



MIDDLESEX
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP

ATTENDANCE POLICY

BELMORE PRIMARY

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Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Legislation and guidance	2
3. Roles and responsibilities	3
4. Recording attendance.....	6
5. Authorised and unauthorised absence	9
6. Strategies for promoting attendance	11
7. Supporting pupils who are absent or returning to school	Error! Bookmark not defined.
8. Attendance monitoring	12
9. Monitoring arrangements.....	14
10. Links with other policies.....	15
Appendix 1: attendance codes	16

1. Aims

This policy aims to show our commitment to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance, including those laid out in the Department for Education’s (DfE’s) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#), through our whole-school culture and ethos that values good attendance, including:

- Setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils
- Promoting good attendance and the benefits of good attendance
- Reducing absence, including persistent and severe absence
- Ensuring every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence
- Building strong relationships with families to make sure pupils have the support in place to attend school

We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education’s (DfE’s) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#) and [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). The guidance is based on the following pieces of legislation, which set out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- Part 6 of the [Education Act 1996](#)
- Part 3 of the [Education Act 2002](#)
- Part 7 of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006 \(and 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2016 amendments\)](#)
- [The School Attendance \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#)

- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/1751/contents> The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 and the 2024 amendment

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/757/regulation/2/made> It also refers to:

- [School census guidance](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools](#)

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The governing board

The governing board is responsible for:

- Setting high expectations of all school leaders, staff, pupils and parents
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties, including:
 - Making sure the school records attendance accurately in the register, and shares the required information with the DfE and local authority
 - Making sure the school works effectively with local partners to help remove barriers to attendance, and keeps them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate
- Recognising and promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos
- Making sure the school's attendance management processes are delivered effectively, and that consistent support is provided for pupils who need it most by prioritising staff and resources
- Making sure the school has high aspirations for all pupils, but adapts processes and support to pupils' individual needs
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on individual pupils or cohorts who need it most
- Working with school leaders to set goals or areas of focus for attendance and providing support and challenge
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school and repeatedly evaluating the effectiveness of the school's processes and improvement efforts to make sure they are meeting pupils needs
- Where the school is struggling with attendance, working with school leaders to develop a comprehensive action plan to improve attendance
- Making sure all staff receive adequate training on attendance as part of the regular continued professional development offer, so that staff understand:
 - The importance of good attendance
 - That absence is almost always a symptom of wider issues
 - The school's legal requirements for keeping registers
 - The school's strategies and procedures for tracking, following up on and improving attendance, including working with partners and keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate
- Making sure dedicated training is provided to staff with a specific attendance function in their role, including in interpreting and analysing attendance data
- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy
- As part of our whole-school approach to maintaining high attendance, the governing body will:

- [ensure the school fulfils statutory attendance requirements;](#)
- [ensure there is a clear policy and guidance applied fairly by the Head Teacher;](#)
- [work with leaders to establish policies, protocols and expectations relating to attendance;](#)
- [reinforce the importance of attendance in documentation and communications as appropriate;](#)
- [ensure that key staff receive relevant training relating to attendance;](#)
- [review and analyse attendance data and support leaders to address any issues that become apparent;](#)
- ~~➤ [ensure there is clear policy and guidance applied fairly by the Head Teacher](#)~~
- take time at governors' meetings to review and discuss attendance issues that have arisen;
- [keep up to date with change in guidance and legislation and ensure that leaders are aware of any changes;](#)
- appoint a governor with responsibility for behaviour and attendance.

