

**Outcomes  
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**School  
Pupil Attendance and  
Absence Policy  
Stretton Shires School**



# Pupil Attendance and Absence Policy

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## 1.0 Aims

We are committed to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance by:

- › Promoting 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 ensure pupils have the support in place to attend school
- › We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

## 2.0 Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the [working together to improve school attendance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting 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 \(and 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016 amendments\)](#)

It also refers to:

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

## 3.0 Roles and responsibilities

### *Governance*

The governing board is responsible for:

- › Promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos
- › Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties
- › Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data
- › Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school
- › Making sure staff receive adequate training on attendance
- › Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy

### *The Headteacher*

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- › Implementation of this policy at the school.
- › Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it via governance.
- › Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils.
- › Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies

### *The designated senior(s) leader responsible for attendance*

The designated senior leader is responsible for:

- › Leading attendance across the school
- › Offering a clear vision for attendance improvement
- › Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- › Having an oversight of data analysis
- › Devising specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data
- › Building relationships with parents/carers to discuss and tackle attendance issues
- › Creating intervention reintegration plans in partnership with pupils and their parents/carers
- › Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families

The designated senior leader(s) responsible for attendance are Paul Cope and Amy Chipunza and can be contacted via [paul.cope@theshires.org.uk](mailto:paul.cope@theshires.org.uk) & [amy.chipunza@theshires.org.uk](mailto:amy.chipunza@theshires.org.uk) .

### *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

The attendance officer is Amy Chipunza and can be contacted via [amy.chipunza@theshires.org.uk](mailto:amy.chipunza@theshires.org.uk) .

### *Class teachers*

Class teachers are responsible for recording attendance on a daily basis, using the correct codes, and submitting this information to the school office.

### *School administration staff*

School admin 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 the senior leaders responsible for attendance in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance

### *Parents/carers*

Parents/carers are expected to:

- › Make sure their child attends every day on time
- › Call the school to report their child's absence before 8:30am on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence, and advise when they are expected to return
- › Provide the school with more than 1 emergency contact number for their child
- › Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day

### *Pupils*

Pupils are expected to:

- › Attend school every day on time
- › Attend every timetabled session on time

## 4.0 Recording attendance

### *Attendance register*

We will keep an 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 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 keep every entry on the attendance register for 3 years after the date on which the entry was made.

Pupils must arrive in school by 9am on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 9am and will be kept open until 9:20am. The register for the second session will be taken at 1pm and will be kept open until 1:20pm.

### *Unplanned absence*

The pupil's parent/carer must notify the school on the first day of an unplanned absence by 8:30am or as soon as practically possible (see also section 7).

Parents/carers should telephone call Reception on 01780 411944 or email on [susan.barley@theshires.org.uk](mailto:susan.barley@theshires.org.uk) .

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

If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, the school may ask the pupil's parent/carer to provide 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/carers will be notified of this in advance.

### *Planned absence*

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

Parents/carers should telephone call Reception on 01780 411944 or email on [susan.barley@theshires.org.uk](mailto:susan.barley@theshires.org.uk).

However, we encourage parents/carers 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/carer must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence. Go to section 5 to find out which term-time absences the school can authorise.

### *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.
- We recognise that all of our pupils are at different stages of their educational journey so we will always work in conjunction with parents and carers to support pupil attendance and punctuality and will operate reasonably on a personalised basis.

### *Following up absence*

Where any child we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, the school will:

- Follow up on their absence with their parent/carer to ascertain the reason.
- Ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary.
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not.
- Identify the correct attendance code to use.

### *Reporting to parents*

Pupil attendance will be reported termly to parents/carers via end of term written progress reports.

## 5.0 Authorised and unauthorised absence

### *Approval for term-time absence*

The Headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to pupils during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. A leave of absence is granted at the Headteacher's discretion.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request.

Valid reasons for **authorised absence** include:

- Illness and medical/dental appointments (see sections 4.2 and 4.3 for more detail)
- Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parents belong. If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parents' religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart
- Traveller pupils 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

## 6.0 Strategies for promoting attendance

At The Shires we aim to recognize and celebrate all achievements linked to consistent attendance and progress made in relation improving attendance.

Close monitoring for all pupils via the EHCP process and termly reporting, also for all LAC pupils EPEP termly reviews with professionals are in place and are used to support the removal of any barriers to attendance or learning.

As a result of the various complex challenges our pupils face to attend their educational offer we endeavour to always work with families and professionals to explore and overcome any presenting barriers preventing them from attending school. This work is done with the pupil's needs at the heart of the decision making process and families and wider professionals consulted in order to explore possible solutions.

