

Saffron Walden County High School



Pupil Attendance Policy

Ratified by the Governing Body: September 2020

Updated and approved by the Governing Body: 18th September 2023

Review Date: *Annual review*

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References:

1. Department for Education, *Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance* (May 2022)
2. Department for Education, *School attendance guidance* (May 2022)

Introduction and Background

SWCHS recognises that positive behaviour and good attendance are essential in order to raise standards of pupil attainment and to give every child/young person the best educational experience possible.

This policy is written with the above statement in mind and underpins our school ethos to:

- promote children's welfare and safeguarding.
- ensure every pupil has access to the full time education to which they are entitled.
- ensure that pupils succeed whilst at school.
- ensure that pupils have access to the widest possible range of opportunities at school, and when they leave school.

For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. **It is a rule of this school that pupils must attend every day, unless there are exceptional circumstances and it is the Headteacher, delegated member of the Senior Leadership Team or the child's year office, not the parent, who can authorise the absence.**

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. Any pupil's absence or late arrival disrupts teaching routines and so may affect the learning of others in the same class. Ensuring a child's regular attendance at school is a parental responsibility and permitting absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in the Child Missing Education (CME) service issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or pursuing prosecution.

This policy has been developed in consultation with school governors, teachers, local Headteacher Associations, the Local Authority and parents and carers. It seeks to ensure that all parties involved in the practicalities of school attendance are aware and informed of attendance matters in school and to outline the schools commitment to attendance matters. It details the responsibilities of individuals and groups involved and the procedures in place to promote and monitor pupil attendance.

Our policy aims to raise and maintain levels of attendance by:

- Promoting a positive and welcoming atmosphere in which pupils feel safe, secure and valued.
- Raising awareness of the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- Ensuring that attendance is monitored effectively and reasons for absences are recorded promptly and consistently.

Promoting Regular Attendance

Helping to create a pattern of regular attendance is the responsibility of parents, pupils and all members of school staff.

To help us all to focus on this we will:

- Give parents/carers details on attendance during published Progress Checks.
- Provide on-going access to parents/carers so they can regularly monitor their child's attendance.
- Contact parents/carers should their child's attendance fall below the school's target for attendance.
- Arrange School Attendance Meetings (SAM) should we have serious concerns or require a meeting to discuss support mechanisms that can be established to engender an improvement in pupil attendance.
- Celebrate excellent attendance at the end of every academic year.
- Acknowledge and support improving attendance.

Understanding Types of Absence

Every half-day absence from school has to be classified by the school (not by the parent/carer), as either AUTHORISED or UNAUTHORISED. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required. Each half-day is known as a 'session'

Authorised absences are morning or afternoon sessions away from school for a genuine reason such as illness (although you may be asked to provide medical evidence for your child before this can be authorised), medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, emergencies or other unavoidable causes/ exceptional circumstances.

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been given. This type of absence can lead to the Local Authority using sanctions and/or legal proceedings which may include issuing each parent with a Fixed Penalty Notice for £120, reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days or referring the matter to the Magistrates Court whereby each parent may receive a fine up to £2500 and/or up to 3 months in prison. If you are found guilty in court you will receive a criminal conviction.

Unauthorised absence includes, however is not exhaustive:

- Parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily e.g. because they had a late night or for non-infectious illness or injury that would not affect their ability to learn.
- Absences which have never been properly explained. If they remain unexplained, the school will adjust these to unauthorised.
- Children who arrive at school after the close of registration are marked using a 'U'. This indicates that they are in school for safeguarding purposes however is recorded as an absence for the session.
- Shopping trips.
- Looking after other children or children accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments.
- Their own or family birthdays.
- Holidays taken during term time without leave, not deemed 'for exceptional purposes' by the Headteacher- may result in school referring to the local authority to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice or if you have previously been issued a Fixed Penalty Notice, the school may request a direct prosecution by the local authority.
- Day trips.
- Other leave of absence in term time which has not been agreed.

School Attendance and the Law

There is no longer any entitlement in law for pupils to take time off during the term to go on holiday. In addition, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom has ruled that the definition of regular school attendance is “in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school”.

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 were amended in September 2013. All references to family holidays and extended leave have been removed. The amendments specify that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are "exceptional circumstances" and they no longer have the discretion to authorise up to ten days of absence each academic year.

