

All Saints CE (VC) First School

Policy on Attendance

Date: September 2013

Updated: September 2014

Updated: March 2015

Updated: October 2015

Reviewed: October 2016

Updated: October 2017

Reviewed: October 2018

Reviewed: October 2019

To be reviewed: October 2020

Covid-19 Update: June 2020

Covid-19 Update: September 2020

School attendance is subject to various education laws and this school Attendance Policy is written to reflect these laws and the guidance provided by the Department for Education and Employment. Each year the school will examine its attendance figures and set attendance targets that reflect both national and Staffordshire attendance targets.

In order for a child to reach their full educational achievement a high level of school attendance is essential. We will consistently work towards full attendance for all children and continuously convey the importance of regular and punctual attendance to parents and carers.

Aims of Policy

- a. To provide a full and efficient education to all pupils and ensure equal opportunities for all.
- b. To provide an environment where all pupils feel valued and welcome.
- c. To ensure that attendance of all pupils is monitored and that the importance of regular and punctual attendance is communicated to parents and carers.
- d. To promote high levels of attendance so that each pupil can achieve maximum benefits from the educational, personal and social opportunities available at All Saints First School.

School Procedures

Any child who is absent from school must have their absence recorded as being authorised or unauthorised. Only the Headteacher or a member of staff acting on their behalf can authorise absence.

Registration

The register is open from 8:55am until 9:05am

a) Register is taken 8:55am to 9:05am

b) Any child arriving late - after 9:05am but before 9:15am will be marked late (L on the register)

c) If a child arrives after 9:15am they will be marked as 'U' - Late -Registration closed. This is regarded as an unauthorised absence unless an explanation is given and accepted as grounds for authorising the late arrival, in which case the appropriate code will then be used.

Any children arriving after 8.55am should enter school through the main school doors in order for their late arrival to be recorded.

Afternoon registration will take place at **1.00pm** and the registers will close at **1.10pm**.

As part of the LA Attendance Officer's role she will conduct half termly 'Late Gates'. This involves spot checks at the school gates to monitor the percentage of children arriving late to school.

First day Absence

Parents and carers are asked to notify the school office by telephone (or other means) before 9:15am on the first day of absence. If the length of absence is known then the

parent/carer doesn't need to ring daily. If the length of absence is unknown, then the parent/carer needs to ring on each day of absence.

The school office staff pass messages to the child's class teacher and enter the absence in the register if contact is made via the school office. Teachers should inform the office if the message has been passed directly to them from the parent/carer.

Class teachers should ensure that parents/carers receive any letters or information that has been given out during the child's period of absence.

Completing registers

Each class in the school has one page printed in register format each week and this is kept in a named register folder. Codes to be used for absences are printed and kept in the register folder for reference; teachers should seek the advice of the Headteacher if they are unsure of the code they should enter. At the end of the week the school office staff enter the attendance figures on to the SIMs computer system.

Registers are brought to the office by **9.10am** and dinner lists taken to the kitchen. The nominated class helpers are responsible for collecting the register at the end of lunchtime from the office and returning it to the office after registration at 1:10pm. All registers must be kept in a central area i.e. the school office to comply with Fire Safety regulations for evacuation.

Students on teaching practice should only complete registers under the direct supervision of their class teacher. Teachers are responsible for checking the register to ensure that it has been completed accurately. When a supply teacher or HLTA is covering a class they are responsible for the register and must report any messages or concerns to the class teacher.

Class registers should be completed in Black Ink.

Child Missing in Education

A child will be considered as 'missing in education' if they have not attended school, with no explanation from the parent for 20 consecutive school days.

Poor Attendance and Frequent Absence

Class teachers should bring any concerns they have over attendance directly to the Headteacher. Children's attendance is monitored daily and analysed half termly. Any absence raising concern will be discussed with the LA Attendance Officer during the half termly meeting. Letters will be sent to Parents/Carers termly informing them of their child's attendance percentage. However, letters will be sent half-termly for any children with attendance below 94% (See Appendix 1)

The Parents/Carers of children who have persistent absence (below 90%) will be written to and will be referred to the LA Attendance Officer. Parents/Carers will be invited to attend an Attendance meeting with the Headteacher and LA Attendance Officer.

Leave of Absence / Holidays during term time

Please refer to the Staffordshire Local Authority Code of Conduct for issuing Penalty Notices, Sept. 2017 (Appendix 2) and the 'Letter to Parents - absence policy update Sept 2017 (Appendix 3). As per this code of conduct the Headteacher will only authorise term time absence in exceptional circumstances. The school's Governing Board and Headteacher do not consider family holidays taken in term time to be 'exceptional circumstances'.

