

## ***Theale C of E Primary School***

### **Attendance and punctuality policy**

At Theale CE Primary School, the children come first. They are central to every decision made in school. We will ensure that our children are happy and successful. They will grow to be ambitious and resilient and their talents will be nurtured so they become highly skilled. Our children will be courageous and always behave with integrity.

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This *is* the first commandment. And the second, like *it*, *is* this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12: v 30-31*

“I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.”  
*John 10:10*

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## **Part 1 Context to the policy and our procedures**

### **Guidance documents**

The DfE attendance statutory guidance document (August 2024) has been used as a basis for this policy. The original document can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working\\_together\\_to\\_improve\\_school\\_attendance\\_-\\_August\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf)

### **The importance of school attendance**

A child should come to school every day.

### **The law on school attendance and right to full time education**

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. This is a stipulation under Section 44 of the Education Act 1996.

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.

This is essential for children's attainment, well-being and wider life chances. Children with the highest attainment at the end of Year 6 (Key Stage 2) have an absence rate of 2.7% when children who do not meet the expected standard have an absence rate of 4.7%. The impact of absence can still be seen at the end of GCSEs where pupils not achieving grade 9 to 4 in English and Maths had an absence rate of 8.8% compared to 5.2%.

Even more worrying research has shown the proportion of children that had been cautioned or sentenced for any offence that has ever been persistently absent was 81% and for serious violence offences 85%.

### **Introduction**

Theale CE Primary School is committed to providing an education of the highest quality for all of their pupils. In order to do this, children must be punctual and form good habits of regular attendance at school from an early age. Regular attendance and punctuality are crucial factors in children achieving their full potential at school.

The whole school community – pupils, parents and carers, teaching and support staff and school governors – has a responsibility for ensuring good school attendance and have important roles to play.

This policy outlines the procedures we follow to ensure a child's attendance is good and is based on current government and Local Authority guidance and statutory regulations. It reflects the various education laws and guidance produced by the Department for Education (DFE).

### **Summary of Key Information**

Below is a summary of key attendance information and an outline of some of our procedures we follow at Theale School. Should you require further information, please refer to the relevant section within this policy.

#### **Punctuality**

It is important that children arrive for school on time. If they arrive after the register closes they will be marked as Late. If they arrive 30 minutes late they will be marked as a U and this is recorded as Unauthorised absence.

	School Starts	Marked as Late	Marked as Unauthorised
School Starts	8:35am	8:45am	9:05am
(Afternoon Registration)	1:00pm		

## Types of absence

There are two formal registration windows each day-morning and afternoon registration. Every half day absence from school has to be classified by school as either authorised or unauthorised. It is for this reason that we need clear information about the reason for absence.

As a school we want to support parents where children are genuinely unwell and when their absence falls below 95%. To continue to authorise their absence we will ask you to provide some medical information such as prescriptions or doctor's appointments.

**Authorised absences** are mornings or afternoons away from school for unavoidable causes such as:

- Illness
- Medical appointments which unavoidably fall in school time i.e. hospital or clinical appointments, **not routine** check-ups.
- Emergencies or other unavoidable causes.
- Religious observance.

Despite these absences being authorised, they will still affect your child's overall attendance percentage for an academic year.

**Unauthorised absences** are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which the school has not given its permission in advance. This type of absence can lead to the Local Authority using sanctions or legal proceedings.

Examples of unauthorised absence include:

- parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily
- absences which are not properly explained
- children who arrive at school too late to get an attendance mark e.g. due to sleeping in
- looking after other children, birthdays, day trip
- holidays during term time
- excessive illness without medical information (medical information is requested when attendance drops below 95%)

## Requesting absence

We understand that on occasion your child may need to be absent from school for extenuating circumstances. If this is the case parents will need to complete an absence request form, which can be obtained from the school office.

Applications for absence, during term time, must be made in advance. Where ever possible, school request that this is a month in advance.

*Please note that the DFE issued guidance for school stated that head teachers should "only grant leaves of absence in exceptional circumstances"*

The school's Governing Board has given the Headteacher full authority to grant or deny a request based upon previous attendance and potential impact on the child's education.

