



Peninsula East
Primary Academy



LEIGH
Academies Trust

Attendance Policy

Peninsula East Primary Academy

Policy agreed by L Rimmer, J Dyke and Trust Attendance Officer
Ratified by Governor: Keith Morrison September 2024

DATED: September 2024
Next Review: September 2025

INTRODUCTION

Regular attendance at school is essential to promote the education of all pupils and to enable them to make the most of the educational opportunities available to them. **Our target at Peninsula East Primary school is for the whole school to achieve at least 96% attendance over the school year.** The School's ethos encourages children to feel that their presence in school is important and that they are missed when they are absent or late. The School will take appropriate action when necessary in order to promote the aims of the Policy.

At Peninsula East Primary Academy we take seriously our responsibility to monitor and promote the regular attendance of all our pupils. We acknowledge that irregular attendance seriously disrupts continuity of learning, undermines educational progress, can lead to underachievement and low attainment and impedes the child's ability to develop friendship groups within school.

All children are sometimes reluctant to attend school. Any problems with regular attendance are best sorted out between the school, the parents and the child. If a child is reluctant to attend, it is never better to cover up their absence or to give in to pressure to excuse them from attending. This gives the impression that attendance does not matter and may make things worse.

AIMS

- To maximise attendance of all children
- To provide an environment which encourages regular attendance and makes attendance and punctuality a priority for all those associated at the school
- To monitor and support children whose attendance is a cause for concern and work in partnership with parents and carers to resolve any difficulties
- To analyse attendance data regularly to inform future policy and practice
- To work closely and make full use of the support from the wider community including the Attendance **Officers** and multi-agency teams.

Peninsula East Academy adheres to the principles and guidance as set out in the DfE publication, "Working together to improve school attendance." August 2024. The Senior Leader responsible for the strategic approach to attendance is Principal, Mrs Lorna Rimmer.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Wo>

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following people have key responsibilities in the pursuit of high levels of attendance and punctuality:

Governors

- To set out and monitor progress towards annual targets for attendance
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the Attendance Policy

Principal

- To ensure that effective systems are in place to accurately reflect individual pupil and group and whole school attendance patterns
- To monitor individual pupils, group and whole school attendance and punctuality.
- To work in partnership with key agencies if attendance and/or punctuality is an issue
- To provide Governors with information to enable them to evaluate the success of the Policy and practice
- To write to parents/carers regarding any concerns about their child's attendance
- To arrange meetings with parents/carers to discuss support and set targets for those experiencing attendance difficulties

Class Teacher

- To provide an accurate record of attendance for each child in their class
- Send any notes from parents to the office daily

Attendance Officer (Jane Dyke) and Office Staff

- To prepare, manage and coordinate the use of the Bromcom Attendance Manager System
- To monitor and track attendance patterns for all children and prepare relevant attendance reports when necessary
- To meet with the Principal at least once per term to discuss attendance and look at data analysis

- To establish patterns of persistent absence and identify those children that could become persistent absentees and put strategies in place to improve attendance
- To ensure that a satisfactory reason for every absence has been established for each child at the end of each week
- To make a judgement in conjunction with the Principal whether an absence is authorised or unauthorised

Pupils

- Pupils have a responsibility to themselves and others to play a positive role in the life of the school and to make the most of the education opportunities available

Parents

- Parents have a duty under the law to ensure their children attend school everyday.

ADMINISTRATION

- The school uses Bromcom to store and monitor its legal responsibilities in relation to attendance. Registers are a vital legal document and teachers are required by their contractual duties to take an attendance register at the beginning of both the morning and afternoon sessions
- Registers are returned to the School Office after the closure of the registration period. Registers must be completed carefully and accurately, as they provide a record of a pupil's attendance. Failure to complete a register accurately leaves the school vulnerable to complaint from parents or carers and constitutes a risk if an emergency evacuation has to take place.

ABSENCE

LATENESS

- Registration in the morning is at 8.45am and afternoon registration is at 1.15pm.
- Pupils arriving after 8.45am must report to the School Office so that their attendance and meal choice can be recorded
- Pupils arriving after the register has been closed at 9.00am will be considered as late. Children arriving after 9.00am will formally be recorded on the school systems as late

- Pupils arriving after 9.15am will be considered as an unauthorised absence unless a satisfactory reason is given, for example a doctor's appointment. It is advised that medical evidence is given to the School to keep on record. If the School is not in receipt of medical evidence it is not obliged to authorise the absence.
- Action to address lateness will be taken in line with the school's strategy to improve punctuality
- Pupils who are consistently late disrupt not only their own education but also that of others
- Where persistent lateness gives cause for concern our Principal or Office Team will contact the family and liaise with the Attendance Advisory Practitioner at Medway (AO) to organise a meeting and whether any further action will be taken.

