

Attendance Policy

Name of Unit/Premises/Centre/School	The Toynbee School
Date of Policy Issue/Review	Autumn 2025 / Autumn 2026
Name of Responsible Manager	Deputy Headteacher
Governors' Sub-Committee	Welfare & Guidance
Statutory/Non-statutory	Statutory
Published to Website (Internal/External)	External

Policy Consultation & Review

This policy will be made available on our school website and is also available on request from the school reception. We will also inform parents about this policy when their children join our school and regularly thereafter through our school newsletter and other relevant opportunities.

The policy is based on the Hampshire Model policy [Hampshire County Council Model Attendance Policy 2025](#)

The policy has been revised to reflect changes to the statutory guidance on attendance from the Department for Education: [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on at least an annual basis.

Date reviewed by the Governing Body:

Date approved by the Governing Body:

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1. Introduction/Aim

At Toynbee School we believe that regular school attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential. We value the attendance of all pupils. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind and can put them at risk of wider harm. There is a [wide range of evidence](#) as to the health and wellbeing benefits of school-age education. [Research](#) commissioned by the Department for Education shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances. As set out in this policy, we will work with families to identify the reasons for poor attendance and try to resolve any difficulties at the earliest opportunity. Our attendance policy aims to give clear guidance to staff, parents, pupils, and governors to:

- Promote good attendance, enabling pupils' achievement by establishing the highest possible levels of attendance and punctuality.
- Recognise the key role of all staff in promoting good attendance.
- Provide a clear framework for monitoring and responding to pupil absences, acting early to address patterns of absence.
- Building strong relationships with families to ensure pupils have the support in place to attend school.
- Promote positive support systems and advocate multi-agency approaches to improve attendance.
- Make parents aware of their legal responsibilities and ensure their children have access to the education to which they are entitled.

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

2. Legal Framework

This policy meets the requirements of the [Working together to improve school attendance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE) and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act states that parents must ensure that children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability, and aptitude to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. A child is of compulsory school age at the beginning of the term following their 5th birthday. A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach the age of 16.

The government expects all schools and local authorities to:

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

Parents are expected to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly. In accordance with the Education Act 1996, we will work with parents and carers and the Local Authority to ensure that parents and carers are supported to secure education for children of compulsory school age. Where required, we will formalise support and where necessary, work with the LA to use legal measures.

A "Parent" is defined as:

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

3. Roles and Responsibilities

At Toynbee School we believe that improving school attendance is everyone's business. It is a shared responsibility by governors, all school staff, parents, pupils, the wider school community and multi-agency partners. We aim to always work in partnership with our parents.

Role	Name	Contact details
Designated Safeguarding Lead & Senior Attendance Lead (Champion)	Mr P Lawrence	dsl@toynbee.hants.sch.uk
Attendance Manager		attendance@toynbee.hants.sch.uk
Guidance Manager Team	Year 7: Ms A Freemantle Year 8: Ms Gentle Year 9: Miss B Sherrell Year 10: Miss J Stevenson Year 11: Mrs M Vallance	Can be contacted via: safeguardingteam@toynbee.hants.sch.uk or by selecting the relevant Year group on the following page of the website: https://www.toynbee.hants.sch.uk/about-us/

The Governors of Toynbee School recognise the importance of school attendance and promote it through the school's ethos and across its policies. They may take an active role in attendance improvement by:

- Setting high expectations of all leaders, staff, pupils, and parents so that children attend school every day and are safeguarded.
- Identifying a governing sub-committee to lead on attendance matters and ensuring that there is a named senior manager to lead on attendance.
- Prioritising attendance in strategies, such as raising attainment, behaviour and combatting bullying, special educational needs and disabilities, wellbeing, and safeguarding.
- Ensuring school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties by rigorously evaluating the effectiveness of the school's attendance procedures so that consistent attendance support is provided for all pupils.
- Ensuring the schools' attendance management processes are delivered effectively, and that consistent attendance support is provided for pupils who require it most by prioritising the staff and resources needed. This includes ensuring schools engage and work effectively with the local authority School Attendance Support Team and wider local partners and services.
- Regularly reviewing attendance data, discussing, challenging trends, and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Ensuring high aspirations are maintained for all pupils and processes for support are adapted to the individual needs of pupils including those with long term illnesses, special educational needs and disabilities, pupils with a social worker, those pupils under the Virtual School and pupils from cohorts with historically lower attendance such as those eligible for free school meals.
- Ensuring all school staff receive adequate training on attendance and that relevant staff have access to opportunities to share and learn from good practice in other schools.
- Ensuring that attendance data is shared with the Local Authority or Department for Education in line with statutory reporting deadlines.
- Reviewing the school's Attendance Policy on at least an annual basis, ensuring that the required resources are available to fully implement the policy, which is published and publicised regularly so that it is easily accessible to pupils, parents and staff.