Absence requests **may** be authorised if your child's attendance is above 95% and the reason for absence is due to an exceptional circumstance such as:

- a pupil is to participate in an approved performance for which a licence has been granted by the Local Authority,
- a pupil is involved in an **exceptional** special occasion – in authorising such an absence the individual circumstances of the particular case and the pupil's overall pattern of attendance will be considered,
- where the school is satisfied that the child is too ill to attend;
- where there is an unavoidable cause for the absence which is beyond the family's control, eg extreme weather conditions;
- the absence occurs on a day exclusively set aside for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's / student's parents belong;
- other **exceptional circumstances** (e.g. a family bereavement) and **for a very limited period**.

## **Holidays**

Holidays during school time will **not** be authorised.

## **Fixed Penalty Notices and other sanctions**













At Theale we aim to work with our families to support their child's attendance and will seek to resolve any concerns by working together to support the family in improving their child's attendance. We will work with families to:

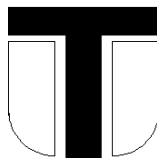
- keep parents informed about their child's attendance
- discuss the attendance concerns school have
- ascertain what may be causing the attendance difficulties and if applicable put in some strategies to support the child so that they can attend school
- set attendance targets and review these

Where this is not successful then more formal procedures will be followed and additional support will be sought from the Educational Welfare Officer and Local Authority. As a very last resort, when support has been exhausted then legal interventions will be deemed appropriate by the local authority. These will include:

- Penalty Notices
- Education Supervision Orders
- Fast Track intervention
- Attendance prosecutions
- Parenting Orders

## Procedures

Attendance 95%-100%	Attendance 90%-94.9%	Attendance below 90%
At the first opportunity, Parents/Carers to report a child's absence by email to the school office or via the School absence line.	At the first opportunity, Parents/Carers to report a child's absence by email to the school office or via the School absence line	At the first opportunity, Parents/Carers to report a child's absence by email to the school office or via the School absence line
When a child is absent the office will call and or text on the first day if parents have not notified the school with a reason.	When a child is absent the office will call and or text on the first day if parents have not notified the school with a reason.	When a child is absent the office will call and or text on the first day if parents have not notified the school with a reason.
		
A follow up email is sent if absence is not reported	A follow up email is sent if absence is not reported and contact cannot be made.	Priority phone call for vulnerable families on first day absence (CP/ SEND/LAC) (SLT/FSW)
A welfare check will be requested from social services and a home visit may be made if the family have not made contact to report absence.	Priority phone call for vulnerable families on first day absence (CP/ SEND/LAC) (office/SLT)	
Attendance is monitored and celebrated each week and at the end of each term.	A welfare check will be requested from social services and a home visit may be made if the family have not made contact to report absence.	A follow up letter is sent if absence is not reported
		
	On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> day of absence a home visit <b>will</b> be made if the family have not made contact to report absence.	On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> day of absence a home visit <b>will</b> be made if the family have not made contact to report absence.
		
	When attendance drops below 95% a supportive concern letter will be sent.	If attendance does not improve a concern letter will be sent. If no improvement Attendance meeting to be arranged with parent/carers
	Medical information will be requested for further absence, in order to authorise any absence.	Attendance Target to be sent to parent/carers to set 2 week target of 90% attendance
		
	Supportive concern letter will be re-sent termly where attendance has not improved but is still above 90%	Monitor at the end of 2 week target period. If achieved, continue to monitor on a weekly basis. If not achieved, <b>refer to EWO for further action</b>
		
	In a termly meeting with the EWO, discussions will be held regarding pupils causing concern and actions discussed	Regular contact with EWO to discuss individual persistence absentees
	Celebration letter to be sent, following a supportive concern where attendance has improved	 Joint school meetings with EWO/SLT/Parent/Carer/ Celebration letter/phone call to be sent if 2 week target has been achieved



## **Theale CE Primary School Attendance Policy**

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School Attendance Improvement Flowchart

### **Further sources of information:**

#### **Relevant legislation**

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010The

Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 The

Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 The

Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 The

Education Act 2002

The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999

The Changing of School Session Times (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2011The

Education and Inspections Act 2006

#### **Other DfE guidance**

[School attendance - Parental responsibility measures](#)

[Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Keeping children safe in education](#) Children missing education

[Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#)

## **1. Introduction**

Theale CE Primary School is committed to providing an education of the highest quality for all pupils. Promoting good school attendance, good punctuality and reducing absence is central to ensure:

- every pupil's day-to-day welfare and safeguarding
- every pupil has access to full-time education
- that pupils make good progress academically and personally
- that pupils leave with the best possible opportunities for their future

This policy outlines the responsibilities for the school and parents in ensuring that pupils' attendance at Theale School is the best it can be. It also outlines the strategies used by the school, alongside West Berkshire Council, to support and improve attendance.