Parents who want the school to consider granting leave of absence in school term time should read the 'Parental Request for Leave Letter' (Appendix 4), complete the form and send it to the Headteacher. This form should be sent to the school in time for the request to be considered **well before** the desired period of absence. Parents are strongly advised not to finalise any booking arrangements before receiving the school's decision regarding their request. The Headteacher cannot authorise any leave of absence unless the request is received before the period of absence begins.

There is no automatic right to any leave in term time.

Attendance Awards

Attendance Awards will be presented at the end of each year.

Children who have 100% attendance for the year will receive a special 100% Certificate and a choice of attendance awards e.g. an extra playtimes; a DVD afternoon etc.

Children who have 97% to 99.9% attendance for the term will receive a special Good Attendance Certificate.

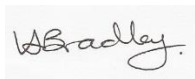
There will also be a **reward each half term for the top attending class**. Each class will choose the type of reward they would like to receive.

Monitoring and review of the policy

The Headteacher is responsible for this policy.

The policy will be updated annually and reviewed every three years or sooner as required due to any changes in the law etc.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light grey rectangular box.

Agreed by: Full Governing Board

Appendix 1

Please find below details of the colour code system used at All Saints and example copies of the attendance letters that will be sent to Parents/Carers on a termly basis.

Attendance Colour Codes

<p>97% - 100% WELL DONE! THIS IS EXCELLENT No intervention</p>
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<p>>94% - <97%</p>
<p>BE CAREFUL</p>
<p>Attendance clinic invites. Start of EHA/PN1a requested.</p>

<p>90% - 94%</p>
<p>IMPROVEMENT NEEDED!</p>
<p>School monitoring/intervention</p>

<p>Less than 90%</p>
<p>PERSISTENT ABSENCE PUPIL</p>
<p></p>

Sample text from attendance letters follows:

Green Letter

Dear Parents/Carers of

We are writing to congratulate you and your child. Since September your child's attendance percentage is %. This is excellent! Such good attendance is ensuring that your child is missing as little teaching and learning as possible.

We have introduced a colour code system in an attempt to improve the attendance of all children in our school as evidence shows that attendance does affect a child's learning and attainment. Our aim is for all children to have an attendance percentage that allows them to be in the green or yellow groups.

We are delighted that your code for this term is **GREEN!**

If you would like to see a copy of our current policy on Attendance, please visit the school website.

Thank you for your continuing support,
Warm regards,
Headteacher

Yellow Letter

Dear Parents/Carers of

Since September your child's attendance percentage is %. This is very good and we recommend that your child is not absent unnecessarily for the rest of the year so that they may achieve an attendance percentage of over 97%.

We have introduced a colour code system in an attempt to improve the attendance of all children in our school as evidence shows that attendance does affect a child's learning and attainment. All children should have an attendance percentage that allows them to be in the green or yellow groups.

We are delighted that your code for this term is **YELLOW!**

If you would like to see a copy of our current policy on Attendance, please visit the school website.

Thank you for your continuing support,
Warm regards,
Headteacher

Grey Letter

Dear Parents/Carers of

Since September your child's attendance percentage is %.

We have a colour code system in an attempt to improve the attendance of all children in our school as evidence shows that attendance does affect a child's learning and attainment. All children should have an attendance percentage that allows them to be in the green or yellow groups.

Your child is currently in the **grey** group which means that it is very important your child's attendance improves. Please ensure that your child is not absent unnecessarily. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, all children should be in the yellow and green groups, which means that their attendance is above 94%.

If you would like to see a copy of our current policy on Attendance, please visit the school website.

Thank you for your continuing support,
Regards,
Headteacher

Red Letter

Dear Parents/Carers of

Since September your child's attendance percentage is %. This significantly low attendance rate requires your urgent attention.

We have introduced a colour code system in an attempt to improve the attendance of all children in our school as evidence shows that attendance does affect a child's learning and attainment. All children should have an attendance percentage that allows them to be in the green or yellow groups, which means that their attendance is above 94%.

Your child is currently in the **red** group and is now categorised as a "Persistent Absence Pupil" by the Local Authority. The Education Welfare Officer (EWO) monitors each child's attendance on a regular basis and you could face court proceedings. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, all children should be in the yellow and green groups. Please be aware that your child's significantly low attendance has been notified to the EWO.

If you would like to see a copy of our current policy on Attendance, please visit the school website.

Regards,
Headteacher

Half Termly Letter for Pupils Attendance causing concern

Dear Parents/Carers of

This half term your child's attendance percentage is %.

We have a colour code system in an attempt to improve the attendance of all children in our school as evidence shows that attendance does affect a child's learning and attainment. All children should have an attendance percentage that allows them to be in the green or yellow groups.