The Senior Leadership Team at Toynbee School will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents.
- Form and maintain positive relationships with pupils and parents.
- Ensure that there is a named Senior Attendance Champion to lead on attendance, allocating sufficient time and resources to discharge the role.
- Ensure that there is a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance, with good teaching and learning experiences, with a whole school culture that encourages all pupils to attend and to achieve.
- Make sure all teaching and non-teaching staff know the importance of good attendance, are consistent in their communication with pupils and parents, and receive the training and professional development they need.
- Implement a clear school attendance policy which all staff, pupils and parents understand. Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the Attendance Policy and ensure that the policy is reviewed annually.
- Ensure the school has accurate, complete admission and attendance registers and has effective day-to-day processes in place to follow-up absence.
- Monitor and analyse weekly attendance patterns and trends and deliver intervention and support in a targeted way to pupils and families. This will go beyond headline attendance percentages and will look at individual pupils, cohorts and year groups (including their punctuality) across the school.
- Conduct thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full year data to identify patterns and trends. This should include analysis of pupils and cohorts and identifying patterns in the use of certain codes, days of poor attendance and, where appropriate, subjects which have low lesson attendance.
- Devise specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data.
- Monitor the impact of school wide attendance efforts, including any specific strategies implemented. The findings should then be used to evaluate approaches or inform future strategies.
- Benchmark attendance data (at whole school, year group and cohort level) against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement.
- Provide data and reports to support the work of the governing body and local authority when appropriate.
- 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.
- Ensure that there is a named Senior Attendance Champion to lead on attendance and allocate sufficient time and resource
- Attend the termly school attendance supporting meetings with the local authority, focusing on those pupils with severe absence, making sure a regularly reviewed plan is in place.

The Guidance Manager Team will:

- Set high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils, communicating these regularly to all pupils and parents through all available channels and demonstrating the benefits of good attendance throughout school life.
- Regularly monitor and analyse year group attendance and absence data to identify pupils or cohorts that require support with their attendance and put effective strategies in place to improve attendance.
- Build strong relationships with families, listening to and understanding the barriers to attendance and working with families to remove these barriers to improve attendance through a range of interventions.
- Be the main point of contact for pupils who are classified as persistently absent (less than 90% attendance) and severely persistently absent from school (less than 50% attendance), engaging with pupils, parents/carers and external agencies to improve attendance to school.
- Undertake frequent individual level analysis to identify the pupils who need support and focus staff efforts on developing targeted actions for those cases.
- Produce and interpret attendance data reports for the Senior Leadership Team, identifying key statistics, reasons for absence and any patterns of concern.
- Complete documentation pertaining to Inter-Agency Referrals, Legal Intervention Team referrals, Child Missing in Education referrals and Penalty Notice documentation, including liaising with the Local Authority as appropriate.
- Work in conjunction with the Attendance Manager to ensure accurate attendance records, letters and communication are maintained and recorded.

The Attendance Manager will:

- Maintain accurate and timely attendance records and registers.
- Ensure that all school procedures, registers and systems relating to attendance and lateness are followed and recorded using Arbor and CPOMS
- Work closely with the Senior Leadership Team and Guidance Managers, attending pupil and parental meetings where appropriate, to encourage high and improved levels of attendance.
- Be the first point of contact for parents for first day absence, ensuring robust records are maintained, including ensuring the correct coding is in place for all pupils.
- Complete all documentation relating to 'leave of absence' requests and be the first point of contact with the Hampshire Legal Intervention Team with regard to Penalty Notices.