The policy aims for all pupils to attend school regularly so they will be able to take advantage of the educational opportunities available.

Within this document 'parent' is defined as someone who has parental responsibility for a child or who has the care of that child.

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

### **2.1 Pupils (when developmentally ready to take some responsibility) are expected to:**

- Attend school every day.
- Arrive at school on time.
- Be appropriately prepared for the day and ready to learn.
- Tell a trusted adult if there is a problem that might affect their school attendance.

### **2.2 Parents are responsible for:**

- Ensuring that their children attend school regularly and on time.
- Informing the school on the first day of absence, by 8:30am, with a detailed explanation given such as unwell with vomiting during the night, unwell with a high temperature. This should be done by email to the school office or via the absence line.
- Providing full contact details, and emergency contact details; and update the school if any changes to these occur.
- Working in partnership with the school to resolve issues which may lead to non-attendance.
- Avoiding arranging medical/dental appointments during school hours.
- Not booking holidays during term-time.
- Treating staff with respect.
- Actively supporting the work of the school.
- Calling on staff for help when they need it.
- Communicating as early as possible circumstances which may affect absence or require support.
- Proactively engage with support offered.

### **2.3 All school staff are responsible for:**

- Promoting good attendance.
- Providing a welcoming and safe environment, which encourages attendance and promotes the best performance from children.
- An awareness that absence from school is a potential safeguarding risk and understand their role in keeping children safe.
- Expecting regular attendance and punctuality from all members of the school community.

## **2.4 Head Teacher and Senior Leadership are responsible for:**

- Ensuring the Attendance Policy is consistently applied throughout the school.
- Conveying clear messages about how absence affects attainment, wellbeing and wider outcomes.
- Empower all staff to take responsibility for attendance.
- Recognising attendance as an important area of school improvement. Make sure it is resourced appropriately (including through effective use of pupil premium funding) to create, build and maintain systems and performance.
- Having a designated attendance champions (Assistant Head Teacher/SENCo) in the senior leadership team with clearly assigned responsibilities which are identified within the attendance policy, escalation of procedures and school improvement plan.
- Making sure staff receive professional development and support to deploy attendance systems effectively.
- Consulting with the Local Authority Education Attendance Service where there are concerns around pupil's attendance or if there is a child missing from education.
- Governors should have an accurate view of school attendance and engage in escalation procedures where appropriate.

## **3. Recognising and rewarding good attendance**

At Theale School we regularly discuss and celebrate good attendance to help pupils and parents to understand the importance. This is done through publicising good attendance during assemblies, newsletters and the termly report to the Governing Body. The school offer incentives for good or improving attendance by recognising this with attendance certificates and class trophies, which are awarded in assembly. In addition, we call families when there is an improvement in attendance to thank them for working with the school.

The school will remain mindful that some children, due to long term medical conditions, may never be able to achieve a high rate of attendance. This is taken into account when considering rewards for attendance and will include improved attendance so that individuals are not disadvantaged in these circumstances.

## **4. Recording Attendance**

### **4.1 Attendance registers**

Accurate and timely registers enable the school to safeguard children as well as to recognise and act upon any concerning attendance patterns. Registers are taken at the start of every morning and afternoon session.

### **4.2 Lateness**

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child arrives at school on time.

- Pupils are expected to be on site by 8:35am.
- Pupils who arrive between 8:45-9:05am will be marked as late, but counted as present for that session.
- Pupils who arrive after the register has closed at 9:05am, will be marked as absent for that session. If the parent provides a satisfactory explanation this will be marked as an 'authorised absence'; if the parent fails to provide a satisfactory explanation this will be marked as an 'unauthorised absence' for that session.

