



Fullwood Primary School **Attendance Strategy 2023-2024**

(To be read alongside the School Attendance Policy)

BACKGROUND

This document is a relaunch of our existing strategy written in direct response to the 2022-2023 School Learning Plan target (B1) Attendance and punctuality: *To further promote good attendance and reduce the number of children deemed to be persistent absentees.* It has been formulated on previous school successes with regards to improving attendance pre-pandemic and based on principles of good practice from Working together to improve school attendance (2022).

The school target for attendance for this academic year is 97%

At the time of writing, there were no overall national attendance statistics published for 2022-2023. This will be updated in October 2023.

RATIONALE

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school.

Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school. (*excerpt taken from Working together to improve school attendance 2022*).

EXPECTATIONS - Fullwood Primary School expects a high level of attendance from all pupils and parents. The school operates a creative curriculum to build a culture where all can, and want to be in school. We ensure that all stakeholders know that *'every lesson counts.'*

MONITORING - Fullwood Primary School will monitor attendance to identify patterns of poor attendance for both individuals, year groups, and statistically relevant groups and will work together with parents to improve attendance and break bad habits.

LISTEN AND UNDERSTAND- Fullwood Primary School will meet with parents when a pattern of poor attendance is identified to understand barriers and issues and work together to resolve them.

FACILITATE SUPPORT - Fullwood Primary School will endeavour to have open dialogue with parents to assess the help they need with barriers outside of school by creating a whole family plan if absence is a system of wider issues.

FORMALISE SUPPORT - Where absence persists and parental support is not being engaged with, Fullwood Primary School will meet with parents formally to explain the consequences of non attendance clearly and what support is on offer. This could be in the form of a parenting contract or an education supervision order.

ENFORCE - To protect the pupils right to Education, where support is not working, Fullwood Primary School will as a last resort enforce attendance through statutory intervention or prosecution.

EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOOL.

Regular attendance is essential for positive outcomes for all pupils. Assessment of attendance has shown that children with higher levels of attendance achieve better outcomes than their peers with lower attendance.

Fullwood Primary School will:

- Develop and maintain a whole school culture that promotes the benefits of high attendance
- Have a clear school attendance policy which all staff, pupils and parents understand.
- Accurately complete admission and attendance registers and have effective day to day processes in place to follow-up absence.
- Regularly monitor and analyse attendance and absence data to identify pupils or cohorts that require support with their attendance and put effective strategies in place.
- Build strong relationships with families, listen to and understand barriers to attendance and work with families to remove them.
- Share information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, local authorities, and other partners when absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe

Fullwood Primary School recognises the importance of good attendance and is an integral part of the school's vision, values, ethos, and day to day life

Fullwood Primary School recognises that improving attendance is the responsibility of the Leadership team and will have a designated senior leader whose responsibilities it will be for highlighting and monitoring attendance. Their responsibilities will be to promote the vision for attendance improvement, to evaluate and monitor expectations, oversee data analysis and report their findings to pupils and parents.

All teaching and non-teaching staff will be consistent in their communication with pupils and parents about the importance of good attendance and this will be incorporated into INSET training termly.

Fullwood Primary School has an Attendance Officer (Mrs Khela) and a Parent Support Advisor (Miss Thompson) who work together to support families struggling with attendance issues. Mrs Khela meets regularly with the EWO (Education Welfare Officer) and will escalate concerns to him for further action. Miss Thompson is available to advise parents of external support available should there be a need.

Fullwood Primary School sets aspirational targets for attendance and punctuality for all pupils and regularly promotes this through assemblies, newsletters, website and through class teacher communications, praising and rewarding improvements in attendance at all levels. These strategies are to help parents understand that attendance affects their child's attainment, wellbeing and wider development in the short and long term.

Fullwood Primary School understands that raising attendance is a continual process and therefore all processes and strategies and communications with parents will be regularly reviewed and updated. The School has an Attendance Policy based on the expectations of this strategy and considers its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Fullwood Primary School recognises that children missing education can also be an important warning sign for safeguarding issues that include neglect, sexual abuse and child sexual and criminal exploitation and therefore monitor in conjunction with the School's Safeguarding Policy.