All staff at Toynbee School will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents.
- Accurately complete the register using Arbor each morning for registration and every lesson. Registers will be completed in a timely manner, within 10 minutes of each session starting. Any unexpected or unexplained pupil absence from lessons will be notified via the 'on-call' system immediately.

- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents.
- Contribute to a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance; with good teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve.
- Know the importance of good attendance, are consistent in their communication with pupils and parents, and receive the training and professional development they need.

All staff have a responsibility to refer all matters relating to safeguarding via the Toynbee Safeguarding Reporting Form or via safeguardingteam@toynbee.hants.sch.uk. The school will follow the Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures as outlined in our policies. These can be accessed on our school website: <https://www.toynbee.hants.sch.uk/our-school/policies/>.

Toynbee School requests that parents:

- Take a positive interest in their child's work and educational progress.
- Ensure their child has regular attendance and is punctual to school.
- Instil the value of education and regular school attendance within the home environment.
- Contact the school by logging their child's absence on the attendance section of the Parental 'Arbor App' or via email at attendance@toynbee.hants.sch.uk by 8am if their child is absent to let them know the reason why and the expected date of return, following this with a note wherever possible.
- Avoid unnecessary absences; for example, by making medical and dental appointments for outside of school hours.
- Ask the school for help if their child is experiencing difficulties with any aspect of their schoolwork or home and family life.
- Inform the school of any change in circumstances that may impact on their child's attendance.
- Support the school by becoming involved in their child's education, forming a positive relationship with school, and acknowledging the importance of children receiving the same messages from both school and home.
- Maintain effective routines at home to support good attendance.
- Attend all meetings requested to discuss attendance issues.

Further information can be found at: [Attendance guidance for parents | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Pupils will:

- Be aware of the school's attendance policy and when and where they are required to attend. This will be communicated to them by school staff, parents and through the school timetable.
- Speak to their class teacher or another member of staff if they are

experiencing difficulties at school or at home, which may impact on their attendance.

- Attend all lessons ready to learn, with the appropriate learning tools requested and on time for the class.
- Follow the school procedure if they arrive late. This will help the school to monitor attendance and keep accurate records of the child's individual attendance. This is also vital for health and safety in the event of a school evacuation.

4. Categorising Absence and Attendance

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

“Persistent absenteeism” (PA) is defined as:

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

“Severe absence” (SA) is defined as:

- Missing 50% or more of schooling across the year for any reason. In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education, this level of attendance could constitute a safeguarding concern and advice from Children's Services will be sought for pupils with this level of attendance.

4.1 Leave of Absence

Since September 2013, changes to Government regulations and guidance mean that Headteachers can no longer authorise 'leave of absence' requests unless there are exceptional circumstances. Generally, the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance. Leave of absence should not be granted for a pupil to take part in protest activity during school hours. All absences associated with a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation during term time will be marked as unauthorised within the register. Any parents known to have removed their child from school for the sole purpose of a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation may be referred to the Local Authority and be issued with a penalty notice fine or referred to the Local Authority to consider prosecution.

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

Parents wishing to apply for a leave of absence during term time must apply in writing to the Headteacher at least a month before the planned leave (see Appendix 1). If a written request for leave of absence is not completed and the leave is taken without a request being submitted, the leave will not be considered by the Headteacher, and it will be marked as unauthorised. Retrospective requests will not be considered and therefore will result in the absence being categorised as unauthorised.

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

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

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

The 1996 Education Act also sets out the circumstances in which a pupil has not failed to attend school regularly and therefore the parent has not committed an offence. Sections: 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 are examples of these.

4.2 Medical Appointments and absence due to illness

Parents should try to make appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. Where appointments during school time are unavoidable, we ask that parents notify the school in advance of the appointment wherever possible. The pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment. In most circumstances, a child should not miss a whole day at school for an appointment. If a pupil must attend a medical appointment during the school day, parents must inform the school by logging their child's absence on the attendance section of the Parental 'Arbor App' or via email (attendance@toynbee.hants.sch.uk) or by contacting the school reception. Pupils must sign out at reception. No pupil will be allowed to leave the school site without parental confirmation.