### **4.3 Responding to absence**

Parents are responsible for contacting the school when their child is absent to explain the detailed reason. This can be done by:

- Calling the School Office on 0118 9302239 and leaving a message on the absence line.
- Emailing the school office [office@theale.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@theale.w-berks.sch.uk) with their child's name, year group and reason for absence.



If no reason is given, or further information is required, a phone call is made to parents in the first instance (or by text, email or letter if unable to make contact)

- If we are unable to make contact with you a 'no reason' email will be sent home. Please inform the school, within 24 hours of receiving the letter, the reason for your child's absence.
  - To ensure safeguarding, if absence continues without explanation, or if further information is needed, a social services welfare check will be requested and home visit may be carried out.
  - Home visits are not pre-arranged and can be made at any time, as required, at the discretion of the school. Staff will always carry identification and will expect to see the child in question, if only briefly, to ascertain how they are.
- Once sufficient information has been gained, an absence code is determined by the appropriate member of staff in line with DfE guidance in Working Together to improve school attendance (2022). This decision is based on the information provided by parents when the child's absence is reported and will influence whether an absence is authorised or unauthorised.

## 5 Authorised and Unauthorised Absence

### 5.3 Leave of absence in term time

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the Head Teacher's discretion provided that:

- A leave of absence application form is submitted in advance
- There are exceptional circumstances

Parents should plan holidays within the school breaks and avoid seeking permission from school to take their children out of school during term time unless absolutely unavoidable.

Parents should be aware that an unauthorised leave of absence of 10 sessions or more can result in the issuing of a Penalty Notice, served per parent, per child.

- The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days. (Fines that are not paid may result in a prosecution).
- A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. Instead a prosecution, or other legal intervention, will be considered.

### 5.4 When absences will be authorised

Absences will be authorised if:

- The pupil is absent with leave as agreed by the Headteacher due to exceptional circumstances.
- The pupil is ill and has not been asked to provide proof of absence. Whilst we will not ask for medical evidence as proof of absence, parents are welcome to provide this.
- The parent notifies the school of a medical or dental appointment (which could not be made outside of school hours).
- The absence occurs **during time** exclusively set aside for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parent belongs.
- The pupil is the child of Traveller parents who are known to be travelling for occupational purposes and have agreed this with the school, but it is not known whether the pupil is attending alternative provision.
- Leave of absence to allow a pupil to take part in a performance within the meaning of s37 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963 © for which a child performance licence has been issued.

Only the school can authorise an absence. Where a parent has provided no explanation or the explanation given is not deemed to be valid, the absence will be treated as unauthorised.

## **6 Monitoring and improving irregular attendance**

### **6.3 Reducing persistent absence**

We regularly monitor cases where attendance is below 95%. In cases where absences are increasing, actions are taken which aim to prevent children becoming or remaining a 'persistent absentee' (<90%).

These actions will include:

- Regular and supportive telephone contact with the parent/s
- Supportive conversations and/or regular check-ins with the pupil (where appropriate)
- Use staged letters: first letter to indicate concern for a decline in attendance; second letter with an action or target to improve attendance
- Put individual support plans in place for pupils
- Meet with pupils and parents and create a SMART plan of action & review regularly
- Share plans & meeting notes with parents
- Engage with relevant external agencies involved
- Refer to the My Family Plan Team
- If these actions have been taken and attendance fails to improve a referral will be made to the Local Authority Education Attendance Service

### **6.4 Attendance and safeguarding**

It is recognised that poor attendance may be a sign or symptom of a wider safeguarding issue that requires further support (this could include but is not limited to domestic abuse, mental health difficulties, substance misuse, or financial strain). Where there are concerns about a child's welfare, action will be taken in line with the School's Safeguarding Policy.

### **6.5 Formal and legal interventions**

Theale School and the Education Attendance Officer will seek to resolve any attendance concerns by working together to support the family with improving a child's attendance. Where this is not successful, or where parents do not engage with support, then more formal procedures may be followed.

Parenting contracts

- A formal written agreement between a parent and the school and/or Local Authority to address irregular attendance at school.
- Parents cannot be compelled to enter a contract, and they cannot be agreed in a parent's absence.
- This is a supportive tool, which aims to provide an alternative to prosecution.
- The aim is for the parent(s), pupil (if old enough), the school and Local Authority to work in partnership towards the common goal of improved attendance.