Your child is currently in the group causing concern which means that it is very important your child's attendance improves. Please ensure that your child is not absent unnecessarily. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, all children should be in the yellow and green group, which means that their attendance is above 94%.

If you would like to see a copy of our current policy on Attendance, please visit the school website.

Thank you for your continuing support,
Regards,
Headteacher

Appendix 2

[Staffordshire Local Authority Code of Conduct for issuing Penalty Notices, Sept. 2017](#)

Appendix 3

['Letter to Parents - absence policy update Sept 2017](#)

Appendix 4

['Parental Request for Leave Letter'](#)

Appendix 5

['School Approve Leave' Letter to Parents](#)

Appendix 5

['School Decline Leave' Letter to Parents](#)

Attendance Policy ADDENDUM - Academic Year 2020/2021

Following the full re-opening of school on Wednesday 3rd September 2020 to all pupils the following shall apply to Fire Safety whilst children remain in isolated bubbles.

Background

DFE published guidance on full re-opening of schools can be found here: [Full Re-opening of Schools](#)

Within the guidance it states:

Attendance expectations

In March when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.

Now the circumstances have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

In order to ensure that our children can return to school in as safe a way as possible in the current circumstances, All Saints CE (VC) First School will be making the following temporary changes to this policy.

The following shall apply from 01/09/2020:

- All Saints CE(VC) First School will use attendance codes as per DFE guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>) where absence from school is Covid related.
- All children attending school should arrive and be collected during their allocated time and through their allocated entry/exit
- Registers will be taken daily and recorded digitally and on SIMS
- Parents of children should inform the school office by 9.30am if their child will not be attending. Parents have a responsibility to clearly state if they believe their child is exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms ([stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection.](#)) in order to allow school opportunity to implement additional procedures to keep children and staff in school as safe as possible.
- Parents of children who will be accessing childcare before and after school will be expected, wherever possible, to book and pay a half term in advance for the days that they will require this service.
- The issuing of green, red, yellow and grey letters will be suspended until further notice.
- During this period, there is an expectation that parents of children in Reception and Year 1 not returning to school will complete daily home learning activities with their child and return them, via email to class teachers for feedback.
- Should school be required to close for some or all pupils due to a Covid outbreak, the school will use attendance codes as per DFE guidance and will provide remote learning opportunities from 1st day of closure
- Should individual pupils be absent due to Covid related self-isolation, the school will provide remote learning opportunities from 2nd day of absence notification.

ADDENDUM - FROM 01/06/2020 to 17/07/2020

If, following Government announcement, school re-opens to pupils on Monday 1st June 2020 the following shall apply to Attendance.

Background

Following the announcement by the Government on Sunday 10th May that schools were to re-open to children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1, the DFE published guidance that can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools>

Within the guidance, it advises:

Attendance reporting

Parents and carers of eligible year groups, and critical workers/parents and carers of vulnerable children, are strongly encouraged to bring in their children, [but they will not face fines or other sanctions if they don't](#).

In order to ensure that our children can return to school in as safe a way as possible in the current circumstances, All Saints CE (VC) First School will be making the following temporary changes to this policy.

The following shall apply from 01/06/2020:

- All children attending school should arrive as follows:
 - Key Worker Bubble Drop-off 8.30 to 8.50 Collection 3.25 to 3.45
 - Year 1 Bubble Drop-off 9.00 to 9.20 Collection 2.50 to 3.15
 - EYFS Bubble Drop-off 9.30 to 10.00 Collection 2.20 to 2.40
- Registers will be taken daily and recorded digitally
- Parents of children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 who return to school from 1st June, should inform the school office by 10.30am if their child will not be attending. Parents have a responsibility to clearly state if they believe their child is exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms ([follow this NHS advice.](#)) in order to allow school opportunity to implement additional procedures to keep children and staff in school as safe as possible.
- Parents of children who will be accessing childcare in our Key Worker and Vulnerable children Bubble will be expected to inform the school office or Headteacher via email of the days that they will require care. These dates should be given by the Friday of the preceding week.
- Register codes will be adapted during this period as per Government guidelines, which are to be issued prior to re-opening.
- The issuing of green, red, yellow and grey letters will be suspended until further notice.
- Parents with children in Reception and Year 1 who will not be returning to school on June 1st, have a responsibility to inform school daily of their child's absence. It is an expectation that parents in this group will email the school office by 10.30am each school day to inform the Headteacher of their child's absence.
- During this period, there is an expectation that parents of children in Reception and Year 1 not returning to school will complete daily home learning activities with their child and return them, via email to class teachers for feedback.