



Chater Infant School

**An exceptionally high performing professional
and learning culture creating excellent
achievement for all.**

Attendance Policy

Rights Respecting School Agenda

We have the right to go to school
We have the right to learn.

Article 3 - The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all actions concerning children
Article 28 - Every child has the right to an education (from the National Convention on Rights of the Child)

Date agreed: March 2022

Date of next review: March 2024

Updates compared to HCC Attendance Policy in Yellow and removals scored through (16.03.22)

1. Introduction

Hertfordshire County Council is committed to achieving excellent levels of attendance for individual children, individual schools and for Hertfordshire as a whole. Underpinning this commitment is the belief that if children attend school regularly and punctually they will be best able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them.

Hertfordshire County Council is committed to openness and equality of opportunity in every activity, from the way we employ staff to the way we deliver services. It is a central responsibility of members, managers and employees of the County Council to ensure that every individual that we come into contact with is treated with dignity and respect.

This Attendance Policy is intended to guide, assist and empower schools to meet their responsibilities and to provide an agreed framework within which consistent practices and procedures can be applied.

2. Statement of Intent

Hertfordshire County Council expects Children's Services, Integrated Services for Learning and all schools to work closely together in partnership with parents in order to achieve excellent levels of school attendance and punctuality for all pupils.

3. Responsibilities – Parents and Carers

Parents are responsible in law for ensuring that their children of compulsory school age receive an efficient education suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs that they may have. Most parents fulfil this responsibility by registering their children at a school.

Parents whose children are registered at a school are responsible for ensuring that their children attend and stay at school.

Parents should:-

- ensure that their children arrive at school on time, appropriately dressed and ready to learn
- instil in their children an appreciation of the importance of attending school regularly
- ensure that they are aware of the attendance policy (if the school has an attendance policy) of their children's school
- impress upon their children the need to observe the school's code of conduct
- take an active interest in their children's school career, praising and encouraging good work and behaviour and attending parents' evenings and other relevant meetings
- work in partnership with their children's school to resolve issues which may lead to non-attendance
- notify their children's school if they are absent. This should be done on the first day of absence. They should also provide an explanation for the absence. This explanation should be confirmed - preferably in writing - when the children return to school

- avoid arranging medical/dental appointments during school hours
- should not book holidays during term time

4. Responsibilities - Schools

Schools are responsible for supporting the attendance of their pupils and for dealing with problems that may lead to non-attendance.

Schools are required to call attendance registers at the start of the morning session and once during the afternoon session and to record whether pupils are present, absent or on an approved educational activity.

For pupils of compulsory school age, schools are required to differentiate in the registers between absence that is authorised and absence that is unauthorised.

Schools should:-

- work actively to maximise attendance rates - both in relation to individual pupils and for the pupil body as a whole - as one of their key tasks
- have clear policies in place to address persistent absence
- support parents in ensuring the regular and punctual attendance of pupils and promptly respond to any issue which may lead to non-attendance
- be sensitive to the needs of individual parents and this should be reflected in the way in which attendance issues are addressed. Schools should recognise that some parents have difficulty understanding written communications. They should also recognise the reluctance of some parents to come into school.

Punctuality

Schools should take steps to actively encourage excellent levels of punctuality. Lateness should be monitored and followed up.

School policies, brochures and website should clearly state the time at which each school session begins and finishes, including the time at which registers open and close. School should not keep a register open for the whole session.

When a pupil arrives late and the register is still open he/she should be marked as 'late' but counted as present for that session.

When a pupil arrives after the register has closed and parent provides a satisfactory explanation, he/she should be marked as 'authorised absent' for that session using the correct code.

When a pupil arrives after the register has closed and parent fails to provide a satisfactory explanation, he/she should be marked as 'unauthorised absent' for that session. (Code U)

When a pupil arrives late having missed registration, his/her presence on site should be noted in a book in the school office for purposes of emergency evacuation, etc.

School Attendance Policy

Schools are not required to have an Attendance Policy but are encouraged to do so.