If a parenting contract is not effective at improving attendance, or is deemed not appropriate, the Local Authority has the option to progress legal interventions as a last resort:

- Penalty Notices
- Education Supervision Orders
- Fast Track intervention
- Attendance prosecutions
- Parenting Orders

### **6.6 Support back into school following a period of absence**

Pupils who have been excluded or have had periods of absence due to ill-health or truancy will receive appropriate support to return to school, build confidence and bridge the gaps in their learning. These plans are drawn up in collaboration with parents and the pupil.

To support a child returning to school after a long period of absence we may:

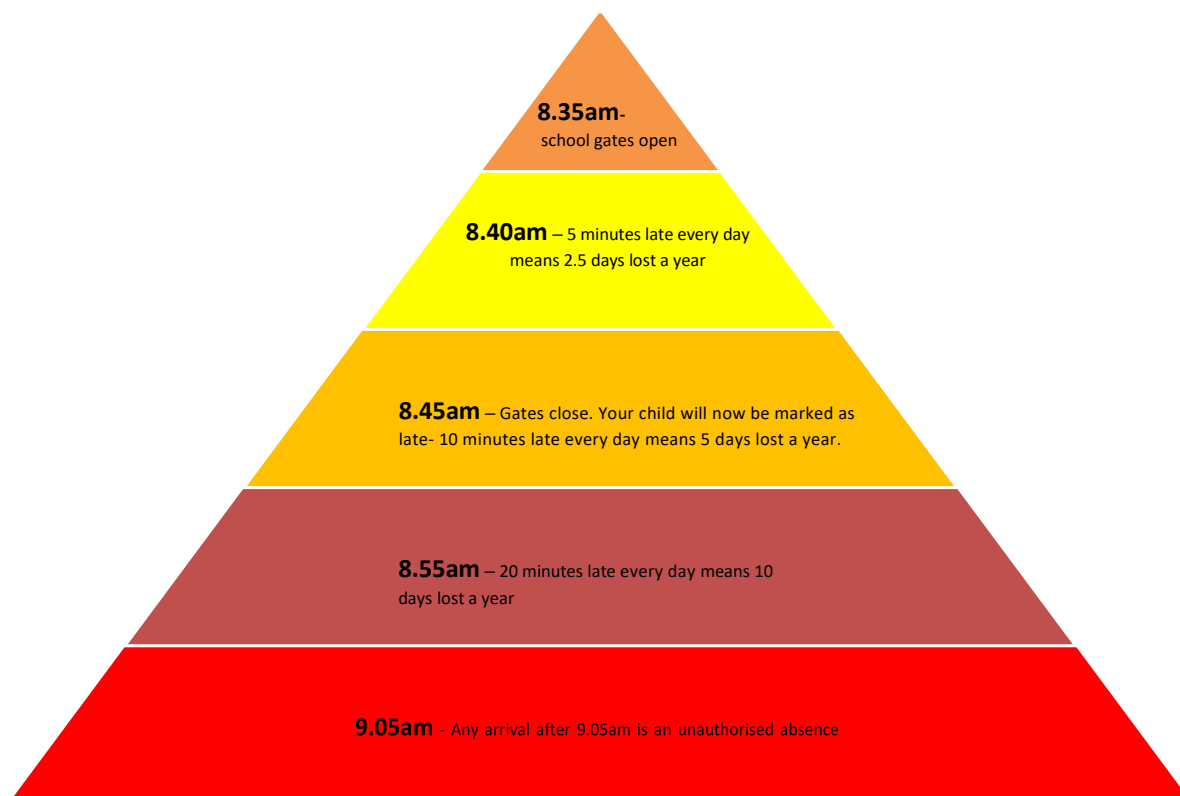
- Assign a member of staff, who the child has a good relationship with to support their return by meeting and greeting in the morning and touching base with them during the day.
- Putting in a mentor or buddy to help the pupil
- Adapting transition times such as allowing pupils to come in through the main office.
- Alternative spaces for break/lunchtimes.

- ELSA sessions to support reintegration.
- Communication each day (especially for the first few days) between the teacher and parent via email, communication book or phone calls.