System for Punctuality

On the fourth instance of lateness (4 times in the late book as code L, Late before the register close)	'Lateness Concerns' letter is sent to parents reminding them of the importance of punctuality, school timings.
Following 3 more instances in the late book as a Code L, Late before the register closes.	'Attendance Meeting' letter is sent out stating that the parent must come into school for a meeting with the Principal and Attendance Officer to address concerns.
Following 3 or more instances in the late book as a Code U (Late After The register closed)	'Attendance Meeting' letter is sent out stating that the parent must come into school for a meeting with the Principal and Attendance Officer to address concerns.
If punctuality does not improve	Prosecution might be considered for further periods of unauthorised absence. Action may be taken by the school and local authority against parents/carers who fail to ensure that their child is properly educated. The action may result in a formal warning, a Penalty notice, or court action.

Illness

- Parents/carers are asked to contact the school on the first day of absence to provide the reason for the absence by calling the academy office on 01634270428 and where possible on each subsequent day of absence. If leaving a message, the parents/carers should include their contact number or email address so that we can contact them on this.
- Where Office Staff are not made aware of the reason for a child's absence they will, wherever possible, contact parents/carers by telephone on the first day of absence.
- If any member of staff is concerned about a reason for absence, the Vice Principal or Principal should be informed.
- If a child is kept off from school due to illness for 4 or more days and medical advice has not been sought (proof of which will need to be provided) then we would not be able to authorise these days. For some illnesses, such as chickenpox, the school will seek advice from the Department of Health.
- If a child is not in school, no medical evidence has been sent to the office and either no contact or limited contact can be made with the parents and carers, if we have not seen the child in over 3-5 days, we will conduct a home visit. This is for safeguarding purposes as we have not seen the child for a prolonged period of time with either no explanation or evidence as to why they are not attending school.

Escalation process

The school's escalation process for falling attendance is below;

- Telephone calls made to parents/carers
- Letters notifying parents/carers that their child's attendance is falling
- Attendance meeting invite sent to parents and carers
- Attendance contract sent to parents and carers
- Requests made for medical evidence
- Notice to Improve letter sent
- Referral made to the local authority

Medical or Dental Appointments

- Absence from school due to a medical or dental appointment will be considered as an authorised absence. Parents/carers are requested to

provide written confirmation of these appointments (Appointment Card, letter inviting to appointment etc)

- Parents/carers are encouraged to make all medical appointments out of school hours

When medical evidence is required

The 1996 Education Act clearly states; 'If any child of compulsory school age, who is a registered pupil at a school, fails to attend regularly, the parents/carer of the child shall be guilty of an offence'. The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 also introduced the use of penalty notices as an additional sanction to address the problem of poor school attendance. Failure to ensure your child's regular attendance at school may result in prosecution in the courts or a penalty notice being issued.

If your child's attendance becomes a concern, you will be invited to an Attendance meeting with the Principal and Attendance officer and if your child's attendance continues to be a concern, we will then request medical evidence. If your child is put onto medical evidence, please be aware that this will continue through their subsequent years at the school.

In the event of 10 unauthorised sessions recorded **in a 10 week period** with no medical evidence for any absences taken, a referral may be made to the Attendance Advisory Service for Schools and Academies (AASSA).

Ten unauthorised sessions of absence (including Holiday (G) / Unauthorised Absence (O) / Unauthorised Late (U)) may result in a request to the Local Authority for a Penalty Notice to be issued. Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each child and the amount of the penalty will be £160 if paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. Failure to pay the penalty in full at the end of the 28 day period may result in prosecution through the Magistrates Court.

If a second penalty notice is issued within a rolling 3-year period, then the charge will be at a flat rate of £160 per parent per child if paid within 28 days.

Failure to pay the penalty in full at the end of the 28 day period may result in prosecution through the Magistrates Court.