Good practice suggests that the following should be taken into consideration when writing a school attendance policy:-

- Offer a clear vision for attendance, underpinned by high expectations and core values which are communicated to and understood by staff, pupils and parents.
- ensure that legal requirements are met
- give a high priority to attendance and punctuality
- give a high priority to pupils at risk of and who are persistently absent
- name the SMT member with overall responsibility for attendance
- identify clear channels of communication with parents
- identify what is considered as authorised/unauthorised absence
- make provision for first-day of absence contact
- contain clear procedures to identify and follow up all absence
- prioritise the importance of early intervention
- identify a range of strategies to encourage whole school attendance
- promote the setting of targets for individual pupils, form groups etc.
- establish systems for rewarding good/improved attendance
- be sensitive to individual pupils' needs
- be alert to critical times (e.g. secondary transfer)
- establish procedures for re-integrating long-term absentees
- establish clear lines of communication with outside agencies
- ensure that all staff adopt a consistent approach in dealing with absence and lateness
- provide for effective primary-secondary liaison
- inform and involve governors
- ensure that good practice is identified and disseminated

- explain how attendance information will be shared with parents (newsletters, website etc)
- be reviewed at regular intervals
- make clear to parents that it is the school - not the parent - which authorises an absence.
- make clear to parents what is, and is not, acceptable as reasons for absence
- state how lateness, both before and after closure of registers, is recorded and monitored
- make clear that leave is granted only in exceptional circumstances
- address attendance from a whole school perspective. Actively promote the link between attendance and achievement
- encourage all staff - including ancillary and administrative staff - to see attendance as part of their responsibility
- actively address all issues - such as bullying – which may lead to non-attendance
- explain that the Local Authority will be notified of any pupil of compulsory school age who fails to attend school regularly
- ~~notify the Local Authority of any pupils of compulsory school age who fail to attend school regularly, have irregular attendance, or have 10 or more consecutive school days absence without the school's permission. Schools are also under a safeguarding duty, under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to investigate any unexplained absences using the reporting form which can be found at: <http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/attendance.shtml>~~

N.B: This list is not exhaustive, please see the Local Authority Model Attendance Policy for further suggestions

5. Responsibilities – ISL Statutory Attendance and Participation Team

The ISL Statutory Attendance and Participation Team fulfils the statutory duty of the County Council in enforcing regular school attendance. In doing so it enables schools and parents to meet their respective responsibilities.

Maintained Schools

All schools in Hertfordshire will have a Link named Local Authority Attendance Officer (LAAO) who will work in close partnership with the school.

~~Each maintained school in Hertfordshire will have a named Attendance Improvement Officer (AIO) who will work in close partnership with the school.~~

~~In working closely with schools the Attendance Improvement Officer will offer the following services:-~~

The Statutory Attendance and Participation Team's vision:

- Work collaboratively to improve outcomes for children and young people in education through maximising school attendance and removing barriers
- Work collaboratively to encourage early intervention to improve attendance and persistent absence
- Work collaboratively to support and develop strategies in relation to school attendance and persistent absence
- Offer information, advice and guidance
- Offer advice and support on early intervention work through liaising with early help, social care and other relevant services

Whole school:

The Statutory Attendance and Participation Team reviews and adapts its service delivery and offer to schools on an annual basis based on attendance and persistent absence data as well as DfE expectations on Local Authorities.

Autumn Term:

Link LAAO will meet with school through Microsoft Teams (LAAO will discuss with manager if school requests face to face meeting) to: -

- Discuss, review and analyse previous academic year attendance data
- Consider local intelligence and factors to inform discussions
- Discuss and consider all vulnerable group data
- Discuss and provide strategic advice, guidance and agree a plan to maintain, support and improve attendance
- Ensure school is aware of meeting all compliance expectations and how they link with safeguarding
- Record all relevant discussions and share with school

Support available to schools

Access to duty or link LAAO for:

- Advice, guidance, support
- Early Intervention such as letter or telephone contact with parents • Attendance surgery
- Joint reasonable enquires regarding removal from roll
- FPN application guidance
- Preparation for Ofsted

Referral for Statutory Casework

Issue of FPN applications

Newsletter and emails to provide updates

Herts Grid for Learning updates

Summer Term:

Link LAAO will meet with school through Microsoft Teams (LAAO will discuss with manager if school requests face to face meeting) to: -

- Discuss, review and analyse current attendance data
- Discuss and review all agreed actions from Autumn plan, to inform discussions around evidence outcomes and impact
- Discuss and review how school has engaged with the service offered
- Discuss and capture any reasons that have impacted on whole school attendance • Provide advice and guidance for future planning
- Record all relevant discussions and share with school

Duty:

The Statutory Attendance and Participation Team provides a telephone advice and guidance duty line to all schools Hours 9.00 am – 4.00 pm Monday to Thursday, Friday 9.00 am – 3.30pm. This is available to provide support and advice on areas such as:

- Whole school attendance
- Enquiries relating to a pupil absent/missing from school and agreeing any appropriate action
- If a child has been absent, whereabouts unknown and school is unable to locate, they must contact the Duty Line for advice, which may include Joint Reasonable Enquiries.
- Removal from Roll queries
- Early Intervention - We are available to provide early intervention work in relation to a child who is struggling to attend school, looking at how to remove barriers and where possible to ensure appropriate support or services are in place.
- FPN queries - We provides advice and guidance to schools on all aspects of PN applications and practice. We quality assure all applications to ensure that expectations as per guidance have been met, including adherence with the HCC Code of Conduct. • Signposting
- General queries around concerns for CYP's attendance

Duty contact details:

West: attendancedutywest@hertfordshire.gov.uk and 01442 454778

East: attendancedutyeast@hertfordshire.gov.uk and 01992 555261

Statutory Casework:

The power to prosecute parents remains solely with local authorities. In the case of regular absence without permission, the school must refer the case to the local authority which will consider prosecution.

All referrals are triaged and allocated by the Senior Manager. Referral Criteria: usually, but there can be exceptions:

- attendance is below 80% (80 to 90% is usually addressed by school)
- absences have occurred in the previous 8 weeks
- school has attempted to address the absence during this period and can provide evidence and a chronology of work undertaken over the last 8 weeks
- majority of absences are unauthorised

Consultation Visits – Maintained Schools

~~Consultation visits by the AIO will be allocated according to need. Need will be identified using the school's annual DfE Absence data for the autumn/spring term from the previous academic year, drawn from the school's census return. Additional visits will be allocated to schools that have a higher than average percentage and number of pupils who are identified as being persistently absent (PA). The purpose of the consultation visit will be to:-~~

- ~~• identify pupils who are experiencing attendance difficulties. This may include an examination of attendance registers~~

- agree on focused, time-limited action which needs to be taken by the school and/or the AIO. Before accepting a piece of work the AIO will expect school staff to have first undertaken some preliminary work themselves, eg action by the class teacher or year head, contact with parents, etc
- feed back and exchange information in relation to work which has been undertaken by the AIO and/or the school
- identify areas of concern and of good practice in relation to attendance matters
- advise the school on individual and whole school strategies for improving attendance
- assist schools in identifying PA pupils and those at risk of becoming PA and ensuring that effective plans of action are in place

Casework

- AIOs may undertake early intervention work prior to a case being accepted. This may include the following:
- telephoning or writing to the parents about their child's absences or lateness
- attending a meeting with parents arranged by the school to emphasise the need for good attendance and the possibility that, if there is no improvement, the AIO will become formally involved.

Once a case has been accepted, the AIO will undertake direct work with pupils and their parents. This may include:

- arranging meetings between the school, parents and pupils
- making home visits to assess the situation and determine what action needs to be taken
- offering specific support to parents and individual pupils, either at school or elsewhere
- facilitating meetings
- enabling the pupil and parents to access appropriate support from other services and agencies

Attendance Improvement Officers will usually work with children whose absences have not been authorised. However, AIOs may work with children whose absences have been authorised, such as persistent absentee (PA) pupils (see appendix 1).

In-service training for school staff

Attendance Improvement Officers will offer, or assist with, INSET sessions on a range of subjects related to attendance, including:-

- the promotion of regular school attendance
- working effectively with the AIO
- addressing persistent absence
- legal responsibilities relating to school attendance

6. The Use of Legal Action

If a pupil, who is registered at a school, fails to attend that school regularly without a legitimate reason and attempts by the Attendance Improvement Officer and the school fail to secure that pupil's return to regular attendance, the County Council will take legal action. A complaint may be laid against the parents in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, or an Education Supervision Order relating to the pupil under Section 36 of the Children Act 1989 will be applied for. Any exceptional mitigating circumstances relating to the pupil's absence will be taken into account, when considering legal action. 'Exceptional mitigating circumstances' will be determined by **Senior Manager, Statutory Attendance and Participation Team** ~~the Central Attendance and Employment Support Team Manager~~ on behalf of the Lead for Access and Inclusion. ~~County Lead for Attendance.~~ If 'exceptional mitigating circumstances' are not deemed to exist, **and absences are unauthorised then cases may be considered for legal action at any point throughout case work.** ~~then cases which remain open for more than 24 weeks will be referred for legal action. Legal action will, however, be taken earlier when appropriate.~~

If, after legal action has been taken, the child still fails to attend school regularly the **LAO** ~~AIO~~ will keep the case open and will, if appropriate, take further legal action at a subsequent date.