PERSISTENT AND SEVERE ABSENCE

Where absence escalates and pupils miss 10% or more, FPS will work with the Education Welfare Officer to implement additional targeted support to assist in the identification of the sometimes sensitive reasons for absence and look at ways to ensure school remains a place of safety and support for children living in difficult circumstances before moving to enforcement approaches.

FPS understands that children missing 50% or more of school will face bigger barriers to regular attendance and therefore will need additional strategies and external support to combat this. This may include a Whole Family Plan or extra educational provision where necessary to necessitate a return to good attendance.

If all support implemented by the school, local authority and external partners have been provided but persistent serious unauthorised absence continues, it will likely constitute neglect. FPS will undertake a safeguarding investigation and make a referral as per our Safeguarding Policy to Children's Social Care in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Parenting Contracts - A parenting contract is a formal written, signed agreement between parents and either the local authority (LA) or the governing board of a school

Education Supervision orders - An ESO is an order granted in the Family Proceedings Court requiring the parent and their child to follow directs made in the order and to work alongside the Local Authorities Supervising Officer to improve the child's attendance at school.

Attendance Prosecution - Parents can be prosecuted if your child has an unauthorised absence from school - Parents could get a fine of up to £2,500, a community order or a jail sentence up to 3 months.

Parenting Orders - This means you have to go to parenting classes. You'll also have to do what the court says to improve your child's school attendance.

Fixed Penalty Notices - Your local council can give each parent a fine of £60, which rises to £120 each if you do not pay within 21 days. If you do not pay the fine after 28 days you may be prosecuted for your child's absence from school.

Strategy strands

<u>Strategy / initiative</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Timescale / frequency / notes</u>
Weekly attendance celebrations in assembly with the best class tracked each week. The overall winner (most week's won) will receive a prize in July. For 2023-2024 this will be the choice of a day out.	Maninder Khela	Running each week from the beginning of October. Display in the hall will reflect the 'leaderboard' and will be referred to every assembly
Half-termly best class attendance prize. For 2023-2024 the winning class will get a non-uniform day.	Maninder Khela	Each half-term, classes notified a week in advance and put into newsletters
100% individual attendance prize. Any child with 100% attendance as of the end of June 2024 will receive a prize. For 2023-2024 this will be a theme park visit	ULT	Monitor attendance and remind children on track to achieve the prize
100% termly attendance badges. All children attending school each day will receive a badge at the end of each term	Faye Meek / Manminder Khela	Badges to be handed out in celebration assemblies, a different colour for each term. Blue Badge - Autumn Term Green Badge - Spring Term Red Badge - Summer Term Gold Badge - 100% whole year
Newsletter to contain attendance each month and	Rachel Bateman	Monthly newsletters will keep the profile of attendance high and keep the

winning classes celebrated		parent community informed (attendance prizes also included)
All classes to have monthly attendances on the door for the parent community to see, alongside the school target	Maninder Khela	Template poster to face outward on each classroom door and to include the class with the lowest and highest attendance
The attendance officer to call the parents of any child not in school and log and monitor attendance for each family, liaising with the EWO fortnightly	Maninder Khela	All parents are aware of the expectation and the challenge they will face if their child(ren) are not in school
A new persistent absence monitoring proforma for 2023-2024 to include actions undertaken for any PA child and a tracking of their overall attendance over time	Maninder Khela / Simon Ward	To be monitored monthly by the attendance officer and Head of school and additional actions / interventions planned for
Application for leave is now available on the website with a clear explanation of the grounds for leave which will be authorised	Faye Meek / Manminder Khela	All parents are challenged around leave by all members of staff and know FPNs will be issued in all instances
School soft start continues to encourage children into school with members of the ULT available each morning on the playground to welcome families into school	ULT	A welcoming feeling around the school helps to create a love of coming to school
Meet the teacher meetings, year group handbooks and parent workshops reiterate the importance of attendance and the expectations the school has of 'every lesson counts'	ULT / SLT	The importance of attendance is continually reinforced
Attendance (and the importance of, discussions of new strategies) remains a standing agenda items for School Council / Learning Advisor Meetings	Pupil voice team	The importance of attendance is continually reinforced