In the event of three or more periods of unauthorised absence within a 3 rolling year period, a penalty notice will not be issued. A statutory attendance referral may be made to the Attendance Advisory Service for Schools and Academies AASSA at Medway and may result in prosecution.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024_.pdf

HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

Revised regulations on education from September 2013 state that no holidays will be authorised in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. In light of this the Governors have taken the decision that under no circumstances will holidays during term time be authorised. A pupil's absence during term time can seriously disrupt their continuity or learning. Not only do they miss the teaching provided on the days they are away, they are also less prepared for the lessons on their return. If the holiday is for 5 consecutive days or more there may be a referral to the Attendance Advisory Service for Schools and Academies AASSA at Medway who will issue a Penalty Notice.

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No holidays will be considered for authorisation unless parents/carers have contacted the Principal by letter or email to request holiday and given reasons for it. The Principal will consider all requests individually and will ONLY authorise in exceptional circumstances but will otherwise not authorise holidays taken during term time as set out above.

Any holiday related absence that includes 10 sessions in 10 weeks may result in a penalty notice, however, in this instance a 'Notice to Improve' will not be issued beforehand.

OTHER ABSENCE

In some instances, there may be a need to apply for leave for special circumstances and these will be considered on an individual basis and a decision will be made to authorise or un-authorise the absence.

CHILDREN NOT COLLECTED AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

There are rare occasions when perhaps due to an emergency, parents are not able to collect their children promptly from school, or make arrangements for their collection at the end of the school day. If the child is not collected, the school will make enquiries to find the parents using the emergency contact numbers provided by the parents. If after one hour it has not been possible to contact parents/carers then the local Police will be informed of the situation. The Principal will also contact the Referral Team at Social Services to inform them of a possible problem.

REPORTING TO PARENTS AND CARERS

All absences both authorised and unauthorised and lateness will be reported to the parent/carer at the end of the year within their child's report. Parents will also be able to access their daily attendance through the use of the app My Child at School.

ATTENDANCE PROMOTION

We aim to raise and maintain levels of attendance by:

- Promoting a positive and welcoming atmosphere in which pupils feel safe, secure and valued
- Raising the awareness of the importance of a differentiated and relevant curriculum
- Promoting opportunities to celebrate and reward pupil's successes and achievements.
- Raising awareness of the importance of good attendance and promoting the school's expectation is of 96% or above attendance.
- Ensuring that attendance is monitored effectively and reasons for absence are recorded promptly and consistently

REMOVING A PUPIL FROM ROLL

If parents/carers decide to transfer their child to another school or Academy, they should advise the school office as a matter of priority, providing all necessary details,

including any new address (if relevant) and the school or Academy the child is transferring to. When in the process of a school or Academy transfer the child must continue to attend Peninsula East Primary Academy until a start date has been agreed with the new school or Academy. If the Academy does not receive this information and a child stops attending, he or she becomes a 'Child Missing Education' (CME). Any child in this category is reported to the Child Missing Education Officer at the Local Authority, who will follow up the matter under safeguarding legislation.

As per The School Attendance (Pupil Registration)(England) Regulations 2024 - Section 9, when all possible actions have been taken we will remove the student from the academy roll due to continued serious absence. .

- The pupil has not attended the school within the ten school days immediately after the end of the period of leave and the proprietor does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil is unable to attend because of sickness or an unavoidable cause; and the proprietor and the local authority have jointly made reasonable efforts to find out the pupil's location and circumstances. If unable to establish the pupil's whereabouts we will remove from roll.
- The pupil has been continuously absent from the school for at least twenty school days and the proprietor does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil is unable to attend because of sickness or an unavoidable cause; and the proprietor and the local authority have jointly made reasonable efforts to find out the pupil's location and circumstances. If unable to establish the pupil's whereabouts we will remove from roll.
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2024/208/regulation/9/made>

EDUCATION FOR HEALTH NEEDS INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH

- [**DFE: Education for children with health needs who cannot attend ...**](#)

This guidance relates to local authorities statutory duties under section 19 of the Education Act 1996. The section 19(1) duty states that [local authorities](#) are responsible for arranging suitable and (normally) full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not receive suitable education without such provision.

This means that where a child cannot attend school because of a physical or mental health need, has medical evidence and cannot access suitable full-time education, [the local authority](#) is responsible for arranging suitable alternative provision.

Where possible, the child's health needs should be managed by the home school so that they can continue to be educated there with support, and without the need for the intervention of the local authority. However, [as soon](#)

as it is clear that the home school can no longer support the child's health needs and provide suitable education, the school should speak to the [local authority](#) about putting alternative provision in place.

There is no absolute legal deadline by which [local authorities](#) must start to arrange education for children with additional health needs. However, as soon as it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days or more because of their health needs, the [local authority](#) should arrange suitable alternative provision. The 15 days may be consecutive or over the course of a school year.

