

WORTHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Whole School Attendance Policy

Policy Consultation & Review

This policy is available on our school website and is available on request from the school office. We also inform parents about this policy when their children join our school and regularly thereafter through our school newsletter and other relevant opportunities.

The model policy has been developed in accordance with the DfE statutory guidance: DfE Working Together to Improve School Attendance Guidance

We recognise the expertise our staff build by managing school attendance daily and we therefore invite staff to contribute to and shape this policy and associated attendance and safeguarding arrangements.

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on at least an annual basis.

This policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body on 26 November 2024.

Review date: November 2025

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1. Introduction/Aim

At Worthington Primary School, we believe that regular school attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential. We value the attendance of all pupils. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind and can put them at risk of wider harm. There is a wide range of evidence as to the health and wellbeing benefits of school-age education. [Research](#) commissioned by the Department for Education shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances. As set out in this policy, we will work with families to identify the reasons for poor attendance and try to resolve any difficulties at the earliest opportunity.

Our attendance policy aims to give clear guidance to staff, parents, pupils, and governors to:

- Support every pupil's achievement by establishing the highest possible levels of attendance and punctuality;
- Recognise the key role of all staff in promoting good attendance;
- Provide a clear framework for monitoring and responding to pupil absences;
- Make parents / carers aware of their legal responsibilities and ensure their children have access to the education to which they are entitled.

We recognise that attendance is a matter for the whole school community. Our Attendance Policy should not be viewed in isolation; it is a strand that runs through all aspects of school improvement, supported by our policies on safeguarding, prevention of bullying, behaviour, and inclusive learning. This policy also considers the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 guidance, and other relevant legislation.

2. Legal Framework

Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act states that parents must ensure that children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability, and aptitude to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. A child is of compulsory school age at the beginning of the term following their 5th birthday. A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach the age of 16.

In line with the DfE Working Together to Improve School Attendance Guidance the government expects all schools and local authorities to:

- Promote good attendance and reduce absence, particularly severe and persistent absence.

- Ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled.
- Act early to address patterns of absence.

Parents are expected to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly and punctually. In accordance with the Education Act 1996, we will work with parents and carers and the Local Authority to ensure that parents are supported to secure education for children of compulsory school age. Where required, we will formalise support and where necessary, work with the LA to use legal measures.

A "Parent" is defined as:

- Any natural parent, whether married or not
- Any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person

3. Safeguarding

At Worthington Primary School, we believe every pupil should be able learn in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. We respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn and participate in all school activities in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Attending school regularly promotes the welfare and safety of children whilst they are not in the care of their parents. Safeguarding is about offering early help and support to children and families, and difficulties with attendance and lateness may be signs that something is worrying the child or that there are difficulties in the home environment. Poor or irregular attendance, persistent lateness, or children missing from education may be considered a safeguarding matter if this places your child at risk of harm.

Safeguarding the interests of each child is everyone's responsibility and, within the context of this school, safeguarding and promoting the welfare and life opportunities for children encompasses attendance, behaviour management, Health and Safety, access to the curriculum and anti-bullying, protecting children from abuse and neglect, online safety, radicalisation and extremism, FGM and CSE.

More information on safeguarding and the protection of children can be found in the schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

In order to allow us to safeguard the children in our care it is important that parents provide the school with their current contact details and provide at least two other contact numbers in case of emergency.

It is also important for parents to let school know of any specific vulnerability in relation to their child or home circumstances. If you are uncertain about what would be considered a vulnerability please contact either admin@worthingtonprimary.co.uk or hchatterton@worthingtonprimary.co.uk

4. Roles and Responsibilities

At Worthington Primary School, we believe that improving school attendance is everyone’s business, and that it is a shared responsibility by governors, all school staff, parents, pupils, and the wider school community.