In cases where parents wilfully withhold a pupil from school, or persistently refuse to cooperate with efforts aimed at affecting a return to satisfactory school attendance, the ISL **Statutory** Attendance and **Participation** Team will begin legal proceedings promptly on the grounds that no other course of action is available.

~~The Central Attendance & Employment Support Team Manager on behalf of the County Lead for Attendance will give approval before legal proceedings are commenced.~~

The **Statutory** Attendance **and Participation** Team will consider applying for an Education Supervision Order when a parent finds it difficult to exercise an effective influence over a child who has developed a pattern of poor attendance. Education Supervision Orders will not usually be applied for in relation to pupils in Years 10 or 11.

Before an application is made for an Education Supervision Order:

- other possible means of dealing with the pupil's poor attendance will be explored
- the attitudes of the parent and pupil towards the poor attendance, and their wishes as to how it should be dealt with, will be noted
- the Local Authority will be of the view that the Order will have a significant effect on the pupil's attendance at school

7. Education Related Penalty Notices for Parents of Truants

Subsection (1) of section 23 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 added two new sections (444A and 444B) to section 444 of the Education Act 1996. These new

sections introduced penalty notices as an alternative to prosecution and enable parents to discharge potential liability for conviction for that offence by paying a penalty.

A penalty notice is a suitable intervention in circumstances of parentally condoned truancy, where the parent is judged capable of securing their child's regular attendance but is not willing to take responsibility for doing so. For example it could be used where a parent has failed to engage in any supportive measures

Further information on penalty notices is available [at Attendance: guidance and statutory responsibilities - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning \(thegrid.org.uk\)](#) or from the local Attendance Team Manager.

8. School Attendance Orders

If a parent fails to register a child of compulsory school age at a school (and he/she does not intend to educate the child otherwise than at school). The LA will serve a School Attendance Order under Sections 437 - 439 of the Education Act 1996. This requires the parent to register their child at a school named by the Local Authority.

9. Admission & Attendance Registers

The rules governing the maintenance of registers, including removal from roll, are contained in the Education (Pupil Registration)(England) Regulations 2006 as amended 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2016.

It is important that the school's admission register is accurate and kept up to-date. Schools should regularly encourage parents to inform them of any changes whenever they occur, through existing communication channels such as regular emails and newsletters. This will assist both the school and local authority when making enquiries to locate children missing education.

Where a parent notifies a school that a pupil will live at another address, all schools are required to record in the admission register:

- a) the full name of the parent with whom the pupil will live;
- b) the new address; and
- c) the date from when it is expected the pupil will live at this address.

Where a parent of a pupil notifies the school that the pupil is registered at another school or will be attending a different school in future, schools must record in the admission register:

- a) the name of the new school; and
- b) the date when the pupil first attended or is due to start attending that school.

All schools are required to notify the local authority **within five days** via school admissions—<http://www.intra.thegrid.org.uk/admissions/seam.shtml> when a pupil's name is added to the admissions register at a non-standard transition point. Schools will need to provide the local authority with all the information held within the admission register about the pupil. This duty does not apply when a pupil's name is entered in the

admission register at a standard transition point – at the start of the first year of education normally provided by that school.

Attendance Register

Attendance registers are legal documents that may be required as evidence in court cases.

Registers must be taken at the beginning of each morning and once during the afternoon session. If the register is called at the end of the afternoon session schools should ensure that adequate arrangements are in place to ensure that pupils do not leave school between registrations. They should ensure that pupils can be accounted for in an emergency and that a pupil removed from the school at lunchtime will not go unnoticed.

Registers must record whether each pupil is present; attending an approved educational activity; absent; or unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances. In the case of a pupil of compulsory school age who is absent the register must also indicate whether the absence has been authorised by the school.

Registers should open and close at regular, set times and this information should be publicised to parents.

When calling the register the appropriate mark and/or symbol should be placed against each pupil's name - gaps should not be left so that entries can be made later. In marking registers, schools should use the national set of symbols as advised by the Department for Education (see Appendix 2)

When the reason for a pupil's absence cannot be established at the beginning of a session, the absence should be recorded as unauthorised and any subsequent correction to the register made as soon as practicable after the reason for the absence has been established.

In order to reduce the possibility of post registration truancy secondary schools are encouraged to take class registers in each lesson and/or carry out regular spot checks.

All schools are required to notify the Local Authority of any pupil of compulsory school age who fails to attend school regularly, or who has been absent for a continuous period of more than 10 school days, without a legitimate reason. This duty also extends to academies and independent schools.

