



*‘Through God’s Love We Learn and  
Flourish Together’*

*Corinthians 16:14*

*Compassion, Courage, Perseverance, Respect, Thankfulness, Trust*

# ATTENDANCE POLICY

|                   |                                                                                                                     |                       |                                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ratified By:      | <b>Local Academy Committee</b>                                                                                      | In consultation with: | <b>Senior Leadership Team</b>     |
| Approved by:      | <br>K. Rolph, Chair of Committee | Date:                 | <b>24<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b> |
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## 1. Introduction

At Aylburton and English Bicknor Church of England Primary Schools, our Christian vision that *'Through God's love we learn and flourish together'* underpins our approach to attendance. In order for pupils to flourish, we believe that pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education and achieve their potential. Regular attendance means that pupils attend school each day (every day that the school is open). Our vision of love guides that the foundation of securing good attendance is that school is a calm, orderly, safe, and supportive environment where all pupils want to be and are keen and ready to learn.

This attendance policy sets out what is expected so that this may be achieved.

## 2. Aims

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

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

We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

## 3. Legislation and Guidance

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

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

It also refers to:

- [School census guidance](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

- [Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools](#)

## **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **4.1 The Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees is responsible for:

- Recognising and promoting the importance of school attendance across the Trust's policies and ethos.
- Setting high expectations of all Trust and school leaders, staff, pupils and parents.
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole Trust on at least a termly basis.
- Identifying and monitoring attendance patterns across the Trust's schools to identify common issues and barriers.
- Sharing effective practice on attendance management and improvement across schools.
- It also holds the Chief Executive Officer to account for the implementation of this policy.

### **4.2 The Chief Executive Officer**

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for:

- Ensuring the policies are implemented consistently across all Severn Federation Academy Trust schools.
- Driving attendance improvement across the Trust.
- Working with education welfare officers to tackle persistent absence.
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to Trustees.
- Sharing effective practice on attendance management and improvement across the trust, providing regular opportunities for staff from different schools to come together, learn from each other and share resources.

### **4.3 The Local Academy Committee**

The Local Academy Committee is responsible for:

- Setting high expectations of all school leaders, staff, pupils and parents/carers
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties, including:
- Making sure the school records attendance accurately in the register, and shares the required information with the DfE and local authority
- Making sure the school works effectively with local partners to help remove barriers to attendance, and keeps them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate
- Recognising and promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos
- Making sure the school's attendance management processes are delivered effectively, and that consistent support is provided for pupils who need it most by prioritising staff and resources

- Making sure the school has high aspirations for all pupils, but adapts processes and support to pupils' individual needs
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on individual pupils or cohorts who need it most
- Working with school leaders to set goals or areas of focus for attendance and providing support and challenge
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school and repeatedly evaluating the effectiveness of the school's processes and improvement efforts to make sure they are meeting pupils' needs
- Where the school is struggling with attendance, working with school leaders to develop a comprehensive action plan to improve attendance
- Making sure all staff receive adequate training on attendance as part of the regular continued professional development offer, so that staff understand:
  - The importance of good attendance
  - That absence is almost always a symptom of wider issues
  - The school's legal requirements for keeping registers
  - The school's strategies and procedures for tracking, following up on and improving attendance, including working with partners and keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate
- Making sure dedicated training is provided to staff with a specific attendance function in their role, including in interpreting and analysing attendance data
- Holding the Executive Headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy

#### **4.4 The Executive Headteacher**

The Executive Headteacher is responsible for:

- The implementation of this policy at the school
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to the Local Academy Committee.
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- Requesting that the LA issue a fixed penalty or notice to improve where appropriate.
- Working with the parents/carers of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with SEND, including where school transport is regularly being missed, and where pupils with SEND face in-school barriers
- Communicating with the local authority when a pupil with an education, health and care (EHC) plan has falling attendance, or where there are barriers to attendance that relate to the pupil's needs
- Communicating the school's high expectations for attendance and punctuality regularly to pupils and parents/carers through all available channels
- Sharing information from the school register with the local authority, including:

- Notifying the local authority when a pupil's name is added to or deleted from the school admission register outside of standard transition times
- Providing the local authority with the details of pupils who fail to attend school regularly, or who have been marked with an unauthorised absence for a continuous period of 10 school days
- Providing the local authority with the details of pupils who the school believes will miss 15 days consecutively or cumulatively because of sickness

