



As a Rights Respecting School we believe that all pupils have the right to an education and that pupils should be encouraged to go to school – article 28. Children cannot achieve their full potential if they do not regularly attend school.

Last year's attendance figure – 96%  
Whole School Attendance Target – 96%

Parents of registered pupils have a legal duty under the Education Act 1996 to make sure that children of compulsory school age attend school on a regular and full-time basis. Permitting unauthorised absence from school is an offence and parents may be reported to the Education Authority if problems cannot be resolved by agreement.

### **Key Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Academy**

- Provide a safe, inclusive, stimulating, learning environment for all
- Promote and encourage high levels of attendance for all pupils and staff
- Provide rewards and incentives for excellent and improving attendance
- Provide support and encouragement for those children who are striving to improve their attendance and punctuality
- Liaise with parents/carers if a child's attendance causes concern
- Monitor attendance and punctuality of all children
- Be sympathetic towards genuine reasons for absence and welcome the child back into school
- Not authorise absences unless a satisfactory reason is provided
- Liaise regularly with the EWO service and, if necessary, refer parents/carers to the service for investigation

#### **Principal**

- Ensure that all processes and procedures are being followed.
- With other staff monitor attendance issues.
- Report to the LAC each term any issues via the Principal's report.

#### **Home School Link Worker (HSLW)**

- Meet with the EWO at least every half term to discuss any attendance and punctuality issues.
- Monitor registers on a weekly basis.
- Make Principal aware of any issues.
- Send letters to parents of pupils with attendance or punctuality concerns at least once a month.

- Hold attendance clinics each week for PA pupils, those pupils in danger of becoming PA pupils and those whose punctuality is a cause for concern.

### **Vice Principal**

- Complete a half termly analysis of attendance across the whole school including vulnerable groups
- Work with the HSLW on the monitoring of PA pupils and strategies to reduce this number

### **School Secretary**

- First day contact for pupil absences. After 9.30am of the first day of absence.
- Ensure that late marks (U) are placed in the register each day after 9.30am.
- Provide HSLW with attendance reports when required.

### **Local Academy Committee**

- To challenge all school staff on attendance and punctuality procedures to ensure that they are rigorous and are helping to improve overall levels of attendance and punctuality.
- To monitor overall attendance.
- The attendance governor will meet with the HSLW and HT at least once a year to discuss attendance and punctuality

### **Parents/Carers**

- Ensuring that your child arrives at school every day on time, ready to learn.
- Discussing with the class teacher, HSLW or Vice Principal any concerns which you may have.
- Regularly asking what your child's attendance rate is.
- Talking often to your child about school and how they feel about it. They are more likely to attend if they feel supported and their anxieties are listened to.
- Knowing the routines of the school day.
- Immediately contacting the school if your child is unable to attend. Please telephone 234834
- Arranging medical appointments outside of school hours.
- Providing medical evidence for absences over 4 days.
- Not withdrawing your child for a holiday during term time.

### **Pupils**

- Arrive at school on time every day
- Arrive at school ready to learn
- Enjoy and achieve whilst at school
- Take pride in your work and the school
- Complete homework tasks before bed, go to bed at a reasonable time, get ready for school quickly in a morning

## **Definitions**

Christ Church CE Primary School defines **absence** as either:

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

Christ Church CE primary School defines an **authorised absence** as:

- An absence for sickness which the school agreed.
- Medical or dental appointments which must take place during school time
- Religious or cultural observances which the school has agreed
- An absence due to family emergency

Christ Church CofE Primary Academy defines an **unauthorised absence** as:

- Minor illnesses (coughs, colds, sore throats, headaches). We will administer Calpol and monitor your child closely
- Parents keeping children off school unnecessarily or without reason
- Truancy
- Absences which have not been properly explained
- Arrival at school after the register has closed
- Shopping, looking after children or birthdays
- Day trips and holidays in term time that have not been agreed

### **Persistent Absentees (PA)**

- If a pupil's attendance falls below 90% they are classed as being PA pupils. We will continue to work together with the family and EWO to improve the pupil's attendance.
- If your child's attendance falls below 85% the EWS will be formally involved and you could be fined.
- Medical evidence will be required for all absences due to illness.
- Weekly attendance cards will be created for PA pupils. If they collect a full week of stickers they will be able to access the golden box.

## **Absence Procedures**

- If your child is unable to attend school, they must notify school as soon as possible by ringing 234834 on the first day of absence.
- A pupil's absence will be considered unauthorised until a satisfactory explanation is received. Children can attend school with minor ailments – colds, sore throats, headaches etc. We will administer Calpol with parental consent and ensure your child is looked after.
- A phone call will be made to the parent/carer of any child who has not reported their absence on the first day that they do not attend.

- If we are unable to contact you via telephone or text a home visit will be made that day.

## **Lateness**

Punctuality is of the utmost importance and lateness will not be tolerated.