Role	Name	Contact details
Senior Attendance Lead	Mrs. H. Chatterton	hchatterton@worthingtonprimary.co.uk 0161 973 3504
Attendance Officer	Miss. T. Hughes	admin@worthingtonprimary.co.uk
Named Governor for Attendance	Cllr. B. Brotherton	

The Governing Body of Worthington Primary School, recognises the importance of school attendance and promotes it across the school’s ethos and policies. They take an active role in attendance improvement by:

- Setting high expectations of all leaders, staff, pupils, and parents so that children attend school every day and are safeguarded from harm.
- Identifying a member of the governing body to lead on attendance matters and ensuring that there is a named senior manager to lead on attendance.
- Ensuring school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties by rigorously evaluating the effectiveness of the school’s attendance procedures so that consistent attendance support is provided for all pupils.
- Ensuring the school engages and works effectively with the local authority Pupil Absence Team and wider local partners and services to address barriers to school attendance.
- Regularly reviewing attendance data, discussing, challenging trends, and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Ensuring high aspirations are maintained for all pupils and processes for support are adapted to the individual needs of pupils including those with long term illnesses, special educational needs and disabilities, pupils with a social worker and pupils from cohorts with historically lower attendance such as those eligible for free school meals.
- Ensuring all school staff receive adequate training on attendance and that relevant staff have access to opportunities to share and learn from good practice in other schools.
- Ensuring that attendance data is shared with the Local Authority or Department for Education as required and on time.
- Reviewing the school’s Attendance Policy on at least an annual basis, ensuring that the required resources are available to fully implement the policy.

The Senior Attendance Champion at Worthington Primary School will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents through regular communication (e.g. website, newsletters, Dojo)
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents.
- Ensure that there is a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance, with teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve.
- Monitor the implementation of the Attendance Policy and ensure that the policy is reviewed annually.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the Attendance Policy and adequately trained to address attendance issues.
- Ensure that the regulations and other relevant legislation are complied with, that staff understand the attendance register is a legal document and that attendance and absence are coded correctly in accordance with DfE Working Together to Improve School Attendance Guidance.
- Ensure that there is a named senior manager to lead on attendance and allocate sufficient time and resource.
- Return school attendance data to the Local Authority and the Department for Education as required and on time.
- Report the school's attendance and related issues through termly reporting to the Governors and on a half-termly basis to the lead governor for attendance.
- Meet regularly with the Attendance Officer to ensure that attendance data is collected and analysed frequently to identify causes and patterns of absence.
- Ensure that systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site are implemented.
- Interpret the data to devise solutions and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.
- Develop a multi-agency response to improve attendance and support pupils and their families.
- Document interventions used to a standard required by the local authority should legal proceedings be instigated.
- Set out how Pupil Premium will be used to support pupils with irregular attendance.

All staff at Worthington Primary School will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents.
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents.
- Contribute to a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance; with good teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve.
- Comply with the regulations and other relevant legislation.
- Implement systems to ensure a consistent approach to reporting, recording, and monitoring the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site.
- Ensure that registers are recorded accurately and in a timely manner.
- Contribute to the evaluation of school strategies and interventions.
- Work with other agencies to improve attendance and support pupils and their families.
- Be particularly mindful of pupils absent from school due to mental or physical ill health or their special educational needs and/or disabilities and provide them with additional support.

•If the child has an education health and care plan (EHCP), school staff will communicate with the local authority where a pupil's attendance rate falls or they become aware of barriers to attendance that relate to the pupil's needs. School will agree adjustments to policies and practices that are consistent with the special educational provision set out in the EHCP in collaboration with parents. If necessary, staff will work with the local authority to review and amend the EHCP to incorporate any additional attendance support identified.