## 7.0 Attendance monitoring

The attendance officers at our school monitors pupil absence on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.

A pupil's parent/carer is expected to call the school in the morning if their child is going to be absent due to ill health (see

section 4.2).

The parent should maintain regular contact with the school should their child be absent for more than one day, ensuring regular updates are maintained.

If a pupil's absence continues to rise after contacting their parent/carer, we will consider involving an education welfare officer from the relevant local authority.

The persistent absence threshold is 10%. If a pupil's individual overall absence rate is greater than or equal to 10%, the pupil will be classified as a persistent absentee.

Pupil-level absence 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 compare attendance data to the national average, and share this with the governing board.

The school collects and stores attendance data via Double First MIS, and it may be used for internal purposes to;

- Track the attendance of individual pupils.
- Identify whether or not there are particular groups of pupils whose absences may be a cause for concern.
- Monitor and evaluate those pupils identified as being in need of intervention and support.

### *7.1 Monitoring attendance*

The school will:

- Monitor attendance and absence data half-termly, termly and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil level
- Identify whether or not there are particular groups of children whose absences may be a cause for concern

Pupil-level absence 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 compare attendance data to the national average, and share this with the governing board.

### *7.2 Analysing attendance*

The school will:

- Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify pupils or cohorts that need additional support with their attendance, and use this analysis to provide targeted support to these pupils and their families
- Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns

### *7.3 Using data to improve attendance*

The school will:

- Provide regular attendance reports to class teachers and other school leaders, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies

### *7.4 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.

The school will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence

- Hold regular meetings with the parents/carers of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable, or are persistently or severely absent, to discuss attendance and engagement at school
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance

## 8.0 Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the DfE is updated, and as a minimum annually by the Headteacher. At every review, the policy will be approved via governance processes.

## 9.0 Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Safeguarding policies
- Behaviour policies



## Appendix 1: Attendance Codes

The following codes are taken from Working Together to Improve Attendance [Working together to improve school attendance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/67111/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance.pdf) .

### Present

Relevant regulation: [6\(1\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)

#### Code / \: Present in school / = am \ = pm

204. Pupils must not be recorded as present if they are not in school during registration. If a pupil were to leave the school premises after registration, they will still be counted as present for statistical purposes.

#### Code L: Late arrival before the register is closed

205. Schools should actively discourage late arrival and be alert to patterns of late arrival. All schools are expected to set out in their attendance policy the length of time the register will be open, after which a pupil will be marked as absent. This should be the same for every session and depending on the structure of the school day not longer than either 30 minutes after the session begins, or the length of the form time or first lesson in which registration takes place. A pupil arriving after the register has closed should be recorded as absent using code U, or another absence code that it is more appropriate.

### Absent

#### Authorised Absence from School

Relevant regulation: [6\(1\)\(ii\)](#), [6\(1\)\(b\)](#), [6\(2\)](#), [7\(1\)](#) and [7\(2\)](#)

206. Authorised absence means that one of a specific set of circumstances applies, as set out below:

#### Code C: Leave of absence granted by the school

207. Only exceptional circumstances warrant granting a leave of absence. Wherever referred to in this guidance a leave of absence should not be, and from certain types of school<sup>6</sup> must not be, granted unless it has been applied for in advance by the parent who the pupil normally lives with and the headteacher believes the circumstances to be exceptional. Schools must consider each application for a leave of absence individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the headteacher's discretion.

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<sup>6</sup> Schools maintained by the local authority or special schools not maintained by the local authority.

208. Specific leaves of absence may also be granted where:

#### **A pupil is participating in a performance**

209. A school maintained by a local authority or a special school not maintained by a local authority can grant leave of absence for a pupil to undertake employment during school hours for the purpose of taking part in a performance, within the meaning of section 37 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963 if the local authority have given the pupil a licence for that performance.

210. Legislation sets out that a local authority licence must be obtained before a child can take part in a performance. There are some exemptions, including the granting of Body of Persons Approval (BOPA). BOPAs can be issued by the local authority where a performance is to take place, or by the Secretary of State (generally only if there are to be many children involved and a number of different locations, but legislation does not limit this to those situations).

211. Schools should be sympathetic to requests for leave of absence that are supported by a licence or a BOPA; as long as the school remains satisfied that this will not have a negative effect on a pupil's education. Where the licence specifies the dates that a pupil is to be away from school to perform, the school should record the absence for those days as if a leave of absence had been applied for and granted. However, where the terms of the licence or BOPA do not specify dates, it is at the discretion of the headteacher to grant leave of absence.