It is a rule of this school that a leave of absence shall not be granted in term time unless there are reasons considered to be exceptional by the headteacher, delegated member of the Senior Leadership Team, or year office irrespective of the child's overall attendance. Only the headteacher or his/her designate (not the local authority) may authorise such a request and all applications for a leave of absence must be made in writing on the prescribed form provided by the school. Where a parent removes a child when the application for leave was refused or where no application was made to the school, the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice may be requested by this school.

Application for leave of absence for term time holiday

We actively discourage pupils from taking holidays during term time. Requests should be made via Leave of Absence Request forms (Annex C) which are available from the main school office, or by clicking on the links on the school website. A term time absence will only be authorised by the school if there are exceptional circumstances which warrant it.

Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013. If the unauthorised leave of absence is taken in term time the Child Missing Education (CME) Service may issue a Penalty Notice for £120 (if paid within 28 days) or £60 (if paid within 21 days) to each parent for each child taken out of school.

Guidance states that CME can issue a Penalty Notice for a leave of absence taken during term time irrespective of the student's current attendance if the absence lasts for 10 sessions (5 consecutive days) or more. For shorter leaves of absence which are taken during term time, CME can issue an 'Irregular Attendance Penalty Notice' if there are other absences which mean that a student has missed 10 or more sessions (5 or more whole days) across a 10 week period. These do not have to be consecutive.

At SWCHS exceptional circumstances' will be interpreted as:

Being of unique and significant emotional, educational or spiritual value to the child which outweighs the loss of teaching time (as determined by the headteacher). The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional' are events that are “rare, significant, unavoidable and short”. By 'unavoidable' we mean an event that could not reasonably be scheduled at another time.

Whilst any child may occasionally have time off school because they are ill, sometimes they can be reluctant to attend school. Any problems with regular attendance are best sorted out between the school, the parents and the child. If a parent thinks their child is reluctant to attend school then we will work with that family to understand the root problem and provide any necessary support. Our School Inclusion Officer is employed to work in tandem with your child's YAC or SSO to support regular attendance. We can also use outside agencies to help with this such as the School Nurse, Local Authority Attendance Compliance Team or a Child and Family Support Worker.

Persistent Absenteeism (PA)

A pupil is defined by the Government as a '**persistent absentee**' when they miss 10% or more schooling across the school year for whatever reason. Absence at this level will cause considerable damage to any child's education and we need a parent/carer's fullest support and co-operation to tackle this.

We monitor all absence, and the reasons that are given, thoroughly. If a child is seen to have reached the PA mark or is at risk of moving towards that mark we will inform the parent/carer. PA pupils are tracked and monitored carefully. We also combine this with academic tracking where absence affects attainment. All our PA pupils and their parents are subject to a School Attendance Meeting (SAM) and the plan may include: allocation of additional support through the School Inclusion Officer, YAC, School Counsellor, School Nurse, Local Attendance Adviser, Home School Liaison Worker, Local Authority, Family Solutions or Social Care.

If we have safeguarding concerns relating to your child's absence from school, we may conduct an unannounced home visit or request that the Police conduct a welfare check.

Absence Procedures

If a child is absent from school the parent/carer must follow the following procedures:

- Contact the school on the first day of absence before 09:00am. The school has an answer phone available to leave a message if nobody is available to take your call, or call into school personally and speak to the office staff.
- Contact the school on every further day of absence, again before 09:00am unless information has been shared with Form Tutor / Year Achievement Coordinator / Student Support Officer / Inclusion Officer / Attendance Officer.
- Ensure that your child returns to school as soon as possible and you provide any medical evidence if requested to support the absence.
- Following absence we expect pupils to bring a note from home within 5 days of the absence explaining why they have been away. This should be addressed to the form tutor who will then update the register. The Attendance Officer will ensure all registers are accurate and that an explanation has been given for all absence from school. If we do not receive this information then the absence may be marked as unauthorised.
- For any absence of 5 days or longer due to illness, we request that parents provide medical evidence for the absence.

If your child is absent SWCHS will:

- Telephone or email you on the first day of absence if we have not heard from you however, it is your responsibility to contact us.
- Write to you if your child's attendance is below 90%. You may be contacted before this point to discuss any irregularities or concerns involving patterns of attendance etc.
- Invite you into school to discuss the situation with our School Inclusion Officer, Child and Family Support Worker and/or YAC, SSO or member of the Senior Leadership Team if absences persist.
- Refer the matter to the Child Missing Education (CME) Service for relevant sanctions if attendance deteriorates following the above actions.

