

Attendance Strategy – Parent/Carer Summary

Yardley Wood Community Primary School expects all pupils to attend school regularly and supports parents/carers and children to achieve this. The school has adopted the Five Foundations of Effective Attendance Practice framework: a staged approach to managing pupil attendance. The aim of the Five Foundations strategy is to ensure children do not become persistent absentees and parents/carers are supported to prevent this.

Any absence (including authorised absence) from school is an absence; if a child has 19 school days absence (10% of the academic year) in one academic year, they are considered a persistent absentee. Good attendance and punctuality is vital to a child's success in education.

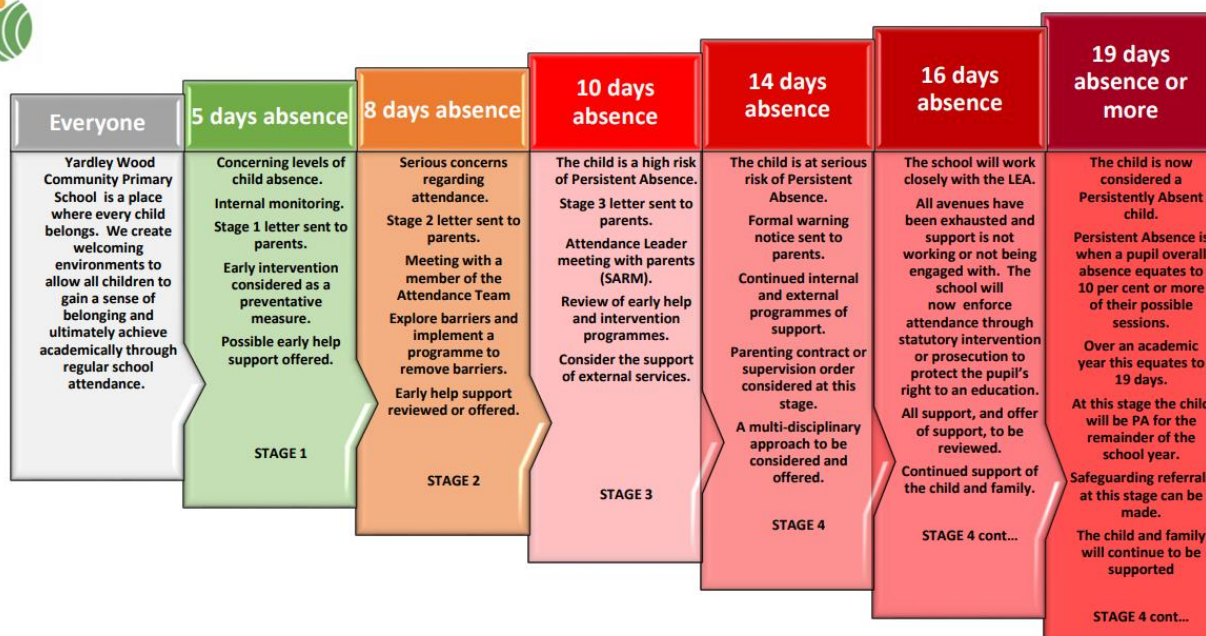
The stages to managing attendance

Stage 1 – A stage 1 letter is sent when a pupil has had 5 days absence in the year advising parents/carers of the concern surrounding their child's attendance.

Stage 2 – A stage 2 letter is sent home when a pupil's attendance continues to decline and a pupil has had 8 days of absence. Parents/carers are invited to attend a meeting with a member of the Pastoral Team to explore reasons for absence and to support the improvement of the pupil's attendance.

Stage 3 – When a pupil has had 10 days absence in a school year, a stage 3 letter is sent home inviting parents/carers in for an Attendance Review Meeting with the Attendance Lead. At this stage a pupil is considered to be high risk of becoming a persistent absentee.

Stage 4 – After 14 days absence the school will work closely with the Local Authority to ensure all avenues of support are offered to parents/carers and pupils. The Local Authority's attendance process (Fast Track) may be used at this point.



There is support available for parents/carers and pupils who experience poor attendance.

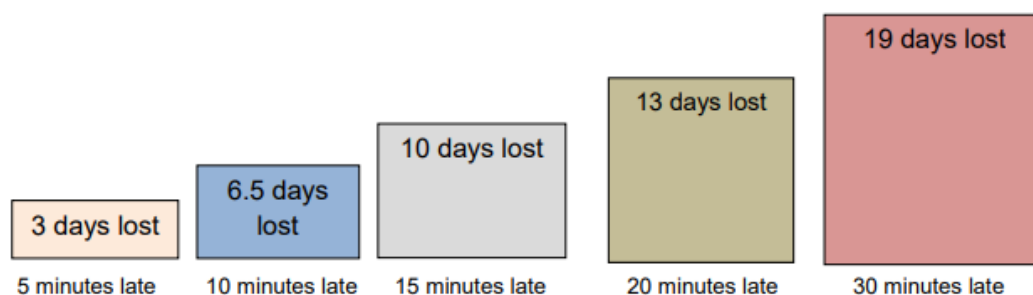
This support might take the form of:

- Pastoral meetings
- Telephone calls
- 1:1 meetings with pupils
- Referrals to external support agencies

Why attendance and punctuality is important

Good school attendance promotes good outcomes for children. Pupils who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and make less progress than their peers. Good attendance also shows secondary schools that a pupil is reliable. Research suggests that students who attend school regularly could also be at less risk of getting involved in antisocial behaviour or crime.

It is also important to arrive at school on time. If a child arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school every day over a school year adds up to lost learning time over one academic year.



Rewards

There are rewards for pupils whose attendance is good. These include:

- Hollywood and hotdogs afternoons for classes achieving over 93% each week
- A half-termly raffle for pupils achieving over 96% attendance for a toy voucher
- 100% attenders (having attended school for 100% the previous week) for the top 3 classes, each week are entered into a prize raffle.

Attendance Staff in school

Miss Blackwood – Attendance Lead

Mrs Marshall – Attendance Officer

Miss Ford & Miss Jakeways – Pastoral Team