Where full-time education would not be in a child's best interests for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, [local authorities](#) must arrange part-time education on whatever basis they consider to be in the child's best interests.

The Academy will operate according to its statutory duties under section 19 of the Education Act 1996 and DFE:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024_.pdf

ATTENDANCE CODES

The following codes will be used to indicate the reason for absence:

- / Present (AM) \ Present (PM)
- B Educated off site (NOT at an alternative provision)
- C Other Authorised Circumstances
- C1: Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad.
- C2: Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable
- D Dual registration (i.e. student attending other establishment)
- E Excluded (no alternative provision made)
- G Family holiday (NOT agreed or days in excess of agreement)
- I Illness (NOT medical or dental etc. appointments)
- J1: Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution
- K: Attending education provision arranged by the local authority (section 19)
- L Late (before registers closed)
- M Medical/Dental appointments
- N No reason yet provided for absence

- O Unauthorised absence (not covered by any other code/description)
- P Approved sporting activity
- Q: Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements (travel pass delays via local authority)
- R Religious observance
- S Study leave
- T Traveller absence
- U Late (after registers closed)
- V Educational visit or trip
- W Work experience
- X Non-compulsory school age absence
- Y1: Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available
- Y2: Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel
- Y3: Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed
- Y4: Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed
- Y5: Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention
- Y6: Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law
- Y7: Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause (emergency situations only)
- Z Student not yet on roll
- # School closed to students

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Attendance data will be analysed to establish patterns of irregular attendance. This will include children with:

- Incomplete weeks
- Monday and Friday absences
- Lateness
- Periods of extended absence
- Periods of unauthorised absence
- Children with attendance below 90%
- This data will be discussed with the Attendance Practitioner as part of the regular meetings held at school.

The Head of School and Attendance Practitioner will discuss the impact of the School's Attendance Policy and the strategies used to promote good attendance annually.

Addendum for Off Rolling Students

- We will only enter pupils on the admission register where we have received written confirmation that the person with control of the pupil's attendance has accepted the school place.
- Where the local authority has offered a place at the school but no written confirmation of acceptance has been received from the person with control of the pupil's attendance, we will write to the local authority requesting evidence in writing and will not enter the pupil onto the admission register until this has been received. If written confirmation is not received within 10 school days, the offer of a place will be withdrawn and offered to another pupil in accordance with our Admissions Policy.
- We will enter pupils' names on the admission register on the first day that the school and a person with control of the pupil's attendance have agreed that the pupil will attend the school. If no date has been agreed or notified, the pupil's name will be entered on the first day they attend the school. Names must be added before, or at the beginning of the first session on that day.
- Where a pupil does not attend on the agreed date, we will send a letter to the person with control of the pupil's attendance asking them to confirm in writing within 10 school days that they wish to take up the place. If written confirmation is not received within 10 school days, the pupil's name will be removed from the admission register and the place offered to another pupil in accordance with the admission policy.

Systems and Structures Around Attendance

<u>When attendance is at the national benchmark or better</u>	
100%	Termly Attendance Certificate <u>End of year prize incentive for winning class overall</u>
99% - 96%	Weekly reward for class and Attendance Ted for EYFS/KS1 and KS2 Golden ticket raffle if attended 5 days per week. Raffle with prizes drawn at the end of each term.
On first day of absence	First day calling will take place by the Primary Office or parents can phone the office to inform them.
Stage 1a: If attendance dips below 96%	
95% - 93%	1. Letter sent home highlighting concerning attendance and notification of next step.

Stage 1b: If attendance remains between 93% - 95%	
95% - 93%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If attendance has dropped but remains within 93%-95% - trigger letter is sent again 2. If attendance plateaus or increases but remains within 93% - 95% - no letter is sent
Stage 2: If attendance dips to between 91% - 93%	
93% - 91%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal letter sent home informing parents of severity of poor attendance and next steps in the process. 2. <u>Attendance meeting with the Principal and the Attendance officer.</u> 3. <u>Attendance Plan in place to improve.</u> 4. <u>Medical Evidence is required to authorise absence due to illness.</u>
Stage 3: If attendance continues to fall and is below 90%	
90% and below	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Referral is made by school to Medway Council Attendance and Advisory Service for Schools and Academies (AASSA) 2. <u>Any further meetings will be held with Principal and AAP.</u>
<p>Fixed Penalty Notice https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200164/school_information/358/school_attendance/5</p>	

You can track your child's attendance on the MCAS app.