Attendance Compliance Team

Parents are expected to contact school at an early stage and to work with the staff in resolving any problems together. This is nearly always successful. If difficulties cannot be resolved in this way, the school may refer the child to the Local Authority. Local Authority Attendance Specialists work with

schools, families and other professionals to reduce persistent absence and improve overall attendance. If attendance does not improve, a referral for legal action may be taken in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice (see Annex A for the Essex Code of Conduct), prosecution in the Magistrates Court or the application of an Education Supervision Order, designed to strengthen parental responsibilities and ensure improved attendance.

Lateness

Poor punctuality is not acceptable. If a child misses the start of the day they can miss work and do not spend time with their class teacher getting vital information and news for the day. Late arriving pupils also disrupt lessons, can be embarrassing for the child and can also encourage absence. Good time-keeping is a vital life skill which will help our children as they progress through their school life and out into the wider world.

How we manage lateness:

Pupils are expected to be in school by 8.30am, ready to enter their classrooms at 8.35am and in their classrooms ready to start work at 8.40am. If your child arrives in their classroom after 08:40am they will receive a late mark 'L'. Children arriving after 08:40am must sign in at the Reception desk in the main entrance. If no good reason is given, students will be issued with an Amber Warning. Students who receive four Amber Warnings across an academic year will receive a Pastoral Detention.

At 09:45am the registers will be closed. In accordance with the Regulations, if your child arrives after that time they will receive a mark that shows them to be on site 'U', but this will **not** count as a present mark and it will mean they have an unauthorised absence. This may mean that you could face the possibility of being issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice if the problem persists. If your child has a persistent late record you will be asked to meet with the School Inclusion Officer, YAC, SSO, and/or Child and Family Support Worker, but you can approach us at any time if you are having problems getting your child to school on time. We expect parents and staff to encourage good punctuality by being good role models to our children and celebrate good class and individual punctuality.

If leave of absence is authorised, the school will not provide work for children to do during their absence. Parents are however advised to read with their children and encourage them to write a diary while they are away.

Deletion from Roll

For any pupil leaving SWCHS other than at the end of year 11, parents/carers are required to complete a 'SWCHS Exit form' which can be obtained from the school office or school website. This provides school with the following information: Child's name, class, current address, date of leaving, new home address, name of new school, address of new school. This information is essential to ensure that we know and safeguard the whereabouts of all of our pupils.

It is crucial that parents keep school updated with current addresses and contact details for key family members in case of emergency.

Summary

The school has a legal duty to publish its absence figures to parents and to promote attendance. Equally, parents have a duty to make sure that their children attend school, on time, every day.

All school staff and the Governing Body are committed to working with parents and pupils as the best way to ensure as high a level of attendance as possible.

Annex A

ESSEX CODE OF CONDUCT PENALTY NOTICES FOR PARENTS OF TRUANTS AND PARENTS OF PUPILS EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACT 2003 SECTION 23

The purpose of this local code of conduct is to ensure that the powers are applied consistently and fairly across the Local Authority area to all Essex residents.

The Government requires Local Authorities to issue a code of conduct and any persons issuing Penalty Notices to a parent¹ must do so in accordance with this protocol. Essex County Council is legislatively responsible for administering the Penalty Notice scheme and will do so in accordance with a number of legislative and non-legislative requirements.

The Essex code has been agreed following consultation with;

- Essex County Council representatives – Attendance Compliance Team and Essex Legal Services.
- Representatives from Governing Bodies and Headteachers of Essex Schools
- Essex Police
- Persons accredited under Essex Police's Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS)

The Code of Conduct is in accordance with the following legislation;

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR EDUCATION PENALTY NOTICES

The legal framework governing school attendance and the responsibilities of parents of excluded pupils, schools and the LA is set out in a succession of acts, regulations and other guidance.

Education Act 1996

Under Section 7 of the Act: the parent is responsible for making sure that their child of compulsory school age receives efficient full time education that is suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs that the child may have, this can be by regular attendance at school, or otherwise (the parent can choose to educate their child themselves). If it appears to the LA that a child of compulsory school age is not receiving a suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise then they must begin procedures for issuing a School Attendance Order under Section 437 of the Education Act 1996.