In line with Department for Education guidance, if we do have a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness, we may ask the parent to provide medical evidence, such as a prescription, appointment card, or other appropriate form of evidence. If the school is not satisfied with the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

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

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

Where a pupil has a verified and chronic health condition, we will aim to work with parents to ensure children have access to education and provide appropriate support in line with [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#) and Hampshire policies regarding supporting children with health issues, [Behaviour and attendance resources for schools | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#). We will also consider whether an Individual Healthcare Plan is required.

4.3 Pupil Absence for the purposes of Religious Observance

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

4.4 Parent travelling for occupational purposes

The pupil is a mobile child and their parent(s) is/are travelling in the course of their trade or business and the pupil is travelling with them. A mobile child is a child of compulsory school age who has no fixed abode and whose parent(s) is/are engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as to require them to travel from place to place.

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

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

4.5 Unauthorised Absence

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

- A pupil's/family member's birthday.
- Shopping for uniforms.
- Arrangements or appointments for cutting the pupil's hair.
- Closure of a sibling's school for INSET (or other) purposes.
- An unwillingness to attend school, or inability to attend owing to inadequate personal/family organisation.
- A refusal to attend school on health grounds but where the pupil is considered well enough to attend.

- Absences taken without the authorisation of the school.

5. Our Procedures

5.1 Register Keeping and Recording

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

For the purpose of this policy, the school defines:

“Absence” as:

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

“Regular” attendance as:

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

Pupils must arrive in school by 8.30am on each school day.

The register for the morning session will be taken at 8.30am and will be kept open until 9.00am

The register for the afternoon session will be taken at 2pm and will be kept open until 2.30pm.

Registers are legal records, and all schools must preserve every entry in the attendance or admission register for 6 years from the date the data was entered. As the attendance register is a record of the pupils present at the time it was taken, the register should only routinely be amended where the reason for absence cannot be established at the time it is taken, and it is subsequently necessary to correct the entry. Where amendments are made, all schools must ensure the register shows the original entry, the amended entry, the reason for the amendment, the date on which the amendment was made, and the name of the person who made the amendment. On each occasion the register is taken the appropriate national attendance and absence code must be entered for every pupil (of both compulsory and non- compulsory school age) whose name is listed in the admission register at the time. The codes enable schools to record and monitor attendance and absence in a consistent way and are used to collect statistics. The data helps schools, local authorities, and the government gain a greater understanding of the delivery of education and the level of, and reason for, absence.

Reporting to parents

Parents are able to access their child’s up to date attendance via the Arbor Information Portal and Arbor App. All parents are provided with access to this information when their child enrolls at the school. The school will regularly inform parents about their child’s attendance and absence levels as part of termly school reports.

5.2 Late Arrival at School

At Toynbee School, all pupils are expected to arrive on time for every day of the school year. The school day begins at 8.30am. We advise all parents to ensure their child is on site prior to this. The school register will be taken at 8.30am. All pupils arriving after this time are required to report to the main office, where they will be expected to sign in, providing a reason for their absence. If their arrival is before 9am it will be recorded as late - L code (Late before the close of register).

The school register will officially close at 9am. All pupils arriving on or after this time will be marked as having an unauthorised absence for the session - U code (Late after the close of register). This is categorised as an unauthorised absence for the session. Parents will be contacted to discuss any patterns of late arrival. Repeated arrival after the close of registration will result in appropriate interventions being instigated and may also result in a penalty notice being issued or prosecution.

5.3 Expected absence procedure for parents:

A parent has a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly. If a child is unavoidably absent from school, parents are expected to contact school by one of the following means:

- Logging their child's absence on the attendance section of the Parental 'Arbor App'
- Emailing: attendance@toynbee.hants.sch.uk

This should be completed by 8am on the morning of the first day of absence and on each subsequent day, identifying the reason for absence and the expected date of return. If no contact is received, then absence protocols will be instigated.

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

- The first day calling procedures will be activated for all pupils who are not in school after close of register at 9am and where no reason for absence is known.
- A visual check will be undertaken by school staff to ascertain if pupils are present in school.
- A SMS message will be sent to the primary carers of those pupils that are not present in school and no reason for absence has been provided. The SMS message will ask the primary carers to contact the school as soon as possible to advise of the reason for their child's absence.
- If no response is received, the child's named emergency contacts will be telephoned.

