

Waverton Community Primary School



Attendance Policy

About the School, ethos and Goals

Waverton C P School's attendance target is 100%. The expectation of the school is that all pupils attend 100% unless there is a genuine reason for the absence approved by the Head Teacher.

The school firmly believes that regular school attendance and arriving punctually is highly important and benefits all pupils. As children grow and prepare for their next stages of education and employment they need to see good attendance and punctuality as important qualities that are valued by others and employers. The school will do all that it can to encourage Parents/carers to ensure that those children in their care achieve the best possible attendance and any issues impacting a child's attendance can be identified and acted on promptly. Where children are not conforming to our high expectations for attendance and punctuality we will put in place effective strategies to bring about improvement.

Timings of Waverton C P School day:

- School gates open from: : 8.45am
- Doors will be open at : 8.50am
- Register taken at : 8.55am
- Children arriving between 9.00am – 9.15am : will be marked as "Late" (L) in the register
- Children arriving after 9.16am : will be marked as "Unauthorised Absence" (U) if no prior notice of absence given/received
- Morning registers** formally close at : 09.16am
- Afternoon registers** formally close at : 13.10pm

Expectations

Attendance %	Level of concern	Action by the School
96% and above	None – on track attendance	None
90% to 95%	Concern as below school target	Letter sent to parents (termly basis)
Below 90%	Persistence Absence	Meeting with parents/guardians and Head Teacher

We expect that all pupils will:

- attend school regularly;
- attend school punctually;
- attend school appropriately prepared for the day; and
- discuss promptly with their form tutor/class teacher any problems that discourage them from attending school.

We expect that all parents/carers/persons who have day-to-day responsibility for the children and young people will:

- encourage regular school attendance and be aware of their legal responsibilities;
- ensure that any child in their care arrives at school punctually, prepared for the school day;
- ensure that they contact the school whenever the child is unable to attend school;
- contact the school each day their child is absent by using the school telephone number or email by 8.30am, providing the information below:

Please ensure that you telephone the school on 01244 268985 – Option 2 or via email admin@waverton.cheshire.sch.uk prior **to 8.30am** to inform them of your child's absence stating clearly the following information:

- **Child's first name and surname,**
- **the date that they will be absent from school**
- **the reason for absence**
- **please remember to sign off with your own name and surname too as well as your relationship to the child.**
e.g. Lily Brown, 05.10.17, tonsillitis – seen GP and has antibiotics. John Brown (dad);
- contact the school promptly whenever any problem occurs that may keep the child away from school.

We would encourage discussion where there are any issues arising that the school could support in school to avoid absenteeism e.g. management of an on-going health issue. We can be flexible on daily arrangements to facilitate this.

We expect that school staff will:

Attendance Task	Member of Staff Responsible
keep regular and accurate records of attendance for all pupils, at least twice daily - (pupils arriving late due to transport issues will not be penalised)	Office Manager All teaching staff
monitor every pupil's attendance and by publishing attendance statistics	Office Manager
contact parents as soon as possible when a pupil fails to attend where no message has been received to explain the absence	Office Manager
follow up all unexplained absences to obtain notes authorising the absence	Office Manager
provide a welcoming atmosphere for children; provide a safe learning environment; and provide a sympathetic response to any pupil's concerns	ALL staff
respond promptly to a child's or parent's concerns about the school or other pupils	Head Teacher
inform parents/carers in writing of irregular attendance, arrange meetings with them if necessary and follow attendance procedure if the irregular attendance continues	Head Teacher/Office Manager

Holidays

It is Waverton C P school's policy not to authorise holiday in term time. However, in exceptional circumstances the Head Teacher may consider a request but the normality will be that any request for holidays during term time will be refused. **(Please see Penalty Section below).**

Medical leave

If your child requires an operation or recuperation after an operation during term time, please contact the school office for the leave form. This form needs to be completed and returned to school at least two weeks prior to the date of the first requested leave day (unless it's an emergency operation). A member of staff will make contact with parents to discuss any additional support that maybe required to ensure a quick and safe return for children after an operation or recuperation period.