- Children can start to arrive from 8.30am each morning (unless they attend breakfast club)
- The school day starts at 8.45am when doors open.
- Doors open at 8.45am
- Doors close at 8.50am
- A late book is in operation for arrivals after 8.50am (through the main entrance not classroom doors or children's entrance)
- Register opens at 8.45am
- Register closes at 8.55am when it is sent to the school office.
- Late marks (L) are awarded for arrivals between 8.55am and 9.30am. These are awarded by the office.
- Late marks (U) are awarded for arrivals after 9.30am. These are awarded by the office. If your child receives 20 late marks, the EWO service will be informed. A 'U' mark means your child is absent for the morning session

## **Term Time Leave**

- The local authority discourage parents/carers from applying for leave of absence during term time and encourage school not to authorise such applications.
- All parents requesting holiday leave will need to meet with a member of the attendance team to discuss the absence and the impact it will have upon the pupil's attendance.
- The school is sensitive to family requests in cases of family bereavement and special occasions (e.g. family wedding). The Principal will offer the family advice over absence in this instance.
- Attendance at a religious observance held by a religious body may be granted authorised absence. The Principal should be consulted in advance of the event and will make a decision as to whether this will be authorised.

## **Appointments**

- As far as possible parents/carers should book medical and dental appointments outside of school hours.
- Where this is not possible a note, appointment card should be shown.
- Pupils must attend school before and after the appointment wherever possible

## **Monitoring Procedures**

- 1) If your child's attendance figure falls below 96% a letter will be sent home. These will be sent out each month
- 2) Attendance clinics will take place each week for PA pupils, those in danger of becoming PA pupils or those whose attendance is affected by persistent lateness
- 3) If poor attendance continues after the above interventions the EWO will be contacted. Fines can be issued for persistent absence.
- 4) A record of all concerns, correspondence and meetings will be kept in school
- 5) Termly attendance percentages will be reported to the Governing Body via the Head Teacher's report and to parents via newsletters.
- 6) Parents are informed of attendance targets and kept up to-date of classes' achievement via Celebration Worship and regular newsletters.
- 7) Individual and class average attendance is reported to parents each term via the 16 Day Book
- 8) Personalised attendance targets and attendance trackers will be given to pupils whose attendance is causing concern, below 90%. The HSLW will share these with the pupils.
- 9) The Attendance Link LAC Member will meet with the HSLW and EWO each term to discuss any attendance issues in school.
- 10) Red, green and yellow letters will be sent out to parents at the end of the autumn term to show what their child's current percentage is.
- 11) Other attendance letters will be sent as necessary to families of pupils whose attendance is below 90% (one every four weeks). Door knocks will be made to families of absent children. Attendance clinics will be booked and if needed Penalty Notice Warning Letters (PNWL) will be issued.
- 12) Each class, year 1 – year 6, has two Attendance Ambassadors. It is their job to:
  - a) make sure that the class attendance display is always up to date
  - b) meet with the HSLW at least half termly to discuss current whole school percentages
  - c) feedback this information to their class
  - d) be involved in the prize draws each half term

## **Attendance Rewards for Pupils**

- Two Dojos will be issued to every child each day: one for arriving on time (before 8.50am) and one for wearing full school uniform
- A trophy and certificate is awarded for a week, to the classes (one in EYFS/KS1 and the other in KS2) who have achieved the best weekly attendance.
- Maximus will visit classes who achieve 100% on a daily basis
- The class with the highest attendance that week will receive an extra 15 minutes play
- Certificates will be awarded for 100% termly attendance at the end of each term and for 100% annual attendance at the end of the academic year.
- An additional treat to be awarded every half term for the class who receive the most attendance certificates from each key stage

- Every month a prize draw will take place for each class for all pupils whose attendance is 96% or above.
- All children who achieve 100% attendance up until the 30<sup>th</sup> June will participate in a day trip before the summer holiday as a reward for their outstanding attendance.
- Each week a raffle ticket will be given to each child who has achieved 100% attendance for that week. We will then hold a special prize draw at the end of each term.
- Praise postcards will be sent home each half term to those children achieving 100%

There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and low academic achievement. Children have little chance of catching up their peers if attendance is poor. We want our children to develop life-long skills and attitudes which will enable them to succeed in life after school.

Appendix 1 – Local Authority document entitled Leave of Absence

Appendix 2 – Parents Guide

Appendix 3 – Child Friendly Version of the Policy

Appendix 4 – Attendance Colour Codes

Appendix 5 – School Attendance, July 2019, DfE guidance

*Christ Church CE Primary School are doing everything that they can to make sure pupils attendance is at least 96%.*

### **REVISION/REVIEW HISTORY**

Signed (Chair of Governors) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Principal) \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>	<b><u>Review Date</u></b>
21/11/12	Amended to include change to holiday authorisation, attendance rewards and updated procedures	Autumn 2013
22/11/13	Amended with new reward system, an earlier register close time and a clearer system.	Autumn 2014
07/11/14	Amended with new school start times, change of policy name, updated reward system,	Autumn 2015

	change to the use of 'u' marks	
Summer 15	Virtually new policy as a result of the Attendance A3.	Summer 2016
30/09/16	Updated with Attendance Ambassadors and new whole school target	Summer 2017
06/10/17	Updated with amendments to rewards following discussions with Attendance Ambassadors	Summer 2018
16/11/18	Updated with a section on Deputy Head Teacher Roles and updated rewards following consultation with Attendance Ambassadors	Summer 2019
11/10/19	Name changed to academy. Last year's percentage attendance updated Removed appendix 2 as part of the policy	Summer 2020