#### **A pupil is subject to a temporary part-time timetable**

212. All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs. For example, where a medical condition prevents a pupil from attending full-time education and a part-time timetable is considered as part of a re-integration package. A part-time timetable should not be used to manage a pupil's behaviour.

213. A part-time timetable must only be in place for the shortest time necessary and not be treated as a long-term solution. Any pastoral support programme or other agreement should have a time limit by which point the pupil is expected to attend full-time, either at school or alternative provision. There should also be formal arrangements in place for regularly reviewing it with the pupil and their parents. In agreeing to a part-time timetable, a school has agreed to a pupil being absent from school for part of the week or day and therefore must treat absence as authorised.

### **A pupil is pregnant**

214. Leave for maternity is treated like any other leave of absence. We would expect schools to act reasonably and grant a sufficient period of leave from school, taking into consideration the specific circumstances of each case. Ultimately it is at the headteacher's discretion how much leave to grant.

### **Code H: leave of absence for the purpose of a family holiday granted by the school**

215. Parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission from schools to take their children out of school during term time unless it is absolutely unavoidable.

216. An application for leave of absence should (and from certain schools must) not be granted unless it is made in advance by a parent the pupil normally lives with and the school is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances based on the individual facts and circumstance of the case which justify the leave. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the headteacher's discretion.

### **Code E: Excluded but no alternative provision made**

217. If no alternative provision is made for a pupil to continue their education whilst they are suspended from school or excluded from school, but their name is still entered in the admission register.

218. When a pupil of compulsory school age is suspended or permanently excluded from a maintained school, pupil referral unit, academy, city technology college, or city college for the technology of the arts, alternative provision must be arranged from the sixth consecutive day of any suspension or exclusion. Where alternative provision is made schools should record this using the appropriate code for attending an approved educational activity.

### **Code I: Illness (not medical or dental appointment)**

219. Schools should advise parents to notify them on the first day the child is unable to attend due to illness. Schools must record absences as authorised where pupils cannot attend due to illness (both physical and mental health related).

220. In the majority of cases a parent's notification that their child is ill can be accepted without question or concern. Schools should not routinely request that parents provide medical evidence to support illness. Schools are advised not to request medical evidence unnecessarily as it places additional pressure on health professionals, their staff and their appointments system particularly if the illness is one that does not require treatment by a health professional. Only where the school has a genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity of the illness should medical evidence be requested to support the absence.

221. Pupils with long term illness or other health needs may need additional support to continue education, such as alternative provision arranged by the local authority. Local authorities are responsible for arranging suitable education for children of compulsory school age who, because of health reasons, would otherwise not receive suitable education. This applies whether or not the child is registered at a school and whatever type of school they attend. The education must be full-time or as close to full-time as the child's health allows. DfE's [statutory guidance on ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#) sets out that local authorities should provide education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. Local authorities should have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs.

#### **Code M: Medical or dental appointment**

222. Schools should encourage parents to make appointments out of school hours. Where this is not possible, they should get the school's agreement in advance and the pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment.

223. If a pupil is present at registration but has a medical appointment during the session in question, no absence needs be recorded for that session.

#### **Code R: Religious observance**

224. Schools must record absence as authorised when it falls on a day that is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the parents' religious body (not the parents).

225. As a general rule, we would interpret 'a day exclusively set apart for religious observance' as a day when the pupil's parents would be expected by the religious body to which they belong to stay away from their employment in order to mark the occasion. If in doubt, schools should seek advice from the parent's religious body about whether it has set the day apart for religious observance.

226. If a religious body sets apart a single day for a religious observance and the parent applies for more than one day, the school may only record one day as authorised on this basis; the rest of the request would be a leave of absence, and this is granted at the school's discretion as set out under Code C.

227. Schools and local authorities may seek to minimise the adverse effects of religious observance on a pupil's attendance and attainment by considering approaches such as:

- Setting term dates around days for religious observance;
- Working with local faith groups to develop guidance on absence for religious observance;



- Schools taking INSET days that coincide with religious observance days; and
- Providing individual support for pupils who miss sessions on days exclusively set apart for religious observance.

#### **Code S: Study leave**

228. Study leave should not be granted by default once tuition of the exam syllabus is complete, it should be used sparingly and only granted to Year 11 pupils during public examinations. If schools do decide to grant study leave, provision must still be made available for those pupils who want to continue to come into school to revise.

229. As study leave is unsupervised it must be recorded as absence.

#### **Code T: Traveller absence**

230. A number of different groups are covered by the generic term traveller – Roma, English and Welsh Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers, Showmen (fairground people) and Circus people, Bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and New Travellers.