Responding to Non-Attendance

When a pupil does not attend school we will respond in the following manner:

- On the first day of absence, if no telephone call is received from the parent/carer by 9.20 a.m. the school will endeavour to contact them that day. If the family is not reachable by telephone an email will be sent.
- If there is no response, the school will continue to try to contact the parent/carer. If by the end of the second day, there has still been no contact the school will complete a home visit if appropriate or send a letter of concern to parents/carers to invite them into school to discuss their concerns with the Head Teacher. This may be discussed with the school's Family Support Worker if applicable.

- Failure to comply with the expectations set by this policy may result in further action, an application for a Fixed Penalty, Education Supervision Order, or court prosecution.
- While it is understood that a child may have specific medical needs, school reserves the right to seek evidence to support such absences. **The school will always ask for medical evidence where a child's attendance falls below 90%, this evidence could include hospital admission or discharge reports or GP notes printouts following an appointment.** It is appreciated that there can be difficulties obtaining appointments but we do request that you endeavour to arrange these for out-of-school hours.

Changing schools

It is important that if families decide to send a child in their care to a different school they inform Waverton C P School office staff and their case worker for EHCP if appropriate as soon as possible. The information is required in written form and must contain the following information:

- Name of Child
- Year Group of child
- Date of leaving school
- New school address and contact details
- Date due to start new school
- New home address and contact numbers – if applicable

A pupil will not be removed from this school roll until all are satisfied that the child is accepted on to the roll of an alternative, appropriate school.

School Organisation

In order for the school's Attendance Policy to be successful every member of staff must make attendance a high priority and convey this to the pupils at all times. Parents/carers need to support these views in the home to ensure that children are receiving corresponding messages about the value of education.

Head teacher, governors and designated member of school staff with overall responsibility for attendance to:

- adopt the whole policy;
- ensure that the registration procedures are carried out efficiently and that appropriate resources are provided;
- initiate a scheme for contacting parents on the first day of absence;
- consult and liaise with the EWS and take responsibility for ensuring appropriate pupils are identified without delay;
- work in close collaboration with the EWS reviewing register analysis during register inspections.
- monitor and evaluate attendance concerns with the Education Welfare Service.

Class Teachers to:

- complete registers accurately and punctually twice daily;
- follow up any unexplained non-attendance; inform the school office of all reasons for absences so they can be recorded in the School Information Management System (SIMS);
- inform the designated person in charge of overall attendance of concerns; be alert to early signs of disaffection which could culminate in non-attendance and report these concerns as soon as possible to the Senior Leadership Team.

Penalty Notices

The Education Welfare Service, acting on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council will issue a Penalty Notice as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school and requires the recipient to pay a fixed amount. The amount payable on issue of a Penalty Notice is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. If the Penalty Notice is not paid within 28 days, the Local Authority must prosecute the parent/carer for failing to ensure regular school attendance under Section 444 Education Act 1996.

Circumstances when a Penalty Notices may be issued:

- Pupils identified by police and education welfare officers engaged on Truancy Patrols and who-have incurred Unauthorised absences or have been excluded from school.
- **The Education (Pupil Registration) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2013, which became law on 1st September 2013 states that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Head Teacher is required to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.**
- Where a child is taken out of school for 5 days or more and the 'unauthorised leave of absence' is without the authority of the Head Teacher, **each parent** is liable to receive a penalty notice for **each child** who is absent. In these circumstances, a warning will not be given where it can be shown that parents had previously been warned that such absences would not be authorised and that they will be liable to receive a Penalty Notice if the leave of absence is taken.

Policy written by School Admin Officer

Reviewed by Head Teacher Autumn 1 – 2021

Approved by Governors Autumn 1 - 2021

Next review Autumn 1- 2022