#### **4.5 The Designated Senior Leader Responsible for Attendance**

The designated senior leader is responsible for:

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

The designated senior leader responsible for attendance is Emma Isaac and can be contacted via the School Office:

**Aylburton Church of England School:**

[admin@aylburton.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@aylburton.gloucs.sch.uk) (01594) 842426

**English Bicknor Church of England School:**

[admin@englishbicknor.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@englishbicknor.gloucs.sch.uk) (01594) 860367

#### **4.6 The Class Teacher**

The Class Teachers are responsible for recording attendance for both morning and afternoon sessions on a daily basis, using the correct codes (see [Appendix 1](#)), and submitting this information to the school office on the same day.

#### **4.7 The School Administrators**

School Administration staff will:

- Take calls from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system

- Transfer calls from parents/carers to the Executive Headteacher where appropriate, in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance
- Check attendance registers have been completed by teaching staff and follow up any unexplained absences by contacting parents/carers.

#### **4.8 Parents**

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

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not
- All those who have parental responsibility for a child or young person
- Those who have day-to-day responsibility for the child (i.e. lives with and looks after them)
- Parents are expected to:
  - Make sure their child attends every day on time
  - Call the school to report their child's absence before 9am on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence, and advise when they are expected to return
  - Provide the school with more than 1 emergency contact number for their child
  - Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day
  - Keep to any attendance contracts that they make with the school and/or local authority
  - Seek support, where necessary, for maintaining good attendance, by contacting the Executive Headteacher, who can be contacted via the School Office:

##### **Aylburton Church of England School:**

[admin@aylburton.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@aylburton.gloucs.sch.uk) (01594) 842426

##### **English Bicknor Church of England School:**

[admin@englishbicknor.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@englishbicknor.gloucs.sch.uk) (01594) 860367

#### **4.9 Pupils**

Pupils are expected to:

- Attend school every day, on time

### **5. Recording Attendance**

#### **5.1 Attendance Register**

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

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

- Present

- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances
- Any amendment to the attendance register will include:
  - The original entry
  - The amended entry
  - The reason for the amendment
  - The date on which the amendment was made
  - The name and position of the person who made the amendment

See [Appendix 1](#) for the DfE attendance codes.

We will also record:

- Whether the absence is authorised or not
- The nature of the activity, where a pupil is attending an approved educational activity
- The nature of circumstances, where a pupil is unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances
- We will keep every entry on the attendance register for 6 years after the date on which the entry was made.

The school day starts at 8.45am and ends at 3.15pm.

Pupils must arrive in school by 8.40am on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 8.45am and will be kept open until 9.15am. The register for the second session will be taken at 1pm and will be kept open until 1.30pm.

## 5.2 Unplanned Absence

The pupil's parent must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9am, or as soon as practically possible, by calling the School Office:

### **Aylburton Church of England School:**

[admin@aylburton.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@aylburton.gloucs.sch.uk) (01594) 842426

### **English Bicknor Church of England School:**

[admin@englishbicknor.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@englishbicknor.gloucs.sch.uk) (01594) 860367

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

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

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

### 5.3 Planned Absence

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

Parents need to request a leave of absence by contacting the School Office:

**Aylburton Church of England School:**

[admin@aylburton.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@aylburton.gloucs.sch.uk) (01594) 842426

**English Bicknor Church of England School:**

[admin@englishbicknor.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@englishbicknor.gloucs.sch.uk) (01594) 860367

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

The pupil's parent must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence. Go to [section 7](#) to find out which term-time absences the school can authorise.

### 5.4 Lateness and Punctuality

A pupil who arrives late:

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

Pupils that arrive at school after the gate closes at 8:45 are required to report to the school office and sign in. This information is monitored by the administrator and a letter is sent to parents/carers if a child is late ten times. Parents/carers are invited to discuss punctuality and lateness with the Headteacher.