The Attendance Officer at Worthington Primary School will work to further develop relationships with families to bring about improved attendance. This may involve seeking multi-agency support. The member of staff responsible for attendance will support good attendance, respond to concerns, and promote improvement in attendance by:

- Rigorously monitoring and analysing pupil attendance data.
- Undertaking weekly attendance meetings with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, SENDCO, and other relevant staff members.
- Implementing the identified strategies for promoting excellent whole school attendance.
- Implementing the identified strategies for tackling unsatisfactory attendance.
- Managing individual pupil casework files.
- Coordinating individual attendance action plans for pupils causing concern including using the Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (ESBNA) tool kit to identify issues early on, the instigation of a Family Help Assessment and Plan and/ or the implementation of an attendance contract.
- Ensuring first day calling procedures are adhered to if a child is absent from school without contact from parents.
- Taking an active lead in delivering whole school initiatives such as awards assemblies and reward schemes.
- Making referrals to appropriate external agencies

Parents at Worthington Primary School are expected to:

- Take a positive interest in their child's work and educational progress.
- Ensure their child has regular and punctual attendance at school.
- Instil the value of education and regular school attendance within the home environment.
- Contact the school if their child is absent to let them know the reason why and the expected date of return, following this with a note of explanation.
- Avoid unnecessary absences; for example, by making medical and dental appointments for outside of school hours and not taking term time holidays.
- Ask the school for help if their child is experiencing difficulties with any aspect of their schoolwork or home and family life.
- Inform the school of any change in circumstances that may impact on their child's attendance.

- Support the school by becoming involved in their child's education, forming a positive relationship with school, and acknowledging the importance of children receiving the same messages from both school and home.
- Maintain effective routines at home to support good attendance.
- Attend all meetings requested to discuss attendance issues.

Pupils at Worthington Primary School will:

- Be aware of the school's attendance policy and when and where they are required to attend. This will be communicated to them by school staff, school website, parents and through the school timetable.
- Speak to their class teacher or another member of staff if they are experiencing difficulties at school or at home which may impact on their attendance.
- Attend all lessons ready to learn, with the appropriate learning tools requested and on time for the class.
- Bring a note of explanation from their parents or guardians to explain an absence that has happened or is foreseen.
- Follow the school procedure if they arrive late. This will help the school to monitor attendance and keep accurate records for the child's individual attendance. This is also vital for health and safety in the event of a school evacuation.

The Headteacher at Worthington Primary School will:

Ensure this policy is implemented consistently and reviewed for efficacy periodically.
Monitor school-level absence data and reporting it to governors.
Monitor the impact of any implemented attendance strategies.
Request the issuing of fixed-penalty notices, where necessary.

5. Categorising Absence and Attendance

When marking our registers, we will apply the national codes as outlined and regulated by the Department for Education guidance to accurately record and report attendance.

5.1 Medical Appointments and Absence due to Illness

Parents should try to make appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. Where appointments during school time are unavoidable, we ask that a parent notifies the school in advance of the appointment wherever possible. The pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment. In most circumstances, a child should not miss a whole day at school for an appointment. If a pupil must attend a medical appointment during the school day, they must provide the school office with evidence of the appointment to allow for the correct coding, parents must also sign their child out using the Inventory system. No pupil will be allowed to leave the school site without parental confirmation.

In the majority of cases, absences for illness which are reported following the school's absence reporting procedures will be authorised without the need for parents to supply medical evidence unnecessarily. In line with Department for Education guidance, if we do have a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness, we may ask the parent to provide medical evidence, such as a prescription, appointment card, or other

appropriate form of evidence. If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Where a child has an emerging a pattern of non-attendance, we will discuss the reasons for absence with the child's parent/carer. We will invite parents to attend a school-led Attendance Support meeting as an appropriate early intervention strategy. As part of this support, we may seek consent from parents and the pupil as appropriate to liaise with the child's healthcare professional.

Where a pupil has a verified and chronic health condition, we will aim to work with parents to ensure children have access to education and provide appropriate support in line with Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school and local authority information: www.trafford.gov.uk/pupilabsence. We will also consider whether an Individual Healthcare Plan is required.