For further guidance see – [Attendance: guidance and statutory responsibilities - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning \(thegrid.org.uk\)](http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/traded/sitss/behaviour/attendance/)
<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/traded/sitss/behaviour/attendance/>
<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/csf/admissions.shtml>

Responsibilities of the LAAO AIO – Attendance Registers – Maintained Schools

Inspection of registers

Registers should be available for inspection during school hours by an **Local Authority Attendance Improvement Officer** when requested.

If the named **LAAO AIO** is concerned that a school's registers have not been kept in accordance with the requirements of the relevant regulations he/she will:

- notify the Headteacher of the concern and suggest that the matter is addressed.
- if no appropriate action is taken by the school, and the **LAO** AIO remains concerned, they will discuss with the Senior Manager and appropriate action considered. ~~the Attendance Team Manager will address the concern with the Headteacher.~~
- ~~if the matter still remains unresolved, the Attendance Team Manager will write to the Headteacher formally noting the concern. A copy of this letter will be sent to the relevant ISL Area Manager and the County Lead for Attendance.~~

Registers - Retention

Registers should be kept in a secure place for a period of not less than 3 years.

~~When computerised registration systems are used a print-out of the register should be made not less than once a month. A print-out of the register relating to a particular school year should be bound in a single volume and retained for a period of not less than 3 years.~~

Removal from Roll

There are strict grounds as to when schools may remove pupils from their admissions register. These are outlined in **Regulation 8** of the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006. Regulation 12(6) states that when a school has decided to delete a pupil's name from their admission roll, they must notify their Local Authority **within five days as the grounds for removal**. ~~as soon as the ground for removal is met and no later than the time at which the pupil's name is removed from the register.~~ This responsibility applies to all Maintained Schools, Academies, Free Schools, Studio Schools, University Technical Colleges, Education Support Centres and Independent Schools. Full guidance on Removal from Roll is available at - [Attendance: guidance and statutory responsibilities - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning \(thegrid.org.uk\)](#)

<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/attendance.shtml>

If the pupil has left the school without explanation and there are concerns about the pupil's welfare please contact the local **Statutory Attendance and Participation Team Duty Line immediately.**

Duty contact details:

West: attendancedutywest@hertfordshire.gov.uk and 01442 454778

East: attendancedutyeast@hertfordshire.gov.uk and 01992 555261

If a school is told that a pupil is leaving to attend another school, staff at the school of departure should establish the pupil's new address, the name and address of the new school and the date the pupil will start there. Confirmation should then be sought from the receiving school. When this information has been obtained, the school should complete a Removal from Roll form and return it to the **local **Statutory Attendance and Participation Team** office** through **hertsfx and schoolsfx**. Whenever a pupil leaves a school a Common Transfer File (CTF) must be completed.

If a school is concerned about any aspect of a transfer or if a pupil has "disappeared" the matter should be drawn without delay to the attention of the Local **Statutory Attendance and **Participation Duty Line** Team** or Link Authority Attendance Officer.

Further guidance and a referral form is available at -
<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/attendance.shtml>

10. Authorising Absence

Only the school can authorise an absence. The fact that a parent has provided a note or other explanation (telephone call or personal contact) in relation to a particular absence does not, of itself, oblige the school to accept it, if the school does not accept the explanation offered as a valid reason for absence. If, after further investigation doubt remains about the explanation offered - or when no explanation is forthcoming at all - the absence should be treated as unauthorised and the parent informed.

Schools should communicate to parents their policies about the notification and categorisation of absence. Some parents, such as those whose first language is not English or who do not read or write may experience difficulty in providing notes. In such cases schools should seek to make alternative arrangements.

Schools are encouraged to keep all absence notes for at least a term and when a pupil's absence is a cause for concern to retain the notes until there is no longer a concern.

Absence should be authorised if:

- the pupil is absent with leave (defined as 'leave granted by any person authorised to do so by the governing body or proprietor of the school')
- the pupil is ill or prevented from attending by any unavoidable cause
- the absence occurs on a day exclusively set aside for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parent belongs
- the school at which the child is a registered pupil is not within walking distance of the child's home; and no suitable arrangements have been made by the LA for any of the following: the child's transport to and from school; boarding accommodation for the child at or near the school; enabling the child to become a registered pupil at a school nearer to his/her home
- 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
- ~~there is a close family bereavement~~
- leave of absence has been applied for in advance and has been granted because of exceptional circumstances relating to the application. (Parents should be reminded that they cannot expect, as of right, that the school will grant leave of absence)
- leave of absence should be granted to allow a pupil to take part in a performance within the meaning of s37 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963 (c) for which a child performance licence has been issued.