### 5.5 Following up Unexplained Absence

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

- Call the pupil's parent on the morning of the first day of unexplained absence to ascertain the reason. If the school cannot reach any of the pupil's emergency contacts, the school may refer to the Education Welfare Officer and/or police.
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not
- Identify the correct attendance code to use and input it as soon as the reason for absence is ascertained – this will be no later than 5 working days after the session(s) for which the pupil was absent
- Call the parent on each day that the absence continues without explanation, to make sure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, the school will consider involving an education welfare officer
- Where relevant, report the unexplained absence to the pupil's youth offending team officer
- Where appropriate, offer support to the pupil and/or their parents to improve attendance
- Identify whether the pupil needs support from wider partners, as quickly as possible, and make the necessary referrals

Where support is not appropriate, not successful, or not engaged with, or the register shows 10 separate late after registration marks over the last 10 weeks the Local Authority may issue a fixed penalty notice. A written warning of this will usually be issued, in the first instance, by the school.

## 5.6 Reporting to Parents

The school will regularly inform parents (see definition of 'parent', as used in this policy, in [section 4.8](#) above) of attendance termly. This will be sent out via email and with pupil's end of year school report in the spring and summer term. Parents may request a copy of their child's attendance report at any time by contacting the school office.

## 6. Part-Time Timetables

Where it is in the pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs. A part-time timetable will only be in place for the shortest time necessary and not be treated as a long-term solution. Any part-time timetables will be formally reviewed on a regular basis with the child and parents/carers.

### 6.1 Flexi-Schooling

Requests for flexi-schooling arrangements are at the discretion of the Executive Headteacher. Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

#### ***If Flexi schooling is agreed (Exceptional circumstances)***

The school will work hard to maintain a smooth transition between education at home and education at school so that the child remains happy, supported and challenged.

If it appears that parent/carers are not providing a suitable education as agreed between the school and the parent, the school may ask the parent to take remedial action. If the parent declines to do so or the school is still concerned about the provision of education at home, the school may withdraw its agreement to the flexi schooling arrangement. The child would then be required to attend at school on a full-time basis.

The school will have a formal written agreement with the parents/carers about the flexi schooling arrangements so that expectations and understandings are clear for both parties.

#### ***Attendance Requirements***

Before flexi-schooling commences an Attendance Agreement will be completed between the school and the parents/carers stating which school days / sessions the child will attend and how absences will be monitored and recorded. These days have to remain the same each week, unless there has been a formal meeting to make changes to the Attendance Agreement. There will be no flexibility to change these days in the event of a school trip / special event at school.

#### ***Review & Right to Withdraw***

Flexi Schooling agreements will be reviewed at least each term, or as required. The school retains the right to withdraw a Flexi-schooling agreement at any time. Further information and guidance can be found on the Gloucestershire County Council Website: [Attendance and absence from school | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

## 7. Authorised and Unauthorised Absence

### 7.1 Approval for Term-Time Absence

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

The Executive Headteacher will only grant a **leave of absence** to a pupil during term time if the request meets the specific circumstances set out in the [2024 school attendance regulations](#). These circumstances are:

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

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

Examples of 'exceptional circumstances' are weddings, or a bereavement. This will be considered on a case by case basis by the Headteacher.

Leave of absence will not be granted for a pupil to take part in protest activity during school hours.

As a leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.

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

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, at least two weeks before the absence, and in accordance with any leave of absence request form, accessible via the School Office. The Executive Headteacher may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

Other valid reasons for **authorised absence** include (but are not limited to):

Illness (including mental-health illness) and medical/dental appointments (see [sections 5.2 and 5.3](#) for more detail)

Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parent(s) belong(s). If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parent's religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart

Parent(s) travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh gypsies, Irish and Scottish travellers, showmen (fairground people) and circus people, bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and new travellers. Absence may be authorised only when a traveller family is known to be travelling for occupational purposes and has agreed this with the school, but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision

If the pupil is currently suspended or excluded from school (and no alternative provision has been made)

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

- Attending an offsite approved educational activity, sporting activity or visit or trip arranged by the school
- Attending another school at which the pupil is also registered (dual registration)
- Attending provision arranged by the local authority
- Attending work experience

If there is any other unavoidable cause for the pupil not to attend school, such as disruption to travel caused by an emergency, a lack of access arrangements, or because the school premises are closed

## 8. Sanctions

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

The school must consider requesting Gloucestershire County Council issue a fine to parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age and the national threshold has been met. Notices to Improve and Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with the Local Authority Penalty Notice Code of Conduct: [Information on all Legal Proceedings](#)

### 8.1 Penalty Notices

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

Before requesting the Local Authority issue a penalty notice, the school will consider the individual case, including:

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

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

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

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

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

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

A penalty notice may also be issued where parents allow their child to be present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification, during the first 5 days of a suspension or exclusion (where the school has notified the parents that the pupil must not be present in a public place on that day). These penalty notices are not included in the National Framework, not subject to the same considerations about support being provided, and do not count towards the limit as part of the escalation process.