5.2 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils are among the lowest achieving groups of pupils at every key stage in education, although some GRT pupils achieve very well at school. There are many complex and interwoven factors that may influence the educational attainment of GRT pupils. Schools and Local Authorities can make a big difference to their life chances through:

- Clear high expectation of all pupils, regardless of their background
- An inclusive culture that welcomes all communities
- Strong engagement from parents

In line with The Education Act 1996, Section 444(6) the school will authorise the absence of a pupil of no fixed abode who is unable to attend school because:

- the parent is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as to require him to travel from place to place,
- that the child has attended at a school as a registered pupil as regularly as the nature of that trade or business permits, and
- if the child has attained the age of six, that he has made at least 200 attendances during the previous 12 months.

This provision applies only when the family are engaged in a trade or business that requires them to travel and when the child is attending school as regularly as that trade permits. In these circumstances, parents have a duty to ensure that their children are receiving suitable education when not at school.

When a family is trading or otherwise conducting their business in or around Trafford, if a family can reasonably travel back to their base school (see below) then the expectation is that their child will attend full-time. Worthington Primary School will be regarded as the base school if it is the school where the child normally attends when he or she is not travelling. However, the pupil must have attended in the last 18 months. Parents can register their children at other schools temporarily while away from their base school; in such cases, the pupil's school place here will be kept open for them whilst travelling. This is to protect them from unfairly losing their place at their school of usual attendance.

To ensure we can effectively support all our pupils, we ask that parents:

- Advise the school of their forthcoming travelling patterns as soon as these are known and before they happen; and
- Inform the school regarding proposed return dates.

5.3 Pupil Absence for the purposes of Religious Observance

Worthington Primary School acknowledges the multi-faith nature of British society and recognises that, on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods and is recognised as such by a relevant religious authority. Where this occurs, the school will authorise the pupil absence only for the actual day of the celebration/festival. Additional days either side will not be authorised. Parents are requested to give advance notice to the school.

5.4 Modelling/Performance

If parents of a child model/performer wish to seek a leave of absence from school for their child to take part in either child modelling or a child performance they must contact the headteacher to discuss the nature and frequency of the work, whether the child has a valid performance licence or exemption issued by the local authority, and whether it will be necessary for education to be provided by the production company during any leave of absence that may be granted.

It is at the headteacher's discretion as to how many days' leave will be authorised for these purposes and we will discuss with the parents the nature and frequency of the performances/ events.

Absence through competing at regional, county or national level for sport.

Parents of able sportsmen and women can seek leave of absence from school for their child to take part in regional, county, national and international events and competitions. It is, however, at the headteacher's discretion whether to authorise the absence and school will wish to discuss with parents the nature and frequency of the absence and how learning will continue if absence occurs.

Permission for a child to leave early or arrive late to attend coaching and training sessions is also at the discretion of the headteacher and is not likely to be approved if it is a regular event, unless the sports club or association is providing an education tutor as part of their coaching.

5.5 Authorised and Unauthorised Absence

The decision to authorise absence is at the discretion of the Headteacher who will decide if the reason given by parents is a satisfactory explanation to authorise the absence.

Examples of unsatisfactory explanations include but are not limited to:

- A pupil's/family member's birthday.
- Shopping for uniforms.
- Appointments for hairdressing.
- Closure of a sibling's school for INSET (or other) purposes.

- An unwillingness to attend school, or inability to attend owing to inadequate personal/family organisation.
- A refusal to attend school on health grounds but where the pupil is considered well enough to attend.

We believe that children need to be in school for all sessions that the school is open to them so that they can make the most progress possible. However, we do understand that there are times where a parent may legitimately request leave of absence for a child due to 'exceptional circumstances.' At Worthington Primary School leave of absence requests must be put in writing using the school pro forma and give a minimum of two weeks' notice. They are only granted at the discretion of the Headteacher.

All absences associated with a holiday during term time, will be marked as unauthorised in the register.