The school will follow its safeguarding procedures at all times, and where appropriate, informing Childrens Services if we have not received contact from parents regarding their child's absence from school. The school will telephone home if a pupil leaves the school without permission, if we are unable to contact home, we will contact the Police via 101.

In certain circumstances the school may also:

- Visit the home of the pupil.
- Write to the parents of a pupil to highlight attendance or punctuality issues.
- Invite parents to discuss how school can support the family to make improvement.
- Refer to Inclusion Support Service for support, guidance, and advice.
- Refer to the Local Authority for joint enquiries to be made to establish the whereabouts of the child through [Inclusion Support Service \(ISS\) | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/inclusion-support-service) and [Behaviour and attendance resources for schools | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/behaviour-and-attendance-resources-for-schools)
- Refer to the Local Authority to consider issuing a penalty notice or to consider prosecution when all other interventions have failed, or an unauthorised leave of absence has been taken.
- Refer the matter to an appropriate external agency for multi-agency support, such as implementing a Family Support Plan or consulting with Children's Social Care or the police, where there are safeguarding concerns.

5.4 Attendance Rewards & Interventions

Toynbee School will promote and incentivise positive attendance by undertaking a range of strategies, including but not limited to:

- Prioritising pupils' safety, respect and well-being, (cornerstones of good attendance) ensuring they are at the heart of the school's culture and ethos.
- Emphasizing the importance of all pupils being able to speak to a member of staff should they wish to.
- Promoting the benefit of positive attendance during assemblies and as part of the Personal Development and wider curriculum.
- Sharing attendance data as part of pupils' school report and via the Arbor Parent App.
- Regularly communicating with parents on the importance of attendance, including as part of school newsletters.

The target attendance level for Toynbee pupils is 95%. Where a pupil's attendance falls below 90%, Toynbee staff will seek to break down the barriers to poor attendance by engaging with pupils and parents through a range of strategies, including:

- Pupil support meetings
- Curriculum and Pastoral reviews of provision
- Concern Letters and telephone/email communications with parents
- Attendance Support Meetings
- Short term Reduce Hours Provision to re-engage pupils with their education
- Inter-Agency Referrals
- Legal Intervention Team Referrals
- Any other reasonable adjustments within school policy and procedures which may

improve pupil attendance

Where a pupil's attendance does not improve sufficiently and a pupil has 10 unauthorised absences within the last 100 sessions, the school will follow the Hampshire Code of Conduct Guidance for pursuing legal action for non-attendance.

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/guidance-on-pursuing-legal-action-for-non-attendance.pdf>

We will investigate any pupils who are on track to be persistently absent (PA) and will not wait until attendance is below 90%.

"Persistent absenteeism" (PA) is defined as:

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

"Severe absence" (SA) is defined as:

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

5.5 Support Systems

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

We also recognise that some pupils are more likely to require additional support to attain good attendance. The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance based on the individual needs and circumstances of the child, including the consideration of accessing external support and making reasonable adjustments to school routines.

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

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

A pupil becomes a 'persistent absentee' (PA) when their attendance drops to 90% and below for any reason. Over a full academic year this would be 38 sessions (19 days). Absence at this level could cause considerable damage to a child's educational outcomes.

A pupil becomes a 'severe absentee' (SA) when their attendance drops to 50% and below for any reason. Over a full academic year this would be 190 sessions (95

days). Absence at this level is causing considerable damage to a child's educational outcomes.

The attendance of all pupils at our school are monitored to identify children who are PA, or are on track to becoming PA. Where emerging concerns are identified we will instigate appropriate and timely interventions as outlined in the section above. Referrals may also be made to external agencies for targeted support. [Inclusion Support Service \(ISS\) | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

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

The school will follow the [Hampshire County Council Code of Conduct for issuing Penalty Notices](#). A Penalty Notice can be issued for any of the following unauthorised absences where the pupil has been, within the last six months:

- unauthorised absent for 10 or more half-day sessions (five school days) over 100 possible school sessions – these do not need to be consecutive and can span different school terms and years.
- persistently late (coded U) for 10 or more half-day sessions after the register has been closed – these do not need to be consecutive.