3.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The implementation of this policy at the school
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary, and/or authorising Kim Payne kpayne@belmore.school and Emma Cook ecook@belmore.school to be able to do so
- Working with the parents of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with SEND, including where school transport is regularly being missed, and where pupils with SEND face in-school barriers
- Communicating with the local authority when a pupil with an education, health and care (EHC) plan has falling attendance, or where there are barriers to attendance that relate to the pupil's needs
- Communicating the school's high expectations for attendance and punctuality regularly to pupils and parents through all available channels

3.3 The designated senior leader responsible for attendance

The designated senior leader DSL Emma Cook ecook@belmore.school is responsible for:

- Leading, championing and improving attendance across the school
- Setting a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Having a strong grasp of absence data and oversight of absence data analysis
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating progress in attendance
- Establishing and maintaining effective systems for tackling absence, and making sure they are followed by all staff
- Liaising with pupils, parents/carers and external agencies, where needed
- Building close and productive relationships with parents to discuss and tackle attendance issues
- Creating intervention or reintegration plans in partnership with pupils and their parents/carers

- Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families

3.4 The attendance officer

The school attendance officer is responsible for:

- Monitoring and analysing attendance data (see section 7)
- Benchmarking attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Providing regular attendance reports to school staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the designated senior leader responsible for attendance, and the headteacher
- Working with education welfare officers to tackle persistent absence
- Advising the headteacher/ DSL (authorised by the headteacher) when to issue fixed-penalty notices

The attendance officer is Kim Payne and can be contacted via kpayne@belmore.school.

3.5 Class teachers

Class teachers are responsible for recording attendance for both morning and afternoon sessions on a daily basis, using the correct codes (see Appendix 1), and submitting this information to the school office via Sims at 8.50 at start of school day and the start of the afternoon session EYFS 12.30 / KS1+Y3 12.40 / KS2 1.20 .

3.6 School admin/office staff

School admin/office staff will:

- Take calls from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system
- Transfer calls from parents/carers to Attendance officer where appropriate, in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance

3.7 Parents

Where this policy refers to a parent, it refers to the adult the school and/or local authority decides is most appropriate to work with, including:

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not
- All those who have parental responsibility for a child or young person
- Those who have day-to-day responsibility for the child (i.e. lives with and looks after them)

As part of our whole-school approach to maintaining high attendance, we request that parents

- Their child attends school on time every day at 8.50am Report an absence by 9am that day
- work in partnership with the school
- Provide the school with more than 1 emergency contact number for their child
- ensure that [their child is in school each day, except for when a statutory reason applies;](#)
- follow the set school procedure for reporting the absence of their child from school and include an expected date for return – reporting to the school absence line
- do everything they can to prevent unnecessary school
- [book any non-emergency medical and dental appointments outside of the school day, where possible;](#)
- [ensure that leave of absence is only requested in exceptional circumstances and, where possible, advance notice is given;](#)
- respond to [call text messages](#)-requesting reason for absence;
- complete slips with reasons for absence if received;
- [engage with any support offered to address any barriers to their child's attendance;](#)
- ensure their contact details are up to date;

- work with external agencies to support pupils and their families who are struggling with regular attendance;
- retain open and honest communication with the school;
- do not take their children out of school for holidays during term time.

3.8 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Attend school every day, on time
- As part of our whole-school approach to maintaining high attendance, we request that pupils:
 - [attend school punctually every day](#)
 - [attend all lessons on time](#)
 - [engage with any support offered by the school to help them overcome any barriers to attendance;](#)
 - communicate with parents and the school about any worries or anxieties;
 - go to bed at an [age](#)-appropriate time and come to school on time and ready to learn.

4. Recording attendance

4.1 Attendance register

We will keep an electronic attendance register, and place all pupils onto this register.

We will take our attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session. It will mark, using the appropriate national attendance and absence codes from the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, whether every pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

Any amendment to the attendance register will include:

- The original entry
- The amended entry
- The reason for the amendment
- The date on which the amendment was made
- The name and position of the person who made the amendment

See Appendix 1 for the DfE attendance codes.

We will also record:

- For all pupils whether the absence is authorised or not
- The nature of the activity, where a pupil is attending an approved educational activity
- The nature of circumstances, where a pupil is unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

We will keep every entry on the attendance register for 6 years after the date on which the entry was made.

The school day starts at 8.50am and ends at 3.20pm

Pupils must arrive in school by 8.50am on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 8.50 and will be kept open until 9.20 am 9.30 minutes after the session begins, or the length of the form time or first lesson in which registration takes place. The register for the second session will be taken at 12.30 / 12/40 / 1/20.