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

## 8.2 Notices to Improve

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

Notices to improve will be issued in line with processes set out in the local code of conduct for the local authority area in which the pupil attends school. [Information on all Legal Proceedings](#)

They will include:

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

## 9. Strategies for Promoting Attendance

In order to promote attendance at English Bicknor & Aylburton Church of England schools we:

- Will treat attendance as a priority;
- Promote good attendance at every opportunity – at Parents evenings, at Induction, in newsletters, in worship, on the website, on notice boards etc.
- Always use first day telephone contact;
- Celebrate good and improved attendance;
- Set attendance targets for the school (and for each year group if necessary);
- Keep parents/carers informed of their child's attendance level;

- Make good use of attendance data by specific analysis;
- Share our daily attendance with the DfE;
- Notify the Local Academy Committee at every meeting of attendance levels;
- Notify the Trustees at Board of Trustees meetings;
- Provide a safe, happy, stimulating environment for children where they feel valued and welcomed and that their presence in school is important.

## **10. Supporting Pupils who are Absent or Returning to School**

### **10.1 Pupils Absent due to Complex Barriers to Attendance**

The schools will ensure that each student is supported based on their own individual needs. The staff work with families to support attendance through the pastoral offer. This could be through internal support offered, or work with external agencies. Staff support in the form of regular 'check ins' and parental communications.

The Senior Leadership team liaises with external services including the Early Help, school nurse, TIC, Young Gloucestershire and Gloucester Young Carers ensuring there is a joined up approach to supporting families.

The school will adopt strategies to support individuals with their attendance, these strategies may include the use of part-time timetables in alignment with guidance from the Gloucestershire Inclusion team, transition plans, mentoring, school counselling, School Attendance Meeting, Attendance Improvement meeting, regular parent contact around attendance progress and termly reviews. The school will strive to build relationships with both parents and pupils to identify individual needs and where appropriate refer to external support.

### **10.2 Pupils Absent due to Mental or Physical Ill Health or SEND**

Our ELSA trained councillor and the Senior Leadership team work closely to support individual families putting in bespoke support for their children's individual needs/barriers/mental health.

Where a pupil has an educational health and care (EHC) plan and their attendance falls, or the school becomes aware of barriers to attendance that related to the pupil's needs, the school will inform the local authority.

### **10.3 Pupils Returning to School after a Lengthy or Unavoidable Period of Absence**

Pupils will be offered a range of support when returning to school after a lengthy or unavoidable period of absence. This will be put in place based on the individual needs of the child. Examples of the support which may be offered are:

- Catch-up
- One-to-one daily check ins
- Pastoral sessions
- Phased return to school (see [section 5](#))

## **11. Attendance Monitoring**

### **11.1 Monitoring Attendance**

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

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

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

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

### **11.2 Analysing Attendance**

The school will:

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

### **11.3 Using Data to Improve Attendance**

The school will:

- Develop targeted actions to address patterns of absence (of all severities) of individual pupils, groups or cohorts that it has identified via data analysis
- Provide targeted support to the pupils it has identified whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence, and their families (see [section 11](#))
- Provide regular attendance reports to Class Teachers, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families, and to the Local Academy Committee and school leaders (including special educational needs co-ordinator, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium lead)
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies
- Share information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, local authorities and other partners where a pupil's absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe, including keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate

## 12. Reducing Persistent and Severe Absence

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

The school will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence
- Consider potential safeguarding issues and, where suspected or present, address them in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Hold regular meetings with the parents of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable or at risk of persistent or severe absence, or who are persistently or severely absent, to:
- Discuss attendance and engagement at school
- Listen, and understand barriers to attendance
- Explain the help that is available
- Explain the potential consequences of, and sanctions for, persistent and severe absence
- Review any existing actions or interventions
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance, in conjunction with the local authority, where relevant
- Consider alternative support that could be put in place to remove any barriers to attendance and re-engage these pupils. In doing so, the school will sensitively consider some of the reasons for absence
- Implement sanctions, where necessary (see [section 8](#), above)

## 13. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority and/or DfE is updated, and as a minimum annually by the Executive Headteacher. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Local Academy Committee.

