be issued. Please note that if a Penalty Notice is issued this will be to *each* parent (for each child) incurring a fine of £160 which decreases to £80 if not paid within 21 days.

If there are any issues you would wish to discuss please do not hesitate to make contact with me.

Yours sincerely