4.2 Unplanned absence

The pupil's parent must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9am, or as soon as practically possible, by calling the school phone number and reporting the attendance office 01895 462364 kpayne@belmore.school.

We will mark absence due to physical or mental illness as authorised, unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.

Where the absence is longer than 5 days, or there are doubts about the authenticity of the illness, the school will ask for medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily.

If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and parents will be notified of this in advance.

4.3 Planned absence

Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent notifies the school in advance of the appointment.

However, we encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

The pupil's parent must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence.

4.4 Lateness and punctuality

A pupil who arrives late:

- Before the register has closed will be marked as late, using the appropriate code
- After the register has closed will be marked as absent, using the appropriate code

Registration starts at 8.35am for all children and closes at 8.50am

Pupils arriving after the register has closed will be marked as late using the appropriate code

Any child arriving after these times must report to the late entrance to be signed in by a member of the attendance team. The late entrance closes at 9.10am after this time, the parent and child must report to the main office.

Poor punctuality is not acceptable. If a child misses the start of the day, they can miss work and do not spend time with their class teacher getting vital information and news for the day ahead. Late arriving pupils also disrupt lessons, which can be embarrassing for the child and can also encourage future absences.

Persistent lateness could also result in a fine from the Local Authority.

The school day ends at 3.20pm.

Absence Procedures

If a parent or carer needs to report an absence to the school, they should follow the agreed procedures as set out below:

contact the Attendance Officer by telephone on the absence line to update every day of their child's absence (Option 1) or call into school and report the absence to reception to leave a message for the Attendance Officer; if the absence is due to illness and is longer than two days, they may be asked to provide medical evidence (e.g. note from medical practitioner or photocopy of prescription); respond to text messages or a call from the school if parents/ carers have been unable to call themselves.

If a child is absent the school may:

telephone or text parents on the first day of absence if we have not heard from them;
invite parents to discuss the situation with our Attendance Officer and/or Pastoral Manager;
refer the matter to the Local Authority Attendance Support Officer if the absence lasts for more than 10 days without authorisation.

Requesting Term Time Absence

Requests for advanced approval of term-time absence will not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Parents or carers should plan their holidays around school holidays and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time, unless it is absolutely unavoidable.

If there are exceptional circumstances, then a request can be made to the Headteacher in writing. Requests for term-time absences should be made as soon as possible and at least two weeks before the absence is due to take place. However, we recognise that in some rare instances, this will not always be possible.

Requests for term-time absences will be considered on a case-by-case basis taking the facts, circumstances and any supporting evidence into consideration. Leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances is at the discretion of the headteacher. This includes the length of time that the leave will be granted for.

4.5 Following up unexplained absence

Where any pupil we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, without reason, the school will:

- Call the pupil's parent on the morning of the first day of unexplained absence to ascertain the reason. If the school cannot reach any of the pupil's emergency contacts, the school may contact the police
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not
- Identify the correct attendance code to use and input it as soon as the reason for absence is ascertained – this will be no later than 5 working days after the session(s) for which the pupil was absent
- Call the parent on each day that the absence continues without explanation, to make sure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, the school will consider involving an education welfare officer
- Where appropriate, offer support to the pupil and/or their parents to improve attendance
- Identify whether the pupil needs support from wider partners, as quickly as possible, and make the necessary referrals
- Where support is not appropriate, not successful, or not engaged with: issue a notice to improve, penalty notice or other legal intervention (see section above for further details).

4.6 Reporting to parents

Adapt the following to explain when and how your school reports to parents on their child's attendance record. The DfE expects you to do this regularly.

The school will regularly inform parents (see definition of 'parent', as used in this policy, about their child's attendance and absence levels

5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

5.1 Approval for term-time absence

The headteacher will allow pupils to be absent from the school site for certain educational activities, or to attend other schools or settings.