If a child of compulsory school age who is registered at a school fails to attend the school regularly the parent is guilty of an offence under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996. In addition, if it can be proved that a parent knew of the child's non-attendance and failed to act, then they may be found guilty under Section 444(1 A). This offence (known as the higher or aggravated offence) can lead to a warrant being issued compelling a parent to attend court and conviction may result in a higher level fine and/or a custodial sentence.

¹ All those defined as a parent under Section 576 Education Act 1996 are parents for the purpose of these provisions. This means that all natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility (as defined in the Children Act 1989) for a child or young person; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person. Having care of a child or young person means that a person with whom the child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child, is considered to be a parent in education law. Parent means each and every parent coming within the definition (whether acting jointly or separately) and should not be taken to mean that provisions only apply to parent in the singular. As with prosecutions under Section 444 Education Act 1996 a penalty notice may be issued to each parent liable for the offence.

On 6 April 2017, in the case of *Isle of Wight Council v Platt* [2017] UKSC 28, the Supreme Court ruled that the word ‘regularly’ means ‘in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school.’

Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/38/contents>

The Act added two new sections (444A and 444B) to the Education Act. It introduced penalty notices as an alternative to prosecution under Section 444; the issuing of penalty notices is governed by:

- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007
- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) 2013

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/757/contents/made>

Children Act 1989

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/36>

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/section/16>

Education and Inspections Act 2006

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/contents>

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (Amended 2013)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/756/regulation/2/made>

AUTHORISATION TO ISSUE PENALTY NOTICES

Primary responsibility for issuing penalty notices rests with the Local Authority (LA). It has been agreed that the Attendance Compliance Team, on behalf of Essex LA, will usually issue penalty notices. The Service will administer the scheme from any funds obtained as a result of issuing penalty notices.

Head Teachers (and Deputy Head Teachers and Assistant Head Teachers authorised by the head teacher) and police, and persons accredited by the community safety accreditation scheme are all able to issue the notices under the Act, although there is no requirement for them to do so.

In Essex it has been agreed that the Police and Head Teachers will not issue penalty notices to parents. Persons accredited through the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme² are authorised to do so.

CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A PENALTY NOTICE MAY BE ISSUED

Penalty Notices apply to pupils of statutory school age, which commences the term immediately following the child's 5th birthday and finishes on the last Friday in June of school year in which they turn 16.

Penalty notices will only be issued as a conclusion to a series of processes and when all attempts to address school attendance matters have been unsuccessful. If a previous Penalty Notice has been unsuccessful, rationale

² Accredited companies at time of this publication are Attendance Solutions Essex, Aquinas School Attendance Provisions and NEMAT Support Services

and justification should be provided as to why issuing another Penalty Notice would improve the attendance of the student. If schools are not aware of any previous or current legal interventions they must email attendancecompliance@essex.gov.uk. A response will be sent within 3 working days. Parents cannot be penalised more than once for the same period of absence.

Domestic and European legislation and case law makes it clear that when serving a formal Notice in criminal proceedings, the recipient must be clearly and unambiguously identified. For the Purpose of issuing a Penalty Notice under this Code, the parent's first and last name must be cited on the Notice and any covering letter. Essex partners have agreed to use Penalty Notices for the following circumstances however the offence under s444 Education Act 1996 is the same whether issued for unauthorised leave of absence (ULA) or irregular school attendance (ISA):

Penalty notices for unauthorised leave of absence (ULA)³

Penalty Notices may be issued where there have been at least 10 consecutive sessions of unauthorised absence for the purpose of a holiday, whereby a parent made an application to the School which the Head Teacher has deemed not for exceptional circumstances. In addition, a Penalty Notice may also be issued, whereby the parent did not submit a leave of absence request, however the school have reason to believe the absence was for the purpose of a holiday and should not be authorised as parent has not provided any additional evidence which the Head Teacher deems appropriate to support the absence.

In addition to the above criteria, due to the importance of pupils settling into school at the commencement of the school year, Penalty Notices may also be issued if there have been at least 6 consecutive sessions of unauthorised absence during the first two weeks of September due to a term-time holiday.

The Local Authority requests that for Penalty Notices to be issued, parents must be duly warned of the legal ramifications under separate cover if they remove their child from school for the purpose of a holiday. Schools/Academies must reference the use of Penalty Notices within their Attendance Policy which must be available to all parents/carers online and/or in hard copy within the school, accessible to parents to read. Schools should remind parents of the protocol regarding leave of absence during term time.