## 14. Links with Other Policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy
- SEND policy
- EYFS policy

**This policy is available on the school's websites:**

[www.aylburtoncofe.co.uk/policies](http://www.aylburtoncofe.co.uk/policies)      [Policies | English Bicknor C of E Primary School](#)

*Paper copies are available on request from the School Office, appendices overleaf*

## Appendix 1: Attendance codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's [guidance on school attendance](#).

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

|                                                                      |                                             |                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>M</b>                                                             | Medical/dental appointment                  | Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment                                                                                        |
| <b>J1</b>                                                            | Interview                                   | Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment                                                       |
| <b>S</b>                                                             | Study leave                                 | Pupil has been granted leave of absence to study for a public examination                                                          |
| <b>X</b>                                                             | Not required to be in school                | Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend                                                                       |
| <b>C2</b>                                                            | Part-time timetable                         | Pupil is not in school due to having a part-time timetable                                                                         |
| <b>C</b>                                                             | Exceptional circumstances                   | Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances                                                         |
| <b>Absent – other authorised reasons</b>                             |                                             |                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>T</b>                                                             | Parent travelling for occupational purposes | Pupil is a 'mobile child' who is travelling with their parent(s) who are travelling for occupational purposes                      |
| <b>R</b>                                                             | Religious observance                        | Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance                                                                              |
| <b>I</b>                                                             | Illness (not medical or dental appointment) | Pupil is unable to attend due to illness (either related to physical or mental health)                                             |
| <b>E</b>                                                             | Suspended or excluded                       | Pupil has been suspended or excluded from school and no alternative provision has been made                                        |
| <b>Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause</b> |                                             |                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Q</b>                                                             | Lack of access arrangements                 | Pupil is unable to attend school because the local authority has failed to make access arrangements to enable attendance at school |

|                                      |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Y1</b>                            | Transport not available                  | Pupil is unable to attend because school is not within walking distance of their home and the transport normally provided is not available                                           |
| <b>Y2</b>                            | Widespread disruption to travel          | Pupil is unable to attend because of widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national or international emergency                                                          |
| <b>Y3</b>                            | Part of school premises closed           | Pupil is unable to attend because they cannot practicably be accommodated in the part of the premises that remains open                                                              |
| <b>Y4</b>                            | Whole school site unexpectedly closed    | Every pupil absent as the school is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to adverse weather)                                                                                                |
| <b>Y5</b>                            | Criminal justice detention               | Pupil is unable to attend as they are:<br><br>In police detention<br><br>Remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or<br><br>Detained under a sentence of detention |
| <b>Y6</b>                            | Public health guidance or law            | Pupil's travel to or attendance at the school would be prohibited under public health guidance or law                                                                                |
| <b>Y7</b>                            | Any other unavoidable cause              | To be used where an unavoidable cause is not covered by the other codes                                                                                                              |
| <b>Absent – unauthorised absence</b> |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>G</b>                             | Holiday not granted by the school        | Pupil is absent for the purpose of a holiday, not approved by the school                                                                                                             |
| <b>N</b>                             | Reason for absence not yet established   | Reason for absence has not been established before the register closes                                                                                                               |
| <b>O</b>                             | Absent in other or unknown circumstances | No reason for absence has been established, or the school isn't satisfied that the reason given would be recorded using one of the codes for authorised absence                      |

|                             |                                             |                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>U</b>                    | Arrived in school after registration closed | Pupil has arrived late, after the register has closed but before the end of session    |
| <b>Administrative codes</b> |                                             |                                                                                        |
| <b>Z</b>                    | Prospective pupil not on admission register | Pupil has not joined school yet but has been registered                                |
| <b>#</b>                    | Planned whole-school closure                | Whole-school closures that are known and planned in advance, including school holidays |