The headteacher will only grant a **leave of absence** to a pupil during term time if the request meets the specific circumstances set out in the 2024 school attendance regulations. These circumstances are:

- Taking part in a regulated performance, or regulated employment abroad
- Attending an interview
- Study leave
- A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable
- Exceptional circumstances

A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher's discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for.

Requests for advanced approval of term-time absence will not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Parents or carers should plan their holidays around school holidays and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time, unless it is absolutely unavoidable.

If there are exceptional circumstances, then a request can be made to the Headteacher in writing. Requests for term-time absences should be made as soon as possible and at least two weeks before the absence is due to take place. However, we recognise that in some rare instances, this will not always be possible.

Requests for term-time absences will be considered on a case-by-case basis taking the facts, circumstances and any supporting evidence into consideration. Leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances is at the discretion of the headteacher. This includes the length of time that the leave will be granted for.

Non-emergency appointment

Illness (including mental-health illness) and medical/dental appointments

We request that non-emergency medical and dental appointments are booked outside of the school day to minimise lost learning time. Where this is not possible, permission for absence should be sought in advance.

Belmore Primary Academy recognises that there may be times where children of different faiths observe religious festivals that fall outside of school holidays and weekends, and will allow authorised absence for these times.

Children are not expected to miss more than 3 days in any school year for religious observance. Parents will be aware of these dates and should give the school written notification in advance.

- Parent(s) travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh gypsies, Irish and Scottish travellers, showmen (fairground people) and circus people, bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and new travellers. Absence may be authorised only when a traveller family is known to be travelling for occupational purposes and has agreed this with the school, but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision
- If the pupil is currently suspended or excluded from school (and no alternative provision has been made)

Other reasons the school may allow a pupil to be absent from the school site, which are not classified as absences, include (but are not limited to):

- Attending an offsite approved educational activity, sporting activity or visit or trip arranged by the school
- Attending another school at which the pupil is also registered (dual registration)
- Attending provision arranged by the local authority
- Attending work experience
- If there is any other unavoidable cause for the pupil not to attend school, such as disruption to travel caused by an emergency, a lack of access arrangements, or because the school premises are closed

5.2 Sanctions

Our school will make use of the full range of potential sanctions – including, but not limited to, those listed below – to tackle poor attendance. Decisions will be made on an individual, case-by-case basis.

Penalty notices

The headteacher (or someone authorised by them), local authority or the police can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age, by issuing a penalty notice.

If the school issues a penalty notice, it will check with the local authority before doing so, and send it a copy of any penalty notice issued.

Before issuing a penalty notice, the school will consider the individual case, including:

- Whether the national threshold for considering a penalty notice has been met (10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks)
- Whether a penalty notice is the best available tool to improve attendance for that pupil
- Whether further support, a notice to improve or another legal intervention would be a more appropriate solution
- Whether any obligations that the school has under the Equality Act 2010 make issuing a penalty notice inappropriate

Each parent who is liable for the pupil's offence(s) can be issued with a penalty notice, but this will usually only be the parent/parents who allowed the absence.

The payment must be made directly to the local authority, regardless of who issues the notice. If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice.

If issued with a **first** penalty notice, the parent must pay £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days.

If a **second** penalty notice is issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil, the parent must pay £160 if paid within 28 days.

A **third** penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the issue of the first penalty notice. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead.

A penalty notice may also be issued where parents allow their child to be present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification, during the first 5 days of a suspension or exclusion (where the

school has notified the parents that the pupil must not be present in a public place on that day). These penalty notices are not included in the National Framework, not subject to the same considerations about support being provided, and do not count towards the limit as part of the escalation process.

In these cases, the parent must pay £60 within 21 days, or £120.

Notices to improve

If the national threshold has been met and support is appropriate, but parents do not engage with offers of support, the school may offer a notice to improve to give parents a final chance to engage with support.

Notices to improve will be issued in line with processes set out in the local code of conduct for the local authority area in which the pupil attends school.