Penalty Notices for Irregular School Attendance (ISA)

Penalty Notices may be issued where there has been at least 10 sessions of unauthorised absence during the previous 10 school weeks.

Parents must have been issued with a Legal Action Warning Letter with accompanying Legal fact sheet and given opportunities to inform the school of any factors impacting on their ability to ensure their child attends school regularly. Warning letters are valid for 18 calendar weeks.

The Local Authority advises that the following template is used for irregular school attendance referrals as this has been specifically designed to enable the progression of cases if appropriate. This letter must be on headed paper from the school or accredited persons issuing the notice. The legal fact sheet must be included

https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Attendance_Compliance/Documents/Legal%20Action%20Warning%20Letter%20for%20schools.docx.

Failure to adequately issue warning to parents may result in the Penalty Notice being withdrawn or not issued.

All penalty notice referrals or notifications from Accredited Persons must be sent via Essex County Council's online portal and all relevant pre-referral work in accordance with the Local Authority requirements must be uploaded alongside the referral/notification.

The Local Authority must be satisfied that the substantive offence in accordance with s.444 Education Act 1996 has been committed prior to issuing a Penalty Notice.

³ Truancy/unauthorised/irregular school attendance refers to absence from school without permission or good reason and the absence is unauthorised by the school.

Evidence of attempts to address attendance concerns within the previous 8 weeks prior to requesting or notifying of a Penalty Notice must be submitted. Satisfactory evidence includes letters, notes of home visits, meetings, telephone calls etc.

N.B. for ULA and ISA PN's consideration should always be given to whether it is appropriate to issue to absent parents.

Number of Penalty Notices which can be issued for Irregular school attendance/unauthorised leave of absence

Discretion will be used to enable up to two penalty notices to be issued to each parent for each child within a twelve month period. If the law continues to be broken around school attendance the Attendance Compliance Team may instigate legal proceedings.

Number of Penalty Notices which can be issued for pupils identified during a school attendance and exclusion sweep

School attendance and exclusion sweeps take place in Essex and children stopped are often with parents condoning the absence.

If the Head Teacher has not authorised the absence of a pupil stopped by a Local Authority Officer and Police Officer on a sweep and there has been at least 9 unauthorised absences for that pupil during the preceding 10 schools weeks, school will issue a legal action warning letter to the parent within 14 days. If there are any further unauthorised absences, during the following 18 calendar weeks a referral to the Attendance Compliance Team may be submitted for a Penalty Notice to be issued.

Essex will issue no more than two penalty notices to a parent in a twelve month period for pupils identified on a school attendance and exclusion sweep. If the law continues to be broken around school attendance the Attendance Compliance Team will instigate legal proceedings.

Excluded children

When a child is excluded from school, the parent will be responsible for ensuring that their child is not found in a public place during normal school hours on the first five days of each and every fixed period or permanent exclusion. (Section 103 Education and Inspections Act)

The excluding school must have notified the parent informing them of their duty and warning that a penalty notice could be issued.

Where there is more than one person liable for the offence, a separate penalty notice may be issued to each person.

Where a pupil is present in a public place in the first five days of a fixed period exclusion the Essex Local Authority would issue a penalty notice if the school is in their area. Where the child has been permanently excluded, it would be the authority where the child resides.

Number of penalty notices which can be issued for exclusion

Essex will issue a maximum of 2 penalty notices per parent for each child during a 12 month period.

Number of penalty notices which can be issued for unauthorised leave of absence

Essex will issue no more than two penalty notices to a parent in a twelve month period for unauthorised leave of absence. If the law continues to be broken around school attendance, the Attendance Compliance Team will consider further legal interventions.

PAYMENT OF PENALTY NOTICE

The penalty for each parent issued with a Penalty Notice is £120 for each child, however if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, it is reduced to £60. (Service by post is deemed to have been effected, unless the contrary is proved, on the second working day after posting the notice by first class post).

All penalties are paid to the LA and revenue generated is retained to administer the system and contribute towards s444 prosecutions following the non-payment of the Penalty Notice.

If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28 day period, the Attendance Compliance Team will either prosecute for the offence to which the notice applies or withdraw the notice. The prosecution is not for non-payment of the notice but is a prosecution for irregular school attendance – Education Act 1996 Section 4441.

There is no statutory right of appeal against the issuing of a penalty notice.