231. This code should not be used for general absences by those groups. It must only be used when the pupil's parent(s) is travelling for occupational purposes and the school has granted a leave of absence following a request from the parent. This code should not be used to record any other types of absence by these groups.

232. Pupils from these groups whose parent(s) do not travel for occupational purposes are expected to attend school as normal. They are subject to the same rules as other pupils in terms of the requirements to attend school regularly once registered at a school.

233. Where a pupil has no fixed abode because their parent(s) is engaged in a business or trade that requires them to travel, there is an expectation that the pupil attends at least 200 sessions per year. The pupil must attend school as regularly as the business permits and therefore, if the business or trade permits the pupil to attend for more than 200 sessions per year, they should do so.

234. To help ensure continuity of education for pupils, when their parent(s) is travelling for occupational purposes, it is expected that the pupil should attend school elsewhere when their parent(s) is travelling and be dual registered at that school and their main school.

#### **Unauthorised Absence from School**

*Relevant regulation: [6\(1\)\(ii\)](#) and [6\(3\)](#).*

235. Unauthorised absence is where a pupil's absence is not one of the types of absence listed as authorised in regulation 6(2) or where the reason for a pupil's absence has not been provided and cannot be established.

**Code G: Holiday not granted by the school or in excess of the period determined by the school**

236. Where the school has not granted a leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday but the parents still take the child out of school, or the child is kept away longer than the period of leave granted.

237. A school cannot grant a leave of absence retrospectively. If the parent did not apply in advance, leave of absence should not (and from certain types of school cannot) be granted.

**Code N: Reason for absence not yet provided**

238. Schools must follow up all unexplained and unexpected absence in a timely manner.

239. Every effort should be made to establish the reason for a pupil's absence. When the reason for absence has been established the school should record the pupil's absence using the relevant code.

240. Where absence is recorded as unexplained in the attendance register, the correct code should be inputted as soon as the reason is ascertained, but no more than 5 working days after the session. Code N should not therefore be left on the pupil's attendance record indefinitely; if a reason for absence cannot be established after 5 working days, schools should amend the pupil's record to Code O.

**Code O: Absent without authorisation**

241. Where no reason for absence is established or the school is not satisfied that the reason given is an authorised absence.

**Code U: Arrived in school after registration closed**

242. Where a pupil has arrived late after the register has closed and the school is not satisfied that the reason for lateness is an authorised absence.

243. Schools should actively discourage late arrival, be alert to patterns of late arrival and seek an explanation from the parent. All schools are expected to set out in their attendance policy the length of time the register will be open, after which a pupil will be marked as absent. This should be the same for every session and depending on the structure of the school day not longer than either 30 minutes after the session begins, or the length of the form time or first lesson in which registration takes place.

## Attending an approved educational activity

*Relevant regulation: [6\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#), [6\(1\)\(c\)](#), and [6\(4\)](#)*

244. An approved educational activity is where a pupil is attending another school at which they are registered or taking part in off-site activity such as field trips, educational visits, work experience or unregistered alternative provision.

245. Pupils can only be recorded as attending an off-site activity if it is approved by the school, of an educational nature and supervised by someone authorised by the school. Ultimately, schools are responsible for the safeguarding and welfare of pupils taking part in an off-site educational activity so it would be reasonable to expect that the school would only authorise someone who was answerable to the school to supervise an activity.

246. The activity must take place during the session for which it is recorded and for pupils of compulsory school age the school must record the nature of the activity.

## Attending another school at which the pupil is registered

*Relevant regulation: [6\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#) and [6\(4\)\(b\)](#)*

### Code D: Dual registered at another school

247. The law allows for a pupil to be registered at more than one school. This code is used to indicate that the pupil was not expected to attend the school in question because they were scheduled to attend the other school at which they are registered. The main examples of dual registration are pupils who are attending a pupil referral unit, a hospital school or a special school on a temporary basis.

248. Each school should only record the pupil's attendance and absence for those sessions that the pupil is scheduled to attend their school. Schools should ensure that they have in place arrangements whereby all unexpected and unexplained absence are promptly followed up.

## Attending an educational activity that takes place outside the school

*Relevant regulation: [6\(1\)\(iii\)](#), [6\(1\)\(c\)](#) and [6\(4\)\(a\)](#)*

### Code B: Off-site educational Activity

249. Attending an off-site educational activity that has been approved by the school and supervised by someone authorised by the school.

250. For pupils of compulsory school age, schools must also record the nature of the activity, examples are:

- attending taster days at other schools;

- attending courses at college;
- attending unregistered alternative provision arranged or agreed by the school.