If paid within 21 days of deemed service, the first Penalty Notice within a rolling three-year period is £80. If not paid within 21 days, the penalty is automatically increased to £160 to be paid within 28 days of deemed service of the Penalty Notice.

If paid within 21 days of deemed service, the second Penalty Notice within a rolling three-year period is £160.00. There is no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower rate of £80.

The non-payment of a Penalty Notice within the prescribed period of time will result in the Legal Intervention Team and authorised person who issued the notice, to consider next steps. It is likely that non-payment will lead to prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. The prosecution is not for the non-payment of the Penalty Notice but will relate to the original unauthorised absences.

Parents found guilty of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school under the provisions of the Education Act 1996, will receive a criminal record and a maximum penalty of a £1000 fine under a Section 444 (1) offence or a £2500 fine or up to a 3-month prison sentence, under a Section 444 (1a) offence. In line with Hampshire County Council guidance, we will notify the Inclusion Support Service of all reduced timetables as soon as a plan has been agreed.

6. Related Policies

To underpin the values and ethos of our school and our intent to ensure that pupils at our school attend school regularly and reach their full potential, the following policies are integral to this approach and can be found on the school website:

<https://www.toynbee.hants.sch.uk/our-school/policies/>

- Safeguarding Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions in school
- Admission Policy
- SEND Policy
- Behaviour and Suspension Policy

7. Statutory Framework

This policy has been devised in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- [Working together to improve school attendance, DfE \(August 2024\)](#)
- [School attendance parental responsibility measures, DfE \(August 2024\)](#)
- [Children missing education, DfE \(September 2025\)](#)
- [Keeping children safe in education, DfE \(September 2025\)](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children, DfE \(July 2023\)](#)

8. Appendices

The following pages contain appendices relevant to this policy.

Appendix 1: Leave of absence request form

Request to authorise absence from school due to exceptional circumstances

There is no general right to authorised absence for a family holiday. If you take your child out of school without permission the absence will be unauthorised; you may be issued a Penalty Notice, and the Local Authority may consider legal action.

Schools are only able to authorise absence from school in exceptional circumstances. In making a request for an authorised absence from school, you will need to explain why the circumstances are exceptional.

If you remove your child for an unauthorised period and it is the belief of the school and Local Authority that you have done this in a way as to avoid being issued a Penalty Notice, the Local Authority reserves the right to authorise the issuing of a Penalty Notice before the national threshold is met.

You are advised not to make any arrangements until your request has been considered and this form is returned to you.

Section A – to the headteacher, I wish to apply for

Child's name: _____ Class: _____

To be authorised as absent from school (please include dates and time):

from _____ to _____ (inclusive dates)

If your child has siblings that are also applying for a leave of absence, please enter their name and school below:

Child's name(s): _____ School(s): _____

Section B Please explain why you are applying for an authorised absence and the **circumstances** which make your **application exceptional**; and therefore, the leave cannot be taken within the normal 13 weeks holiday your child has from school. If you are requesting authorisation to attend a specific event, please confirm the date of the event and explain your travel arrangements. If you require additional space, please continue on the other side of the page.

Section C I am the parent/carer with whom the pupil normally resides. The information I have given on this form is correct.

Signature (parent/carer): _____ Date: _____

Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 have been amended (as of 1 September 2013) to prohibit the proprietor (headteacher) of a maintained school granting leave of absence to a pupil except where an application has been made in advance and the proprietor considers that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Section D – for school use only.

Tick as appropriate.

☐ Request approved for _____ number of days from the dates and times _____

☐ A personal discussion with you is requested. Please contact: _____

☐ Request not approved as the circumstances are not considered to constitute an exceptional reason and/or the impact of this absence will affect your child's educational progress.

PLEASE NOTE: This leave of absence form serves as a Warning to parent/carer. Any unauthorised absence during this period may be subject to a Penalty Notice OR may result in a prosecution if two previous penalty notices have been issued in a rolling three-year period

A Penalty Notice may be issued per parent/carer, per child (i.e. if two parents have two children this may result in four Penalty Notices – two Penalty Notices per parent).