They will include:

- Details of the pupil's attendance record and of the offences
- The benefits of regular attendance and the duty of parents under section 7 of the Education Act 1996
- Details of the support provided so far
- Opportunities for further support, or to access previously provided support that was not engaged with
- A clear warning that a penalty notice may be issued if attendance doesn't improve within the improvement period, along with details of what sufficient improvement looks like, which will be decided on a case-by-case basis
- A clear timeframe of between 3 and 6 weeks for the improvement period
- The grounds on which a penalty notice may be issued before the end of the improvement period

6. Strategies for promoting attendance

6. Support

Belmore Primary Academy offers a variety of different support to students and their families to positively reinforce good attendance and punctuality. This may include support from the Attendance Officer, the Pastoral Manager and Inclusion Team, the Class Teacher, the Year Group Leader, and Senior Leadership Team.

Where the school has concern over a child's or a family's attendance, a letter will be sent to remind the family about the importance of attendance and draw their attention to current concerns the school have. If concerns around attendance still remain, an attendance meeting at school will be called with the parents/carers to work with the school to understand barriers to attendance and then next steps will be agreed.

Each term the school will hold a meeting with an assigned Attendance Officer from the Local Authority to review cases where attendance has fallen below 90% and have unauthorised absences and look at next steps to try to improve attendance.

The school also works with a variety of external agencies to support students who are absent from school and their families.

The breakfast club at Belmore Primary Academy is open to all children from 7.45am and is offered to all children in Reception to Year 6 where attendance and punctuality is an issue to encourage the children to arrive early, start the day in a calm atmosphere and we offer all children a healthy breakfast.

In exceptional circumstances the school will endeavour to assist with collecting children from home and bringing them in to school. Attendance is monitored closely and school staff will visit the home where it is felt to be appropriate if a child is absent without a valid reason.

8. Attendance monitoring

8.1 Monitoring attendance

The school will monitor attendance and absence data (including punctuality) half-termly, termly and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil, year group and cohort level.

Specific pupil information will be shared with the DfE on request.

The school has granted the DfE access to its management information system so the data can be accessed regularly and securely.

Data will be collected each term and published at national and local authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases. The underlying school-level absence data is published alongside the national statistics.

The school will benchmark its attendance data at whole school, year group and cohort level against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement, and share this with the governing board.

Class registers are checked by the school Attendance Officer at the end of the registration period. Where these are unexplained or unauthorised absences, the school will contact the parents or carers. If a pattern of unauthorised absences emerges, the school Attendance Officer will contact the parent or carer to discuss possible reasons and school support systems that could help.

If the attendance rate fails to improve the school will invite the parents/carers into school to discuss attendance and work together to set up an attendance contract.

Where a child has been absent from school for a period of more than 20 school days, and where the absence was unauthorised and both the school and LA have been unable to contact the parents, the school may remove the child from the school roll.

The Local Authority Attendance Support Officer

Parents are expected to contact school at an early stage and to work with the staff in resolving any problems together. This is nearly always successful. If difficulties cannot be sorted out in this way, the school may refer the child to the Local Authority Attendance Support Officer.

He/she will also try to resolve the situation by agreement but, if other ways of trying to improve the child's attendance have failed and unauthorised absences persists, these Officers can use sanctions

These measures can include:

- **Issue a fixed penalty notice, otherwise known as a 'fine'** – your local council can give each parent a fine. If you do not pay the fine after 28 days you may be prosecuted for your child's absence from school.
- **Seek an Education Supervision Order from the family court** – if the council thinks you need support getting your child to go to school but you're not co-operating, they can apply to a court for an Education Supervision Order. A supervisor will be appointed to help you get your child into education. The local council can do this instead of, or as well as, prosecuting you.
- **Prosecute you** – this means you have to go to court. You could get a fine, a community order or a jail sentence up to three months. The court could also give you a Parenting Order.