Before granting a licence the local authority must be satisfied that the child's education will not suffer. A school letter is requested as part of the licence application as confirmation of this. If a school believes a child's education will suffer as a result of taking part in a performance they should provide reasons to the local authority in writing. The information must be specific to the child (saying for example that it is against school policy is not sufficient). If the school does not provide such

information the local authority will issue the licence. The absence should be recorded as code C.

Further guidance is available at - [Attendance: guidance and statutory responsibilities - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning \(thegrid.org.uk\)](#)

<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/attendance.shtml>

- Absence should be unauthorised if no explanation is forthcoming from the parents or if the school is dissatisfied with the explanation

11. **DfE Administrative Codes**

There are a number of administrative codes which are not counted as a possible attendance in the school census. They must only be used in the circumstances described:

- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances (Code Y)

This code is collected in the school census for statistical purposes but is not counted as a possible attendance It may be used when:

the school site, or part of it is closed due to unavoidable cause; or

the transport provided by the school or the local authority is not available *and* where the pupil's home is not within walking distance; or

a local or national emergency has resulted in widespread disruption to travel which has prevented the pupil from attending school.

- Not required to be in school (Code X)

is used to record sessions that non –compulsory school age children are not expected to attend.

- Pupil not on admission register (Code Z)

enables schools to set up registers in advance of pupils joining the school to ease administration burdens. Schools must put pupils on the admission register from the first day that the school has agreed, or been notified, that the pupil will attend the school.

- Planned whole or partial school closure (Code #)

should be used for closures that are planned or known in advance eg holidays, curriculum planning/training days (up to five per year) or the use of the school as a polling station.

- Different Term Dates for Different Pupils (Code #)

can also be used to record staggered starts or induction days. This is only acceptable where the school ensures that pupils not attending on that day are still offered a full education over the school year.

12. **Approved Off-Site Educational Activity**

Pupils who are engaged in off-site educational activities should be recorded as attending (or absent from) an approved educational activity using the appropriate code.

The key features of approved educational activity are that they must be:

- educational *and*
- approved by the school *and*
- supervised by the school or someone authorised by the school

A pupil should be recorded as approved educational activity if he/she is attending:

- a field trip or educational visit (Code V)
- an approved sporting activity approved by and supervised by someone authorised by the school (Code P)
- an off site educational activity (Code B)

Note: The B code should be used when pupils are present at an off-site educational activity that has been approved by the school. Ultimately schools are responsible for the safeguarding and welfare of pupils educated off-site. By using code B, schools are certifying that the education is supervised and measures have been taken to safeguard pupils. **This code should not be used for any unsupervised educational activities or where a pupil is at home completing school work.**

- Dual Registered – at another educational establishment (Code D)

Note: This code is used to indicate that the pupil was not expected to attend the session in question because they were scheduled to attend the other school at which they are registered. This code is not counted as a possible attendance in the school census. This code should be used where pupils are attending an ESC, hospital or special school on a temporary basis or for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children where they are known to be registered at another school for the session in question. Each school should only record the attendance/absence for those sessions where the pupil is expected to attend. Schools must ensure that they follow up all absence in a timely manner.

Consortia Schools

Pupils attending consortia schools as part of their course need only be placed on the registers of their main school. They should be treated as “guest pupils” at the other consortia school/s. The “host” school must have robust systems in place to monitor and report the absence and attendance of “guest pupils” and this must be shared with the main school.

13. Flexi-schooling

Head teachers can agree to flexi-schooling arrangements where the parents take on the responsibility for their child’s education for part of the school week. Head teachers are advised to consider any such requests from parents very carefully before agreeing to them and are advised to draw up a written agreement with the parent. Where agreement has been reached, pupils should be marked authorised absent from school during periods when they are receiving home education. (Code C).

Further guidance is available: - [Attendance: guidance and statutory responsibilities - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning \(thegrid.org.uk\)](#)

14. Part-time time-tables

All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In exceptional circumstances there may be a need for a part time timetable to meet an individual pupil's needs. A part time timetable must be time limited and must not be treated as a long term solution and can only be made with parental agreement. The school should mark the sessions were the pupil is not expected to attend as authorised absence. (Code C).