Parents wishing to apply for leave of absence during term time must apply in writing to the Headteacher at least two weeks before the planned leave. Other than in emergency, if a written request for leave of absence is not completed and the leave is taken without a request being submitted, the leave will not be considered by the Headteacher, and it will be marked as unauthorised. Worthington Primary School will treat each application individually. Retrospective requests will not be considered and will result in the absence being categorised as unauthorised. In such cases the school may make a referral to the Local Authority to request that a penalty notice fine is issued or consider prosecution.

When absence is granted by the Headteacher, the parents will need to agree a date of return. If a pupil fails to return on the expected date and contact is not received from, or made with the parents, school will seek advice from Trafford Council. This could result in possible children missing from education procedures being instigated.

5.6 Use of Legal Interventions for Unauthorised Leave of Absence

A penalty notice request or a referral for prosecution may be submitted to Trafford Council should:

- The parent fails to submit a leave of absence request in advance of taking the leave.
- An application for a leave of absence is not agreed by the Headteacher but is still taken.
- A longer period than the agreed number of days is taken.

In line with the Trafford Penalty Notice Code of Conduct, available at www.trafford.gov.uk/pupilabsence . Any parents known to have removed their child from school for the sole purpose of a holiday may be referred to Trafford Council for the issue of a penalty notice or prosecution if the leave of absence is unauthorised for 10 sessions (5 school days) or more. A penalty notice is issued to each parent for each child, the penalty being £160 per parent per child (discounted to £80 if paid within 21 days). Only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second notice within that period will be charged at the higher rate.

The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken which may include considering prosecution but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions such as an Education Supervision Order.

6. Our Procedures

6.1 Register Keeping and Recording

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, as amended by 2016 regulations, require schools to take an attendance register twice a day, once at the start of the morning session and then again during the afternoon session. The register must record whether the pupil was:

- Present
- Absent
- Present at approved educational activity or
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

For the purpose of this policy, the school defines:

“Absence” as:

- Arrival at school after the register has closed.
- Not attending school for any reason.

“Regular” attendance as:

- Attendance at every session the school is open to pupils

An “authorised absence” as:

- An absence for sickness for which the school has accepted the reasons given.
- Medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall during school time, for which the school has granted leave
- Recognised days of religious or cultural observances for which the school has granted leave.
- An absence due to a family emergency or unavoidable cause

An “unauthorised absence” as:

- Parents keeping children off school unnecessarily or without reason
- Truancy before or during the school day
- Absences which have never been properly explained
- Arrival at school after the register has closed
- Shopping, looking after other children or birthdays
- Day trips and holidays in term-time which have not been agreed
- Leaving school for no reason during the day

At Worthington Primary School registers are completed on SIMS each day at 9.00 am and then saved at 9.05 am Registers must be saved at 9.05 so that the attendance

officer can make phone calls for children missing. This is essential as it is a safeguarding issue.

Registers for the afternoon are completed promptly when children return after lunch.

The following national codes are used to record attendance information:

Mark	Notes	Description	Statistical Meaning
2	No change	Present at the school morning session	Present
3	No change	Present at the school afternoon session	Present
4	B Not a sporting activity (P) or work experience (W) - B codings must be accompanied by a text description examples of which include attending taster days at other schools, attending courses at college and attending unregistered AP arranged by the school	Attending any other approved educational activity	Approved educational activity
5	C Coding now subdivided by new codes C1 and C2	Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance	Authorised absence
6	C1 New code	Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad	Authorised absence
7	C2 New code	Leave of absence for a compulsory school-age pupil subject to a part-time timetable	Authorised absence
8	D No change	Dual registered at another school	Attendance not required
9	E No change	Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made	Authorised absence
0	G No change	Holiday not granted by the school	Unauthorised absence
1	I No change	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	Unauthorised absence
2	J1 New code - statistical meaning now Authorised Absence	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to an educational institution	Authorised absence
3	J2 New code - use code P or B if placement is arranged by the school - K codings must be accompanied by a text description examples of which include attending courses at college and attending unregistered AP such as home tutoring	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority	Approved educational activity
4	L No change	Late arrival before the register closed	Present
5	M No change	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending a medical or dental appointment	Authorised absence
6	N No change	Reason for absence not yet established	Unauthorised absence
7	Q No change	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	Unauthorised absence
8	P No change	Participating in a sporting activity	Approved educational activity
9	Q No change	Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements	Attendance not required
0	R No change	Religious observance	Authorised absence
1	S No change	Leave of absence for the purpose of studying for a public examination	Authorised absence
2	T No change	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	Authorised absence
3	U No change	Arrived in school after registration closed	Unauthorised absence
4	V No change	Attending an educational visit or trip	Approved educational activity
5	W No change	Attending work experience	Approved educational activity
6	X No change	Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school	Attendance not required
7	Y1 New code	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available	Attendance not required
8	Y2 New code	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel	Attendance not required
9	Y3 New code	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed	Attendance not required
0	Y4 New code	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed	Attendance not required
1	Y5 New code	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention	Attendance not required
2	Y6 New code	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law	Attendance not required
3	Y7 New code - for use when other than reasons Y1-Y6 apply and must be accompanied by an explanatory note	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause	Attendance not required
4	Z Code used by system for periods learner is not on roll	Prospective pupil not on the admission register	Code not collected
5	# Holidays and whole school closures	Planned whole school closure	Code not collected
6			
7			
8	H Code deactivated	Code deactivated	Code deactivated
9	J Code deactivated	Code deactivated	Code deactivated
0	V Code deactivated	Code Deactivated	Code Deactivated

6.2 Late Arrival at School

At Worthington Primary School all pupils are expected to arrive on time for every day of the school year. The school day begins at 8:55 am. We advise all parents to ensure their child is on site prior to this. The school register will be taken at 9:00 am. All pupils arriving after this time are required to report to the main office with their parents, who will be expected to sign their child in on the Inventory system and provide a reason for their absence. If their arrival is before 9:15 am it will be recorded as late - L code (Late before the close of register).

The school register will officially close at 9:15am. The DfE advises that schools should close the register to pupils no more than 30 minutes after the register was taken. All pupils arriving after this time will be marked as having an unauthorised absence for the morning session - U code (Late after the close of register). This is categorised as an unauthorised absence for the session. Parents will be contacted to discuss any patterns of late arrival. Repeated arrival after the close of registration will result in appropriate interventions being instigated and may also result in a Notice to Improve and will lead to the issue of a Penalty Notice (after 10 sessions of recorded unauthorised lateness) as a last resort.

Please note: L or U codes will be used if a pupil arrives after the close of the afternoon register for the PM session. PM registers are taken at 1pm for EYFS and Key stage 1, Lower Key stage 2 and 1.30pm for Upper Key stage 2.

6.3 Expected absence procedure for parents:

A parent has a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly. If a child is unavoidably absent from school parents are expected to contact school by telephone call on the morning of the first day of absence and on each subsequent day, identifying the reason for absence and the expected date of return. If no contact is received, then absence protocols will be instigated.

If a child is absent, the following actions will be initiated by the school:

- The first day calling procedures will be activated for all pupils who are not in school after close of register at 9:15 am and where no reason for absence is known.
- If there is still no contact made from the pupil's parents, a further telephone call home will be made again that morning. If no response can be gained, the child's named emergency contact may be contacted.
- If school cannot contact a parent or other emergency contact and are concerned about a pupil, a home visit may be carried out.
- School will telephone home if a pupil leaves the school without permission.