Alternatively, parents or children may wish to contact the Local Authority Attendance Team themselves to ask for help or information. They are independent of the school and will give impartial advice. Their telephone number is 01895 250858 or participationteam@hillingdon.gov.uk

8.2 Analysing attendance

The school will:

- Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify pupils, groups or cohorts that need additional support with their attendance, and
- Identify pupils whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence
- Conduct thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full-year data to identify patterns and trends
- Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns

8.3 Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

- Develop targeted actions to address patterns of absence (of all severities) of individual pupils, groups or cohorts that it has identified via data analysis
- Provide targeted support to the pupils it has identified whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severed absence, and their families (see section 8.4 below)
- Provide regular attendance reports to class teachers, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families, and to the governing board and school leaders (including special educational needs co-ordinators, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium leads)
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies
- Share information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, local authorities and other partners where a pupil's absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe, including keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate

8.4 Reducing persistent and severe absence

Persistent absence is where a pupil misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence is where a pupil misses 50% or more of school. Reducing persistent and severe absence is central to the school's strategy for improving attendance.

The school will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence
- Consider potential safeguarding issues and, where suspected or present, address them in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Hold regular meetings with the parents of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable or at risk of persistent or severe absence, or who are persistently or severely absent, to:
 - Discuss attendance and engagement at school
 - Listen, and understand barriers to attendance
 - Explain the help that is available
 - Explain the potential consequences of, and sanctions for, persistent and severe absence

- Review any existing actions or interventions
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance, in conjunction with the local authority, where relevant
- Consider alternative support that could be put in place to remove any barriers to attendance and re-engage these pupils. In doing so, the school will sensitively consider some of the reasons for absence
- Implement sanctions, where necessary (see section 5.2, above)

We will identify and address instances of persistent and severe absence.

Persistent absence is defined as a pupil who is absent for 10% or more of scheduled sessions. Absence at this level is doing considerable damage to any child's educational prospects and we need parent/carer's fullest support and co-operation to tackle this.

Severe absence is where a pupil misses 50% or more of scheduled sessions. We will identify persistent and severe absence using the systems for monitoring and analysis.

To respond to persistent and severe absence, the school will seek to identify and address root causes. As there are a wide range of reasons for this occurring, the response will be determined on a case-by-case basis. However, typical strategies will include:

- supporting the pupil and their family to understand the reasons that attendance is important and the possible implications of repeated absences;
- enhanced monitoring of individual pupils where attendance is (or could be) an issue;
- holding meetings with parents or carers to discuss concerns;
- offering specific pastoral support using the resources and staffing already available within the school;
- working with external partners to address the underlying factors that are causing the absence;
- issuing warning letters and fixed penalty notices;

We monitor all absences thoroughly. Any case that is seen to have reached the PA mark or is at risk of moving towards that mark is given priority and parents will be informed of this immediately.

PA students are tracked and monitored carefully through our pastoral system and we also combine this with academic monitoring where absence affects attainment.

Where a child's attendance is a concern, the school will send a letter warning of the current attendance record and highlighting the importance of good attendance. If the problem persists, a second letter will be sent, inviting the parent/carer to attend a meeting about attendance. Finally, if there is no improvement then a third letter will be sent inviting the parent/carer to an attendance panel.

All PA cases are automatically made known to the Local Authority Attendance Support Officer as part of termly meetings that take place between the school and the Local Authority.

Parents are responsible for making sure their child attends school to meet the Government target of at least 95%

9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years. If there are any changes in legislation or government updates, the policy may need to be reviewed before the next scheduled update. The policy will be reviewed by the Head teacher and approved by the Governing body.

10. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy

Appendix 1: attendance codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's guidance on school attendance.

