

Allerton Grange School

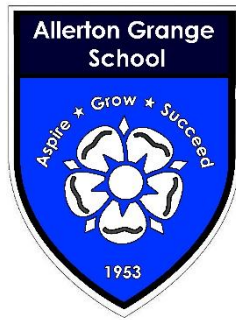
Attendance and Punctuality Policy

Designated Lead: Sarah Whittingham, Assistant Headteacher

Updated January 2025

Review cycle: 1 year

Next review: November 2025



Aspire, Grow, Succeed

At Allerton Grange we are committed to:

- Working together to achieve our full potential
- Celebrating our diverse school community and fostering tolerance and respect for all
- Developing active citizens within the school community and beyond
- Developing confident, creative and independent learners

1. Legislation and guidance

Good attendance at school is a prerequisite to pupils' attainment, wellbeing and wider development. The pupils with the highest attainment have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment

This policy meets the requirements of the school attendance guidance Working together to improve Attendance from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on school attendance parental responsibility measures. These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education Act 2002
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022

This policy also refers to the DfE's guidance on the school census, which explains the persistent absence threshold and is linked to our child protection and safe-guarding policy.

2. Rationale

- To ensure that every student succeeds whilst at school
- To ensure that every student has access to the widest possible range of opportunities when they leave school
- To ensure that every student has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- To ensure that every student uses every school day to gain knowledge and understanding
- To promote students' welfare and safeguarding
- In order to achieve those goals, it is the view of school that it is essential that students are not absent from school.

2.1. There are 195 statutory school days per year and there are then 170 other days available for holidays which would not have a negative effect on a student's education.

2.2. School is of the view that taking a student on holiday in term time inevitably conveys to the student the unspoken message that school is not important.

3. Categorisation of Absence

3.1. When a student is absent from school, the law categorises that as either 'authorised' or 'unauthorised'.

- 3.2. The law states that it is for the school to determine into which category any absence fits, it is for the school to decide whether any absence is 'authorised' or 'unauthorised'.

4. The Need for Parental Explanation

- 4.1. All absences must be explained in communication by a parent or carer. However, this in itself does not automatically authorise the absence. Where a parent/carer anticipates in advance that his or her child will be absent then as much advance notice as possible should be given.
- 4.2. It is for the school to decide whether or not to accept the explanation offered. You may be maybe asked to provide evidence of a doctor's visit (e.g.appointment card or prescription). Absences for students with attendance below 90% will automatically be unauthorised without medical evidence.
- 4.3. Attendance below 90% is classed as persistantly absent by the Department of Education and will trigger intervention by the school attendance team and if necessary further intervention from the Local Authority Attendance Improvement Team.
- 4.4. The school will identify children missing education and work to get these children back into education

5. Authorised Absence

- Examples of the type of absences which may be authorised:
- Sickness
- Unavoidable medical/dental appointments (although these should be made wherever possible out of school hours.)
- Religious observance (maximum 2 days per school year)
- Exceptional family circumstances (at the discretion of the school)

6. Unauthorised Absence

- Examples of the type of absences which will not be authorised are:
- Shopping
- Looking after/translating for family members
- Birthdays

7. Holidays during term time

- 7.1. Parents and carers are reminded that they do not have any right or entitlement to take their child out of school for holidays.

- 7.2. The law states that even if a written application is submitted as required, authorised leave for holidays will only be granted if school considers that there are special circumstances.
- 7.3. It is up to school to decide what amounts to special circumstances.
- 7.4. In considering whether there are special circumstances, school will look at each case upon its own individual merits.
- 7.5. In order for school to properly consider an application, it should be made to the head in writing as soon as possible, preferably at least two weeks before the start of the proposed period of absence detailing details and reasons for absence. Retrospective requests will not be authorised.
- 7.6. Examples of circumstances which by themselves are very unlikely to be considered as special and thus leading to a grant of permission include:
 - To fit in with parental working patterns;
 - Economic reasons, such as cheap flights and/or accommodation;
 - To overlap with beginning or end of term;
 - To overlap days either side of a day of religious observance.
- 7.7. If a student has requested a holiday during term time which has been refused and the holiday is still taken (for 5 days or more), a Fixed Penalty Warning Notice will be issued by Children's Services, Leeds which could lead to a fine or further prosecution.

8. Punctuality

- 8.1. Students should be in the building at 8.25 am every day and in their form ready to learn by 8.30 am. If they are late, the time will be recorded and parents will be notified by text. Parents should always notified the Attendance Team via a note in their planner if they know their child is going to be late that morning because of appointments or transport problems and a late authorisation card may be issued. Students arriving late to school without prior authorisation they will be issued with a social time detention to be served the same day.

9. Deletions from the Admissions Register

- 9.1. Parents and carers are reminded that the law states that in certain prescribed circumstances, unauthorised absence from school shall result in the removal of the child's name from the school register.

10. Legal Interventions

- 10.1. New regulations announced by the Department for Education in August 2024 have standardised the use of fines for unauthorised absences. Parents will face increased fines if their child misses five days of school without permission. The fines have been raised from £60.00 to £80.00 if paid within 21 days, and from £120.00 to £160.00 if paid within 28 days.

Revised and Ratified by Governors

October 2024

Attendance and Punctuality

% Attendance	Days absent	Potential risk
97-100%	0-6	You will reach your full potential
95-96.9%	7-9	Risk of Underachievement
93-94.9%	10-13	Serious Risk of Underachievement
90-92.9%	14-19	Severe Risk of Underachievement Research suggest that 17 days absence over a school year causes the loss of one GCSE grade.
Less than 90%	20+	Extreme Risk of Underachievement Risk of Court Action 90% attendance is equivalent to missing four weeks. 90% attendance is equivalent to missing one half-day every week. Continued 90% attendance over five years in school is the equivalent to missing one half of a school year.

ALLERTON GRANGE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES FLOW CHART

Parents/carers have the legal responsibility to ensure their child's good attendance and we will ensure that we work together with other professional and agencies that all pupils are encouraged and supported to develop good attendance habits. The procedures below are following to ensure this happens. Attendance is monitored weekly by the Attendance Team overseen by the Assistant Head Teacher for Attendance