Headteacher: _____ Date: _____

Current attendance rate: _____

Continuation of section B (if required):

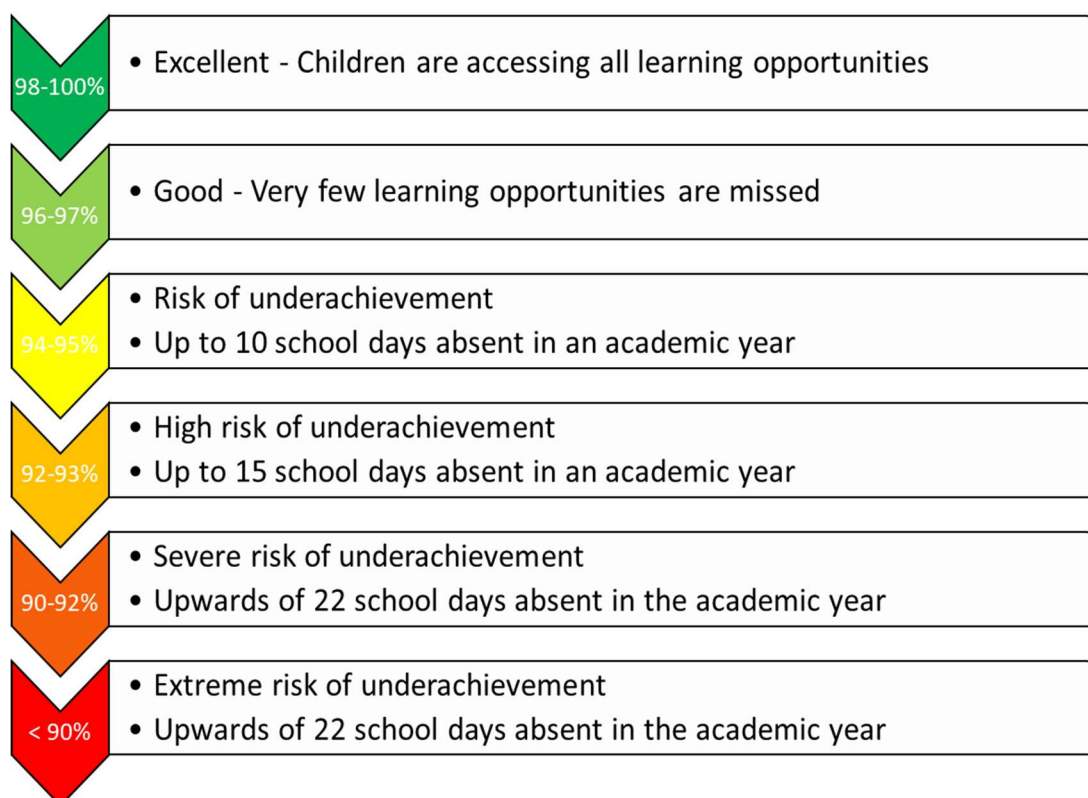
Appendix 2: Attendance Policy Quick Guide for Parents

Attendance Policy Quick Guide for Parents

We are extremely proud that pupil attendance at Toynbee remains consistently above the national average. We expect all our pupils to attend school for as many days as possible. **You can support your child to have excellent attendance by taking these steps:**

- Please ensure your child arrives on time for school every day and is ready to learn. Pupils must be in their Tutor room by 8.30am each day.
- In line with Department for Education guidance, pupils arriving after 9am, when registration has closed, will be recorded as unauthorised late/absent.
- If your child appears to be only slightly unwell, please do send them in to school if possible. We have staff who will contact you if their condition deteriorates or they are not well enough to stay in school. Further advice can be found here: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/when-to-call-the-doctor/)
- Please book any medical appointments outside of school hours. If this is unavoidable, please book for as late in the afternoon as possible and inform the school of appointments in advance.
- Please supply a copy of the appointment card or hospital letter if your child has an appointment during school hours.

If your child becomes reluctant to go to school or you need help, please contact your child's Guidance Manager immediately; we are more likely to be able to work together to solve any problems if we act early. Your child's attendance can be accessed via the Arbor Portal and App.



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

On each day your child is unfit to come to school, please report this absence by 8am by either

- Emailing attendance@toynbee.hants.sch.uk
- Logging the absence on the attendance section of the 'Arbor App' – further details can be found here: [Logging absences on the Parent Portal and Arbor App](#)

In the message you must leave your child's full name, year and tutor group and give the specific reason for absence. The information you give will be recorded on our official register.

