



Moorside Primary School and Nursery

Attendance & Punctuality Policy 2020 - 2021

Date:	Review Date:	Coordinator:	Nominated Governor:	
December 2020	December 2021	Mrs S Price	Mr C Lea	
Headteacher:		Mrs C Rowett	Date:	10.12.20
Chair of Governors:		Mr C Lea	Date:	10.12.20

This policy should be read alongside other policies which support learning.

There are clear links between attendance and attainment, therefore everyone has a responsibility for promoting excellent attendance: governors, parents, pupils and all school staff.

Vision Statement:

We will give our children a secure foundation for life through:

- A culture of success and achievement for all.
- An aspirational and inspirational curriculum.
- Strong relationships between the school, families, pupils and our community.
- A whole school inclusive and nurturing ethos.
- High expectations for all stakeholders, surrounding our children with the best educators and specialists.

School Attendance and the Law

Under the 1996 Education Act, parents and carers are responsible for ensuring their children attend school regularly and punctually. Failure to do so could result in legal action being taken against them by the Local Authority.

The register is a legal document and schools must, under the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006 take a register at the start of the morning session, and again during the afternoon session. Since September 2006, schools have been required to use statutory registration codes (see appendix A).

Under the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006, only the school (and not parents/carers) can authorise an absence. Where the reason for a pupil's absence cannot be established at the time the register is taken, that absence shall be recorded as unauthorised. If a reason for absence is provided by the parent/carer, the school may decide to grant leave of absence which must be recorded as authorised using the appropriate national code.

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2013 have removed all references to family holidays and leave of absence shall not be granted unless an application had been made in advance and the Headteacher considers that leave of absence should be granted due to exceptional circumstances. Headteachers no longer have the discretion to authorise up to ten days of absence. This discretion has been removed by the aforementioned Regulations (2013). Whilst the Headteacher will consider all requests on a case-by-case basis, parents must be aware that requests will normally be refused.

Where a family chooses to take a holiday during term time, the absence will be coded as unauthorised (G code) and a Penalty Notice may be issued to each parent for each child (where 5 or more days of unauthorised absence are recorded as a result). If leave of absence is taken without the request having been agreed, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. This may result in the Local Authority issuing a Penalty Notice, in accordance with the Essex Code of Conduct (£120 per parent, per child / £60 if paid within 21 days), where there have been 10 sessions or more of unauthorised absence recorded. If this penalty is not paid the Local Authority will instigate legal proceedings against the parent/carer in the Magistrates Court. Penalty notices may be issued where there has been at least 10 sessions of unauthorised absence during the previous 10 school weeks. This includes unauthorised late arrivals, coded U, which count as unauthorised absence for the whole session.

In compliance with the Education Act 436A (Chapter 2 Part 6) the school will, after making appropriate checks, report all Children Missing from Education to the Local Authority, Education Welfare Service, who has a duty to investigate the whereabouts of such children and negotiate their prompt return to suitable education.

For further guidance please refer to NYCC website.

Persistent Absence Threshold - PA

With effect from 1st September 2015, a pupil will be deemed to be a 'persistent absentee' where their attendance falls below 90%. Missing this amount of school has a significant, detrimental impact on a child's learning and parents may be asked to attend a meeting with the Parent Support Advisor or the Headteacher to identify how we can work together to improve their child's attendance.

Roles Responsibilities and Procedures

School:

All the staff at Moorside Primary School and Nursery will provide an ethos which places a high value on regular attendance and good punctuality. They also have a responsibility to set a good example in matters relating to their own attendance and punctuality.

It is a rule of this school that pupils must attend every day, unless there are exceptional circumstances and it is the Headteacher, not the parent, who can authorise the absence.

The exception to this is due to Covid-testing, if a child or family member has Covid-19 symptoms, and a negative test has not been confirmed. In which case, the child will receive home learning and will be expected to engage in this daily, as per our home-learning policy.

Our school is required to produce written home-school agreements which include clear understandings about attendance and punctuality.

- Registration takes place at 9.00am and 1:00pm. A child arriving after 9.00am, but before 9.15am will be given an L-Late (before registration closed) mark.
- If a child arrives after 9.15am they will be given a U-Late (after registers closed) mark.