### Why is good attendance so important?

- There is a clear link between high attendance and high academic achievement. Therefore, any absence, for any reason, has a negative effect on learning. An attendance rate of 90% is equivalent to missing half a day of school per week or one day per fortnight.
- Persistent absence (attendance below 90%) in particular, will seriously affect a pupil's learning. In addition, a pupil's late arrival disrupts teaching and unfairly affects the learning of others in the same class. Children who are persistently absent from school miss out on whole modules of learning and have to play catch-up, which can cause them unnecessary stress.





## Appendix 1 – Breakdown of attendance codes

### Breakdown of available codes

Please refer to Working together to improve school attendance [Working together to improve school attendance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) page 56 onwards for the full definition of codes available.

Code	Description	Description
The student is counted as present.		
/ or \	Present am or pm	Present in school during registration.
L	Late	Late arrival before the register has closed
The student is counted as present, at an Approved Educational Activity.		
B	Educated off Site	The student is at an off-site supervised educational activity approved by the school.
J	Interview	At a job interview, or interviewing with another educational establishment.
P	Sporting Activity (Approved)	Pupil is taking part in a sporting activity that has been approved by the school and supervised by someone authorised by the school.
V	Educational trip	A residential trip organised by the school or a supervised strictly educational trip arranged by an approved organisation.
W	Work Experience	A student in the final two years of compulsory education is attending work experience.
The student is counted as absent, authorised.		
C	Other Authorised Absence	Only exceptional circumstances warrant an authorised leave of absence.
E	Excluded	If a student is excluded but still on the admission register, they should be marked E, for up to the sixth consecutive day of any fixed period (referred to as 'suspensions' by the DfE from Autumn 2021) or permanent exclusion.
H	Family Holiday (Agreed)	A leave of absence for a family holiday is granted entirely at the head teacher's discretion.
I	Illness	This Illness code can be used for any form of illness and is not a medical or dental appointment.
M	Medical/Dental Appointments	The student is absent due to a medical or dental appointment that could not be made outside of school hours.
R	Religious Observance	The student is absent for religious observance on a day designated by the religious body.
S	Study Leave	Study leave should be used sparingly and only granted to Year 11 pupils for public exams. Students should still be able to come into school to revise.
T	Traveller Absence	Used when Roma, English and Welsh Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers, Showmen (fairground people) and Circus people, Bargees (occupational boat dwellers) or New Travellers are known to be travelling for occupational purposes and have agreed this with the school.

The student is counted as absent, unauthorised.

G	Family Holiday (Not Agreed)	The Holiday was not authorised by the school or in excess of the period determined by the Headteacher.
N	No Reason	The reason for the absence has not been provided. If no reason for an absence is provided after a reasonable amount of time, it should be changed to O.
O	Unauthorised Absence	If the school is not satisfied with the reason given for absence they should record it as unauthorised.
U	Late (After Register Closes)	Schools should keep registers open for a reasonable amount of time, after which the student should be marked with a U.

These codes are not counted so will not affect attendance figures.

D	Dual Registration	The student is registered at another school and attends it during this lesson e.g. students at a pupil referral unit. Schools should only record attendance and absences for sessions the pupil is scheduled to attend at their school.
X	Non-statutory school age absence	Sessions non-compulsory school-age children are not expected to attend. This code should only be used for early years students who have not yet passed the 1st January, 1st April or 1st September following their 5th birthday.
Y	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	The school is closed due to an unavoidable cause or the student is unable to travel to the school. It can also be used where the pupil is in custody (for less than four months). This code is collected for statistical purposes but does not contribute to your attendance figures.
Z	Pupil Not On Roll	This code can be used when setting up registers in advance of pupils joining. Schools must take attendance for pupils from the first day the student should be attending the school.
#	School Closed To Pupils	This code should be used for whole or partial school closures that are known or planned in advance such as if the school is used as a polling station.