Leave of Absence requests

There may be exceptional circumstances where you need to request a leave of absence for your child. Please use our 'Leave of absence request' form to make these types of requests. The form should be submitted in advance of the leave of absence, via attendance@toynbee.hants.sch.uk. You will receive a letter advising if the request has been granted or declined. Details regarding Penalty Notices can be found on our school website: <https://www.toynbee.hants.sch.uk/about-us/attendance/>

Punctuality

Pupils are expected to arrive on time for school in the morning and for every lesson during the day. Your child is late to school if they are not in their Tutor Room at 8.30am ready for the start of morning registration. **The pedestrian gate that opens onto Oakmount Road will be locked at 8.30am each morning.** We will be contacting the parents of all pupils that have been marked as late to school and following up persistent latecomers individually.

In line with the Department for Education guidance, pupils that arrive after 9am will have their attendance mark recorded as 'unauthorised' for the morning session. Persistent unauthorised absence from school could result in further action being taken. Hampshire County Council's attendance guidance for parents can be found here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/behaviour-attendance-parents>

The Department for Education remains very clear that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must continue to take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment.

Please contact your child's Guidance Manager if you require any support with ensuring your child's regular attendance at school.

Appendix 3: Attendance codes

The following codes are taken from Working Together to Improve School Attendance

Code	Definition	Scenario
/	Present (am)	Pupil is present at morning registration
\	Present (pm)	Pupil is present at afternoon registration
L	Late arrival	Pupil arrives late before register has closed
B	Off-site educational activity approved by the school. Schools must also record the nature of the approved educational activity.	Examples of nature of activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1) Attending taster days at college • 2) Attending courses at college • 3) Attending unregistered alternative provision arranged by the school
D	Dual registered	Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered
K	Attending education provision arranged by the Local Authority. Schools must also record the nature of the provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending courses at college • Attending unregistered alternative provision such as, home tutoring
P	Sporting activity	The pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is a sporting activity
V	Educational visit or trip	An educational visit or trip arranged by or on behalf of the school and supervised by a member of school staff
W	Attending work experience	The pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is work experience provided under arrangements made by a local authority or the school as part of the pupil's education

Code	Definition	Scenario
Absent – leave of absence		
C	Leave of absence for exceptional circumstances Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance	Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school
C1	Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad	All schools can grant leaves of absence for pupils to undertake employment (paid or unpaid) during school hours
C2	Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable	All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs
E	Excluded	Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	The pupil is unable to attend due to illness (both physical and mental health related). Schools should advise parents to notify them on the first day the child is unable to attend due to illness
J1	Interview	Attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution
M	Medical appointment	Attending a medical or dental appointment
R	Religious observance	The pupil is absent on a day that is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body the parent(s) belong to
S	Study leave	Studying for a public examination. Must be used sparingly with revision opportunities in school
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	The pupil is a mobile child and their parent(s) is travelling in the course of their trade or business and the pupil is travelling with them
X	Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school	

Code	Definition	Scenario
Absent - unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause		
Q	Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements	This is linked to transport not other access arrangements
Y1	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available	The school is not within walking distance of the pupil's home and the transport to and from the school that is normally provided for the pupil by the school or local authority is not 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	Adverse weather
Y5	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention	In police detention, remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or detained under a sentence of detention.
Y6	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law	
Y7	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause	An emergency has prevented the pupil from attending. The unavoidable cause must be something that affects the pupil, not just the parent.

Code	Definition	Scenario
Unauthorised absence		
G	Unauthorised holiday	Holiday not granted by the school
N	Reason for absence not yet established	Pupil is absent for an unknown reason (this code should be amended when the reason emerges, or replaced with code O if no reason for absence has been provided after a reasonable amount of time)
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	Where no reason for absence is established or the school is not satisfied that the reason given
U	Arrival after registration	A pupil has arrived late after the register has closed but before the end of session.

Code	Definition	Scenario
Administrative Codes		
Z	Prospective pupil not on admission register	To enable schools to set up registers in advance of pupils joining the school to ease administration burdens.
#	Planned whole school closure	Whole school closure due to half-term/bank holiday/INSET day/use of whole school as polling station