WITHDRAWAL OF PENALTY NOTICE

A penalty notice may be withdrawn by the local authority named in the notice under the following circumstances:

- Where the local authority deems it ought not to have been issued i.e. where it has been issued outside the terms of the local code of conduct or where the evidence does not support the issuing of a penalty notice
- It appears to the local authority that the notice contains material errors
- Where it has been issued to the wrong person named as the recipient.

CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND ITS LOCAL PARTNERS

The Attendance Compliance Team and its local partners will review this Code of Conduct bi-annually unless local needs require otherwise.

VERSIONS

Original Code of Conduct was introduced in September 2004.

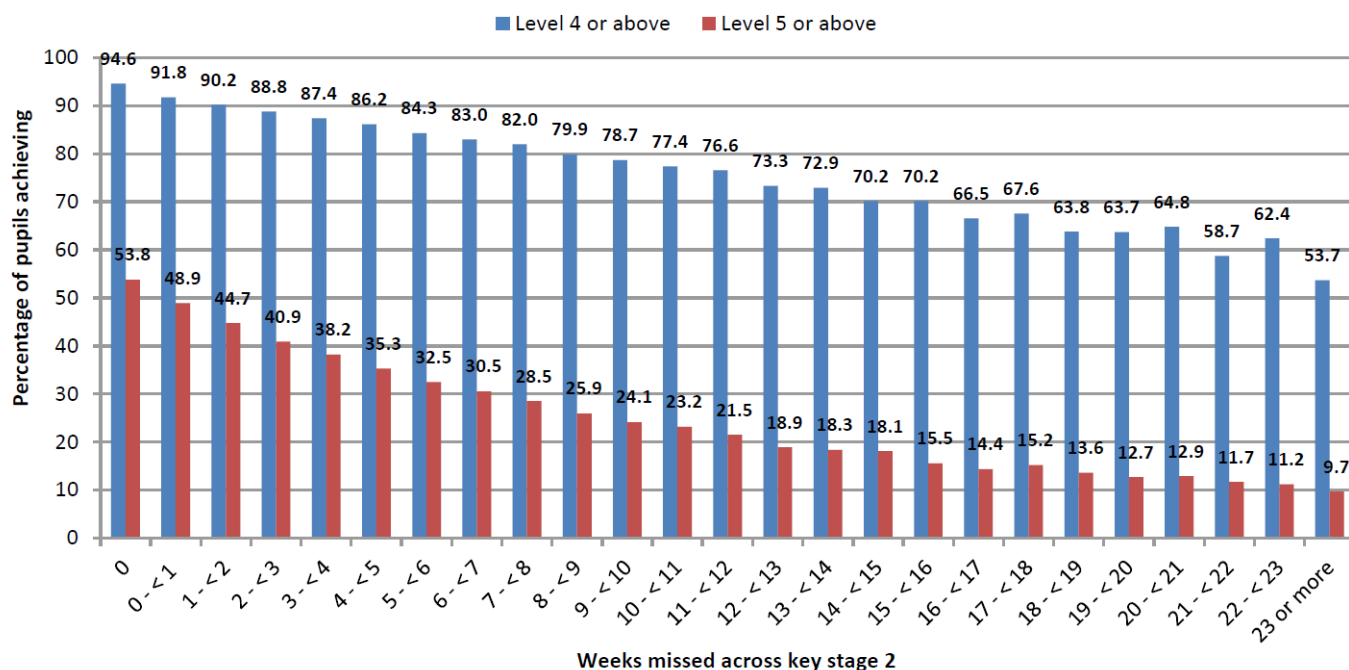
Most recent revision - November 2017

Revised March 2019 for implementation from April 2019

Annex B

DfE “The link between absence and attainment at KS2 - 2013/14 academic year”

The analysis of the link between overall absenceand attainment when taking prior attainment and pupil characteristics into account showed that, for each KS2 and KS4 measure, overall absence had a statistically significant negative link to attainment – i.e. every extra day missed was associated with a lower attainment outcome.



Annex C



APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

Taking your child out of school during term time is detrimental to your child's educational progress and will interrupt their learning opportunities. **There is no legal right to do so.**

A term time absence will only be authorised by the school if there are exceptional circumstances which warrant it. **Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.**

If the unauthorised leave of absence is taken in term time the Child Missing Education (CME) Service may issue a Penalty Notice for £60 (if paid within 21 days) or £120 (if paid within 28 days) to each parent for each child taken out of school

Guidance states that CME can issue a Penalty Notice for leave of absence taken during term time **irrespective of the student's current attendance** if the absence lasts for 10 sessions (5 consecutive days) or more.