- Children arriving after 1:05 will be given an L-late mark and after 1.15pm a U-Late mark. L-Late is recorded as a present mark and U-Late is recorded as absent for the session.
- School asks parents of late children to sign children into school with a reason why they are late. Staff will record how many minutes late the pupil is on Scholarpack. Parents who consistently bring their children to school late will be called in to a meeting with the Headteacher.
- Notifications by parents of pupil absences are recorded on Scholarpack to track attendance.
- Our Parent Support Advisor and admin team are responsible for first day calling and recording information received if parents have not contacted the school.
- School will ask the police to make a Welfare Call or make a referral to Social Care if parents continually fail to answer phone calls or give reasons for absence for poor children with poor attendance.
- Staff use Scholarpack to record attendance and the school uses the Department for Education absence and attendance codes.
- Pupils may be marked as unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances e.g. serious disruption to travel caused by the weather or an emergency school closure.
- The Headteacher has responsibility for authorising holidays in term time.
- Poor attendance is monitored; if necessary parents are notified and asked to an informal meeting prior to referral to the Local Authority.
- Pupils who have extended absences will have a reintegration meeting with their parents and will also be supported by our Parent Support Advisor.
- The Parent Support Advisor will liaise with the Early Help Service if a Family Outreach Worker is involved with the family.
- Promotion of regular school attendance will take place e.g. by ringing home on the first day of absence if the parents/carers have not contacted the school.
- Parents/Carers may be asked to provide medical evidence for children with poor attendance due to illness.

Parents/Carers:

- If a pupil is prevented from attending school because of sickness or other unavoidable cause, it is the responsibility of the parent to contact the school on the first day of their child's absence. If contact is not made with the school an unauthorised mark will be given until written confirmation of the absence is received.
- **Pupils who are in isolation due to suspected Covid symptoms/ testing will be marked as X and a negative test result will need to be shared with the school before their return.**
- Wherever possible, parents should avoid making medical/dental appointments for their children during school hours. Proof of appointments should be shown to the staff in the School Office.
- Parents do not have the right to take children out of school for a holiday during term time. A parent wishing to apply for a leave of absence will need to apply using the appropriate form; this form is available from the office. Requests should be applied for 4 school weeks before the absence is required. Parents will receive a written response within a few days. Holidays are only granted under very special circumstances as stated in the North Yorkshire Guidance to School on pupil holidays in term time.
- It is an expectation that parents will work with school and/or the Local Authority to resolve any attendance issues.

- Pupils arriving late should be brought to the school office. Parents will then sign the late register giving reasons for lateness. These records are monitored weekly and parents of pupils who are regularly late are invited to school to discuss support measures.

Pupils:

- All pupils should be aware of the importance of regular school attendance. If a pupil is having difficulties which might be preventing them from attending school regularly, they should speak to their class teacher, the Pastoral Manager or another adult.
- Pupils are expected to attend school regularly and to be on time for registration and ready to learn.

Local Authority Attendance Compliance Team:

- Local Authority Attendance Compliance Team works within locally based Area Attendance Teams, multi-disciplinary teams, schools and families to promote good attendance.
- They carry out statutory duties on behalf of the Local Authority to ensure parents/carers fulfil their legal requirements in relation to school attendance.
- The school may refer a pupil to the Local Authority where attendance remains a concern following school intervention. The Local Authority will work with schools and families to address attendance issues. However, if attendance fails to improve, legal action may be taken against parents/carers.

Attendance Targets

Each school has an annual attendance target set by Senior Leadership and Governors. It is expected that the whole school community will work together to achieve this target [see School Development Plan].

Attainment is strongly linked to attendance, and research has shown that if pupils are to achieve their full potential, they must attend school regularly.

Attendance Targets are noted in all Head Teacher reports.

Rewards

Letters are sent from the Headteacher to any class with 100% attendance each week.

This rewards the children with 3 marbles in their class jar and the children choose a class reward when the jar is full.

A copy of the letter is sent home to parents on Marvellous Me.

Children with 100% attendance each term receive a certificate.

Children with 96%+ attendance in throughout the school year receive a treat at the end of the year.

Procedures for dealing with children who are not collected at the end of the day

Moorside Primary School and Nursery recognises that it has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of its pupils, and that this duty extends to having arrangements in place for dealing with pupils not collected from school at the end of the school day or school activity.

School Protocol:

- 5-10 minutes -children to be taken to the school office. A phone call will be made to parents in contact priority order. Children may be sent to after school club if possible.
- 10-30 minutes - school will continue to attempt to make contact with parents/carers, and other emergency contacts
- 30 minutes - If no contact has been made school will seek advice from North Yorkshire Children's Social Care.