In cases of ongoing attendance concerns, school may, in line with Trafford's graduated Response for School Attendance:

- Visit the home of the pupil
- Write to the parents of a pupil to highlight attendance or punctuality issues
- Invite parents to discuss how school can support the family to make improvement
- Refer to an external agency/ support service to offer support, guidance, and advice
- Making a referral to Trafford Council through their education portal for joint enquiries to be made to establish the whereabouts of the child.
- Refer the matter to an appropriate external agency for multi-agency support, such as implementing an Early Help Assessment or consulting with the Children's First Response team or the police, where there are safeguarding concerns.

As a last resort, when supportive strategies have not worked and the parent has failed to engage, refer to Trafford council to consider issuing a penalty notice, an Education Supervision Order or to consider prosecution when all other intervention have failed.

6.4 Attendance Rewards

At Worthington Primary School we have an attendance target of 97%. This is monitored regularly by the Senior Attendance Lead and the Attendance Officer. At Worthington Primary School we use data directly taken from SIMS as well as using INSIGHT as this allows staff to have up to date information. Attendance data is shared on a termly basis at whole governor meetings. Parents are informed of whole school percentages each half term via Dojo and given individual information for their child at our meet the teacher meetings in Autumn 2 and Spring 2. On a termly basis children who have achieved 100% attendance are mentioned in assemblies.

Reward systems: Parents are provided with information regarding attendance on a regular basis either via newsletters or on Dojo. Children who have had improved attendance receive prizes and are sent a message home.

At Worthington we will investigate any pupils who are on track to be persistently absent (PA) and will not wait until attendance is below 90%. This is carried out during regular meetings between the Senior Attendance Lead and the Attendance Officer.

6.5 Support

At Worthington Primary School we recognise that poor attendance can be an indication of other difficulties related to problems at home and or in school. Parents are encouraged to inform school of any difficulties or changes in circumstances that may affect their child's attendance and or behaviour in school, for example, bereavement, divorce/separation, emerging health concerns. This will help the school identify any additional support that may be required.

We also recognise that some pupils are more likely to require additional support to attain good attendance. The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance based on the individual needs and circumstances of the child.

Strategies we may use to support include:

Trafford Inclusion Charter, Trafford SEMH Graduated Approach, parenting contracts, Educational Psychology, Family Help, the EBSNA toolkit, EHC team, SEND consultants, Pupil Absence Team, alternative provision etc

To plan the correct support, we will always invite parents and pupils to attend a meeting to discuss the concerns and devise a plan to support the child's regular attendance. Support offered to families will be child-centred and planned in discussion and agreement with both parents and pupils.

6.6 Severe and Persistent Absence

Severe absence is missing 50% or more of schooling across the year for any reason. Persistent absence is missing 10% or more of schooling across the year for any reason. Over a full academic year this would be 38 sessions (19 days).

The attendance of all pupils at our school is monitored to identify children who are severely absent, persistently absent, or are at risk of becoming persistently absent. Where emerging concerns are identified we will instigate appropriate and timely interventions as outlined in the section above. Referrals may also be made to external agencies for targeted support.

6.7 Use of Legal Interventions for Severe and Persistent Absence

In line with the Trafford Penalty Notice Code of Conduct, where the parent fails to engage with supportive interventions and the pupil has 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 week period, a Notice to Improve may be sent to each parent informing them that a request may be made to the Local Authority to pursue legal proceedings either through a penalty notice for parentally condoned absence, consideration of an Education Supervision Order, or prosecution in the Magistrates'

Court. If no improvement in engagement or attendance is made within the stated period, a penalty notice/ legal proceedings request may be submitted to the local authority.

Parents found guilty in a Magistrates' Court of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school under the provisions of the Education Act 1996, will receive a criminal record and a maximum penalty of a £1000 fine under a Section 444 (1) offence or a £2500 fine or up to a 3-month prison sentence, or a parenting order/ community order under a Section 444 (1a) offence.

6.8 Reduced timetables

All schools have a statutory duty to provide full-time education for all pupils and we are committed to every child's right to a suitable, full-time education offer. In very exceptional circumstances, we may decide to implement a temporary, reduced timetable to meet a pupil's individual needs and only where it is safe to do so.