For shorter leaves of absence which are taken during term time, CME can issue 'Irregular Attendance Penalty Notice' if there are other absences which mean that a student has missed 10 or more sessions (5 or more whole days) across a 10 week period. These do not have to be consecutive.

Child's Full Name Click or tap here to enter text. D.O.B Click or tap here to enter text. Form Click or tap here to enter text.

Child's Full Address & Postcode Click or tap here to enter text.
Click or tap here to enter text.
Click or tap here to enter text.
Click or tap here to enter text.

First Date of Absence: Click or tap here to enter text. Date of Return: Click or tap here to enter text.
No. Of Days Requested Click or tap here to enter text.

Please outline the exceptional circumstances below for which a term time leave of absence is being applied for. If no reason is provided the school will not authorise the request. (further details can be written on the reverse or attached to this form)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Name of person making request Click or tap here to enter text. Relationship to Child Click or tap here to enter text. DOB Click or tap here to enter text.

Full Address & Postcode if different from Childs above Click or tap here to enter text.

Email address of Parent/Carer with whom the child resides Click or tap here to enter text. Date Click or tap here to enter text. **FORMS TO BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL RECEPTION OR EMAILED TO jbuckley@swchs.net**

Staff Use Only: Date LOAF received by SWCHS/...../.....




Assistant Headteacher Signature Date Authorised ☐ Unauthorised ☐

School Inclusion Officer Signature Date Authorised ☐ Unauthorised ☐

Annex D: Supporting your child to attend school regularly



At SWCHS, we believe that for your child to gain the greatest benefit from their education, it is vital that they attend school, on time, every day! As a parent, you are best placed to support your child to enjoy their education as well as provide them with the tools to overcome any barriers to attending school that they may face. Please take a moment to look at the information provided within this document; we hope you will find it helpful. If you wish to see your child's current attendance figure, please login to Go4Schools. The information is live and will hopefully support you to have a conversation with your child about their attendance at school.

Non-school days:	Approx. 175 non-school days per year 175 days to rest, spend on visits, holidays, and appointments.					
Number of days absent:	0 days absence	10 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence (half a term missed)	38 days absence	47 days absence
Number of days in school:	190 days of school	180 days of school	171 days of school	161 days of school	152 days of school	143 days of school
Learning hours lost	0 hours lost	37.5 hours lost	95 hours lost	142.5 hours lost	190 hours lost	290 hours lost
Attendance (%):	100%	96%	90%	85%	80%	70%
Summary:	GOOD: Best chance of success! Well done!  		WORRYING: Impact upon educational progress. Missing key content and developmental opportunities. 		SERIOUS CONCERN: Significant impact upon educational progress and development. Legal action, including Fixed-Penalty Notices (FPN), may be issued by the Essex Attendance Compliance Team	

We recognise that some children (primarily those suffering from serious medical conditions/ injuries/ or bereavement) cannot always attend school as regularly as they would wish to. However, for some children, the following advice may help you encourage regular and sustained school attendance.

How you can support your child to attend school regularly (in line with advice from the Essex Attendance team):

- Work together with school staff on a joint plan, agreed by all parties.
- Maintain good communication with key adults in school (and other agencies).
- Present a united and consistent approach. If school and home are perceived as a 'united front' the positive impact upon attendance/behaviour is significant.
- Be prepared to place reasonable pressure on your child when urging them to go to school (try to ignore threats/crying/screaming/extreme reactions etc.)
- Try to acknowledge that an element of worry/anxiety around going to school can be perfectly natural. Consider ways in which you can build a sense of resilience within your child which will serve them well for the demands of adulthood.
- Make morning routines as smooth and calm as possible.
- If your child does not make it into school on time, they should be made to go to school as soon as possible.
- Manage the home environment to avoid rewarding school absence (e.g., removing access to mobile phone, gaming consoles, or TV if your child is not ill).
- Consult the NHS guidance 'Is my child too ill for school?' available online. Link here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If you are concerned about your child's attendance and want to work with SWCHS to improve this, please contact our Inclusion Officer, Mrs Buckley on 01799 513030 or jbuckley@swchs.net