Guidance on part-time timetables is available at - [Attendance: guidance and statutory responsibilities - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning \(thegrid.org.uk\)](http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/attendance.shtml)
<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/attendance.shtml>

15. Requests for Family Holidays During Term time

Amendments to the 2006 Pupil Registration (England) Regulations which come into effect on 1st September 2013 remove all references to family holidays and extended leave for holidays in term time. The amendments make clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. It is for the Headteacher to determine what constitutes exceptional circumstances and for them to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

At the request from Headteachers the local authority has provided a standard letter to be handed to parents and carers to support the governing body and Headteachers in communicating their decision making regarding individual requests for leave of absence for holidays in term time. This available at - [Attendance: guidance and statutory responsibilities - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning \(thegrid.org.uk\)](http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/attendance.shtml)
<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/attendance.shtml>

Further information and advice of school attendance including the use of the correct registration codes is available at www.education.gov.uk

The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006 and subsequent amendments in 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2016 is available at <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>
—<http://www.legislation.gov.uk>

Further details information and advice on all aspects of school attendance in Hertfordshire is available at: - [Attendance: guidance and statutory responsibilities - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning \(thegrid.org.uk\)](http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/attendance.shtml)

<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/attendance.shtml>

Appendix 1

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Policy for Attendance Improvement Officers working with children whose absence has been authorised

- if the AIO becomes concerned (through checking the attendance register) that a pupil has accumulated significant amounts of authorised absence this will be discussed with the relevant member of school staff

- ~~if it is agreed that there is a concern about the pupil's attendance the school should share this concern with the parents~~
- ~~if concerns about the pupil's attendance remain, the AIO will consider accepting the case~~
- ~~if a pupil is identified as being a persistent absentee (PA). Persistent absence is when a pupil enrolment's overall absence equates to 10 per cent or more of their possible sessions.~~

~~(Note: if a pupil's absence has been authorised by the school, the LA cannot cite that absence as evidence of non attendance under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996).~~

Appendix 1.2

ATTENDANCE CODES, DESCRIPTIONS AND MEANINGS

CODE	DESCRIPTION	MEANING
/	Present (AM)	Present
\	Present (PM)	Present
B	Present at off site educational activity	Approved Education Activity
C	Leave of absence authorised by the school	Authorised absence
D	Dual registered at another educational establishment	Not expected to attend this session
E	Excluded (no alternative provision made)	Authorised absence
G	Holiday (NOT agreed <u>or</u> days in excess of agreement)	Unauthorised absence
H	Holiday authorised by the school	Authorised absence
I	Illness (NOT medical or dental etc. appointments)	Authorised absence
J	Interview	Approved Education Activity
L	Late (before registers closed)	Present
M	Medical/Dental appointments	Authorised absence
N	No reason yet provided for absence	Unauthorised absence
O	Other unauthorised absence	Unauthorised absence
P	Supervised sporting activity	Approved Education Activity
R	Day set aside exclusively for religious observance	Authorised absence
S	Study leave	Authorised absence
T	Gypsy, Roma and Traveller absence for occupational reasons	Authorised absence
U	Late and arrived after the registers closed	Unauthorised absence
V	Educational visit or trip	Approved Education Activity
W	Work experience	Approved Education Activity
X	Not required to be in school (non-compulsory school age pupils)	Not counted in possible attendances
Y	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	Not counted in possible attendances
Z	Pupil not on admission register	Not counted in possible attendances
#	School closed to all pupils (Planned)	Not counted in possible attendances

Detailed advice on the use of these registration codes can be found at www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/advice/f00221879/advice-on-school-attendance

Being on time is also important !



Be on time at five to nine!

Please remember that school starts at 8.55am and aim to get your child in the playground by 8.45am.

Regularly arriving late:

- Tells children that punctuality is not important
- Means your child misses the important start to the day
- Means your child cannot talk to his/her friends before the start of lessons
- Can upset your child
- Disrupts the rest of the class and their learning
- Can mean your child misses learning time
- Implies that learning is not important
- Implies that the school's rules and expectations are not important.
- Your child's class will not win the Puffin Award!

Research shows that children with good attendance and punctuality do better at school.

Show your child you want the best for him/her, get your child to school on-time!



Remember to do well your child needs to be at school and on-time!

- Show you care about your child's education
- Work with the school
- Understand your legal responsibilities
- Send your child to school regularly
- Only keep him/her at home if s/he is too sick for school
- Keep religious observance leave to a maximum of 3 days per year (The school will not authorise more!)
- Go away or visit family in the school holidays (The school will not authorise term time holidays!)
- Give your child a good start to every school day
- Be on-time at ten to nine
- Teach your child good attendance and punctuality now—it is an important life skill
- Do your best for your child!
- **Certificates—to all that have 97% and above (GOOD ATTENDANCE)**
- **If a child has 98% + Attendance (EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE) he or she will also receive a £5.00 WHS Token!**

Be in the line at five to nine!