Code	Definition	Scenario
/	Present (am)	Pupil is present at morning registration
\	Present (pm)	Pupil is present at afternoon registration
L	Late arrival	Pupil arrives late before register has closed
Attending a place other than the school		
K	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority	Pupil is attending a place other than a school at which they are registered, for educational provision arranged by the local authority
V	Attending an educational visit or trip	Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised or approved by the school
P	Participating in a sporting activity	Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school
W	Attending work experience	Pupil is on an approved work experience placement
B	Attending any other approved educational activity	Pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is not a sporting activity or work experience
D	Dual registered	Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered
Absent – leave of absence		
C1	Participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad	Pupil is undertaking employment (paid or unpaid) during school hours, approved by the school
M	Medical/dental appointment	Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment
J1	Interview	Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment

S	Study leave	Pupil has been granted leave of absence to study for a public examination
X	Not required to be in school	Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend
C2	Part-time timetable	Pupil is not in school due to having a part-time timetable
C	Exceptional circumstances	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
Absent – other authorised reasons		
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	Pupil is a ‘mobile child’ who is travelling with their parent(s) who are travelling for occupational purposes
R	Religious observance	Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	Pupil is unable to attend due to illness (either related to physical or mental health)
E	Suspended or excluded	Pupil has been suspended or excluded from school and no alternative provision has been made
Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause		
Q	Lack of access arrangements	Pupil is unable to attend school because the local authority has failed to make access arrangements to enable attendance at school
Y1	Transport not available	Pupil is unable to attend because school is not within walking distance of their home and the transport normally provided is not available
Y2	Widespread disruption to travel	Pupil is unable to attend because of widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national or international emergency
Y3	Part of school premises closed	Pupil is unable to attend because they cannot practicably be accommodated in the part of the premises that remains open

Y4	Whole school site unexpectedly closed	Every pupil absent as the school is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to adverse weather)
Y5	Criminal justice detention	Pupil is unable to attend as they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In police detention • Remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or • Detained under a sentence of detention
Y6	Public health guidance or law	Pupil's travel to or attendance at the school would be prohibited under public health guidance or law
Y7	Any other unavoidable cause	To be used where an unavoidable cause is not covered by the other codes
Absent – unauthorised absence		
G	Holiday not granted by the school	Pupil is absent for the purpose of a holiday, not approved by the school
N	Reason for absence not yet established	Reason for absence has not been established before the register closes
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	No reason for absence has been established, or the school isn't satisfied that the reason given would be recorded using one of the codes for authorised absence
U	Arrived in school after registration closed	Pupil has arrived late, after the register has closed but before the end of session
Administrative codes		
Z	Prospective pupil not on admission register	Pupil has not joined school yet but has been registered
#	Planned whole-school closure	Whole-school closures that are known and planned in advance, including school holidays

Belmore Primary Academy Absence Procedure

School gates open at 8:35 – pupils go into class for Early Morning Activities (EMA).

Register closes at 8:50am

If a child is not present for the register they will be marked as N in the register

Lateness

School gates close at 8:50am, any child arriving after this time will need to sign in on the Inventory system at the school office and provide a reason for lateness.

Time of arrival will be recorded and minutes late marked into the register.

Office staff will ask parent/carer the reason for lateness.

If a pattern of lateness occurs the school will either write to the parents/carers regarding this or arrange a meeting with them. If the pattern persists after this then a referral to Hillingdon Stronger Families will be made.

Absence

Parents/carers should inform the school about a child's absence via the absence line.

If there is no contact for explanation or absence on the first day of the absence, school will attempt to contact parent/carer (s) on that day for an explanation via text or phone.

An absence will be considered authorised if an acceptable explanation by telephone or in writing is made to the school. The school will ask for evidence and symptoms the child may have.

The reason for an absence will be recorded in the register alongside the child's name and coded accordingly (authorised or unauthorised)

All attempts to contact parents/carers will be recorded.

If there is no response after 3 attempts to contact home the absence will be recorded in the register as unauthorised. If there are any safeguarding concerns then a welfare visit (home visit) will be conducted by school staff to ensure the welfare of the child.

If a child has 3 days or more unauthorised absences in a half term, the parent/carer (s) will be invited to a meeting to discuss the child's absence.

If the parent/carer (s) fail to respond to this and there is not an improvement in attendance/punctuality then the school will seek the advice and support of the LA Stronger Families Team and Attendance Support.

If a child's attendance is below 90% this is regarded as Persistent Absence and the school will work with families and other agencies to highlight the impact of low attendance on the child.