A reduced timetable will not be treated as a long-term solution and will have a time limit by which point the pupil is expected to attend full-time or be provided with alternative provision. We will never put a reduced timetable in place without written agreement from parent/carer and/or other professionals working with the family as appropriate. This intervention will only be used as part of a comprehensive package of support for the pupil; it will be reviewed regularly in partnership with the child, parent and any other relevant professionals working with the family.

Pupils absent from school and receiving remote education still need to be marked as absent in the register.

We will inform Trafford Council through the school portal of any reduced timetable we have put in place.

7. Deletions from the Register

At Worthington Primary School we will add and will only delete pupils from our school roll in line with the Pupil Registration Regulations. In most circumstances, we will know in advance about pupils leaving our school; this will be planned and discussed with the parent in advance of the pupil leaving. We will always work with families to gain information about the pupil's next school and/or address before the pupil leaves to reduce the risk of pupils becoming a child missing education through lack of shared information.

We follow Trafford Council's Child Missing Education procedures and ensure the local authority is informed of all removals from our school roll no later than the date the child is removed in line with statutory responsibilities. Where the location of a pupil is unknown, we will liaise with Trafford's Pupil Absence Team so that joint reasonable enquiries can be made to ascertain the child's whereabouts and the pupil will remain on roll until those enquiries are exhausted.

If a child is removed from roll to home educate, we can only de-register the child if we receive, in writing, the parent's intention to educate their child other than at school. The pupil will be de-registered on receipt of such a letter and Trafford Council will be informed of the removal from roll as outlined above.

8. Related Policies

To underpin the values and ethos of our school and our intent to ensure that pupils at our school attend school regularly and reach their full potential the following policies are integral to this approach:

- safeguarding including child protection
- medical needs
- admissions
- anti-bullying
- exclusion
- SEND
- curriculum
- behaviour

9. Statutory Framework

This policy has been devised in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (legislation.gov.uk)
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/1751/regulation/8/made>

Keeping children safe in education

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2->

Children missing education

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education>

Working together to improve school attendance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

School behaviour and attendance: parental responsibility measures

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/parental-responsibility-measures>

Working together to safeguard children

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>

APPENDIX



Request to authorise absence from school due to exceptional circumstances.

Schools are only able to authorise absence from school in exceptional circumstances. In making a request for an authorised absence from school you will need to explain why the circumstances are exceptional.

Please note: Holidays taken in term time will not be authorised and if you take your child out of school without permission the absence will be unauthorised and we may refer the matter for consideration of legal action/penalty notice.

At least 2 weeks' notice must be given and you are advised not to make any arrangements until your request has been considered.

Section A – to the headteacher.

I wish to apply for

Child's name: _____ Class: _____

To be authorised as absent from school (please include dates and time):

From _____ to _____ (inclusive dates)

Section B.

Please explain why you are applying for an authorised absence and the **circumstances** which make your application **exceptional**; and why the leave cannot be taken within the normal 13 weeks annual holiday your child already has from school. If you are requesting authorisation to attend a specific event, for example a funeral, please confirm the date of the event and explain your travel arrangements. If you require additional space, please continue on the other side of the page.

Section C.

I am the parent/carer with whom the pupil normally resides. The information I have given on this form is correct.

Signature (parent/carer): _____ Date: _____



Section D – for school use only.

Tick as appropriate.

Request approved for _____ number of days from the dates and times _____

A personal discussion with you is requested. Please contact school.

Request not approved as the circumstances are not considered to constitute an exceptional reason and/or the impact of this absence will affect your child's educational progress. This will be classed as an unauthorised absence.

Please note: This leave of absence will be unauthorised and we may refer the matter for consideration of legal action/penalty notice.

Headteacher: _____ Date: _____

Current attendance rate: _____

Continuation of section B (if required):