Chater Infant School

Attendance and Punctuality Information for Parents/Carers



Tel: 01923 221060
admin@chaterinfants.herts.sch.uk

The importance of school attendance and

At Chater Infant School we never forget that:

Every child is special and every school day is important.

Like you we want **every child to be a happy, successful learner!**

To help us to help your child, **YOU need to SEND THEM TO SCHOOL**

regularly and on-time! The government expects children to be in school for **at least 96% of the time.**

Do you know how much time your child missed last school year?

Was his/her attendance better than 95% or was it lower?

★ A child who is in school for **96%** of the time misses **7.5 days of school a year!**

★ A child who is only in school for **95%** of the time misses **9.5 days, nearly 2 weeks of school a year!**

★ A child who is only in school for **90%** of the time misses **19 days, nearly 5 weeks of school a year!** He/she miss-

Experts tell us that:

- There are strong and proven links between school attendance and school achievement.
- Children who come to school **less than 96%** of the time **do not do their best.**
- Children with attendance at **90% or lower throughout their school life get poor exam results. Only 10% of them get 5 A-C grades at GCSE.**

Now is the time to stop and think if this is what you want for your child?

At Chater Infant School we need to improve attendance and punctuality.

We will be monitoring all pupil's attendance using the 'RAG' colour coded system. The codes are as follows;

Red = CAUSE FOR CONCERN

attendance is 90% or below!

Amber (Yellow) = NEEDS TO GET BETTER attendance is 90.1% to 95.9%!

Green = Satisfactory/good attendance is 96% and above!

At the end of each term you will be sent a letter with your child's colour code. If it is **red** we will need to meet and work out how to improve his/her attendance.

To help your child meet the 96% attendance target you can:



- Make sure they are only away when they are too sick to come to school. **Be firm.**
- **Tell your child that learning is important and you want him/her to do their best** at school.
- If there is a **problem talk to the class teacher.**
- If you have any **concerns** – it is far better for your son/daughter if a problem is **addressed in the early stages.**
- If your child has to miss school, **please** telephone the school office **before 9.30am on the first day of absence.**
- Understand that for children **aged 3-8 it is your responsibility in law to make sure that your child comes to school regularly and on time!**

Fixed Penalty Notices

At Chater Infant School we work with parents and ask that they work with us to address any attendance problems.

If a pupil has at least 21 sessions (half day= 1 session) unauthorised absence in a term (including unauthorised holidays), the Head Teacher will seek advice and may ask the Local Authority to issue a Penalty Notice. The Penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the Notice, rising to £120 if paid within 28 days. If the Penalty is not paid the Local Authority may prosecute the parents for their child's irregular attendance.



Chater Infant School

Headteacher: Mrs A Bal-Richards, BEd (Hons), NPQH
Southsea Avenue, Watford, Hertfordshire. WD18 7NJ
Tel: 01923 221060 and Fax: 01923 236808
www.chaterinfants.herts.sch.uk
Email: admin@chaterinfants.herts.sch.uk

Penalty Notice Warning Letter

Dear

The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007

Name of Pupil

Registered at Chater Infant School

This is a formal warning that you are at risk of breach of the regulations stated above. **Name of Pupil** has been absent from school and the absence(s) has/have not been agreed.

Should the number of unauthorised absence sessions reach 16 or more in the current and/or previous term you will be in breach of the regulations and the Local Authority may issue you with a penalty notice.

The notice requires you to pay a penalty of £60 within 21 days, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. Each parent is liable to pay a separate penalty and penalty notices are issued for each child to whom the absence relates.

Payment of the penalty enables you to discharge your liability for the offence for the period in question of failing to ensure your child's regular attendance at school. (Section 444, The Education Act 1996)

Failure to pay the penalty means you are liable to prosecution for the offence, by summons to appear before the local Magistrates Court. On conviction you may be liable for a fine of up to £1,000 per parent. This is a criminal offence which carries a criminal record. The Local Authority will ask for costs of £125 to be awarded against you.

If you fail to ensure your child attends regularly and 15 sessions of unauthorised absence is reached a penalty notice will be issued. **You will not receive a further warning before the penalty is imposed.**

If you believe there are legitimate reasons for your child's absence please contact me within 5 working days to discuss the matter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Bal-Richards
Headteacher