251. The educational activity must take place during the session for which it is recorded.

252. Ultimately schools are responsible for the safeguarding and welfare of pupils educated off-site. Therefore, by using code B, schools are certifying that the education is supervised, and measures have been taken to safeguard the pupil. Schools should ensure that they have in place arrangements whereby the provider of the educational activity notifies the school of any absences by the pupil. The school should record the pupil's absence using the relevant absence code.

253. This code must not be used for any unsupervised educational activity i.e., when a pupil is at home doing some schoolwork.

**Code J: At an interview with prospective employers, or another educational establishment**

254. Attending an interview with prospective employers or another educational establishment. Schools should be satisfied that the interview is linked to employment prospects, further education, or transfer to another school.

255. This must take place during the session for which it is recorded.

**Code P: Participating in a supervised sporting activity**

256. Taking part in a sporting activity that has been approved by the school. If schools have concerns about the appropriateness of an activity, they can seek advice from the sports' national governing body. However, the final decision on approving the activity rests with the school and they should take the effect on the pupil's general education into account.

257. The sporting activity must take place during the session for which it is recorded.

258. Approved educational activity must be supervised by a person authorised by the school. Schools should ensure that they have in place arrangements whereby the provider of the sporting activity notifies the school of any absence by the pupil. The school should record the pupil's absence using the relevant absence code.

**Code V: Educational visit or trip**

259. Attendance at an organised visit or trip, including residential trips organised by the school, or attendance at a supervised trip of a strictly educational nature arranged by an organisation approved by the school.



260. The educational visit or trip must take place during the session for which it is recorded.

261. Approved educational activity must be supervised by a person authorised by the school. Schools should ensure that they have in place arrangements whereby the organiser of the visit or trip notifies the school of any absence by the pupil. The school should record the pupil's absence using the relevant absence code.

#### **Code W: Work experience**

262. Work experience is for pupils in the final 2 years of compulsory school age.

263. The work experience must take place during the session for which it is recorded.

264. Approved educational activity must be supervised by a person authorised by the school. Schools should ensure that they have in place arrangements whereby the provider of the work experience notifies the school of any absence by the pupil. The school should record the pupil's absence using the relevant absence code.

#### **Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances**

*Relevant regulation: [6\(1\)\(iv\)](#), [6\(1\)\(d\)](#), [6\(5\)](#), [6\(7\)](#) and [6\(2\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)*

#### **Code Y: Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances**

265. Where a pupil is unable to attend school because:

- the school site or part of it, is closed due to an unavoidable cause at a time when pupils are due to attend; or
- the transport provided by the school or a local authority is not available and the pupil's home is not within safe walking distance; or
- a local or national emergency has resulted in widespread disruption to travel which has prevented the pupil from attending school.

266. Schools must also record the nature of the circumstances in which a pupil is unable to attend school.

#### **Walking distance**

267. In relation to a child under the age of 8, means 2 miles, and for a child of 8 or above, means 3 miles. In each case measured by the nearest available safe route.

#### **Pupil in custody**

268. Code Y is also used where the pupil is in custody; detained under a court order for a period of less than 4 months or is returning to the school at the end of their custodial period.

## **Administrative codes**

### **Code X: Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to be in school**

269. Where a pupil not of compulsory school age is attending school part-time.

270. For example, where parents have chosen for their 4 year-old child to attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age.

### **Code Z: Prospective pupil not on admission register**

271. To enable schools to set up registers in advance of pupils joining the school to ease administration burdens.

272. Schools must enter a pupil's name on the admission register from the first day that the school has agreed, or been notified, that the pupil will attend the school.

273. In the normal admissions round, when parents have accepted the school place offered, the local authority can inform schools on behalf of the parents and notify the school when the parent has agreed that the pupil will attend school. This can also be the case where the local authority co-ordinates in-year applications for school places.

274. If a pupil fails to attend on the agreed starting day, the school must establish the reason and record the pupil's absence using the relevant absence code.

### **Code #: Planned whole or partial school closure**

275. Whole school closures that are known and planned in advance such as:

- days between terms;
- half terms;
- occasional days (for example, bank holidays);
- weekends (where it is required by the management information system);
- up to 5 non-educational days; and
- use of school as a polling station.

276. Partial school closures that are known and planned in advance such as:

- 'staggered starts' or 'induction days' where different term dates have been agreed for different year groups - this code is used to record the year group(s) that is not due to attend; and
- Use of part of the school as a polling station.

We are part of the Outcomes First Group Family, by working together we will build incredible futures by empowering vulnerable children, young people and adults in the UK to be happy and make their way in the world