## Appendix 2 – Annex A

### **Annex A: Grounds for deleting a pupil from the school admission register**

#### ***Grounds for deleting a pupil of compulsory school age from the school admission register set out in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, as amended***

1	8(1)(a) - where the pupil is registered at the school in accordance with the requirements of a school attendance order, that another school is substituted by the local authority for that child in the order or the order is revoked by the local authority on the ground that arrangements have been made for the child to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude otherwise than at school.
2	8(1)(b) - except where it has been agreed by the proprietor that the pupil should be registered at more than one school, in a case not falling within sub-paragraph (a) or regulation 9, that he has been registered as a pupil at another school.
3	8(1)(c) - where a pupil is registered at more than one school, and in a case not falling within sub-paragraph (j) or (m) or regulation 9, that he has ceased to attend the school and the proprietor of any other school at which he is registered has given consent to the deletion.
4	8(1)(d) - in a case not falling within sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, that he has ceased to attend the school and the proprietor has received written notification from the parent that the pupil is receiving education otherwise than at school.
5	8(1)(e) - except in the case of a boarder, that he has ceased to attend the school and no longer ordinarily resides at a place which is a reasonable distance from the school at which he is registered.
6	8(1)(f) - in the case of a pupil granted leave of absence in accordance with regulation 7(1A), that — (i) the pupil has failed to attend the school within the ten school days immediately following the expiry of the period for which such leave was granted; (ii) the proprietor does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil is unable to attend the school by reason of sickness or any unavoidable cause; and (iii) the proprietor and the local authority have failed, after jointly making reasonable enquiries, to ascertain where the pupil is.
7	8(1)(g) - that he is certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and neither he nor his parent has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
8	8(1)(h) - that he has been continuously absent from the school for a period of not less than twenty school days and — (i) at no time was his absence during that period authorised by the proprietor in accordance with regulation 6(2); (ii) the proprietor does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil is unable to attend the school by reason of sickness or any unavoidable cause; and (iii) the proprietor of the school and the local authority have failed, after jointly making reasonable enquiries, to ascertain where the pupil is.

9	8(1)(i) - that he is detained in pursuance of a final order made by a court or of an order of recall made by a court or the Secretary of State, that order being for a period of not less than four months, and the proprietor does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil will return to the school at the end of that period.
10	8(1)(j) - that the pupil has died.
11	8(1)(k) - that the pupil will cease to be of compulsory school age before the school next meets and— (i) the relevant person has indicated that the pupil will cease to attend the school; or (ii) the pupil does not meet the academic entry requirements for admission to the school's sixth form.
12	8(1)(l) - in the case of a pupil at a school other than a maintained school, an Academy, a city technology college or a city college for the technology of the arts, that he has ceased to be a pupil of the school.
13	8(1)(m) - that he has been permanently excluded from the school.
14	8(1)(n) - where the pupil has been admitted to the school to receive nursery education, that he has not on completing such education transferred to a reception, or higher, class at the school.
15	8(1)(o) where— (i) the pupil is a boarder at a maintained school or an Academy; (ii) charges for board and lodging are payable by the parent of the pupil; and (iii) those charges remain unpaid by the pupil's parent at the end of the school term to which they relate.



Appendix 3- Individual Pupil Record for persistent absentee.

**Theale CE Primary School – Individual Attendance Record**

<b>Child:</b>	<b>Year/Class:</b>	<b>PPG/SEND/EAL</b>
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Week beginning	<b><u>Overall attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Week attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Total absences</u></b>	<b><u>Week absences</u></b>	<b><u>Total lates</u></b>	<b><u>Week lates</u></b>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Actions</b>



### Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance

From 19 August 2024, there is a National Framework for Penalty Notice Fines being issued for unauthorised absences recorded by schools

#### National Threshold

A single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by **ALL** schools in England, this is:

- 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period
- These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence
- **For example:** a 5-day unauthorised leave of absence would meet the national threshold
- The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years

#### Who may be fined?

- Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent without authorisation from school
- **For example:** 3 siblings absent for unauthorised leave during term-time would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines

#### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, the fine amount will be:

- **£160 per parent, per child** - payable within 28 days
- **If paid within 21 days, the fine will decrease to £80 per parent, per child**

#### Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, a reduced rate is not available. The amount therefore will be:

- **£160 per parent, per child** – payable within 28 days

#### Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed, a Penalty Notice **WILL NOT** be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court.

- Prosecution can result in criminal records and **fines of up to £2,500**
- Cases found guilty in a Magistrates Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service) due to a **'failure to safeguard a child's education'**

