



Chapel End Infant School & Early Years Centre

Attendance Policy



Policy updated: February 2019
To be reviewed: February 2020

Signed: _____ Headteacher

Signed: _____ Chair of Governors

Aims of Chapel End Infant School & Early Years Centre

"Caring, sharing, trying our best"

At Chapel End Infant School & Early Years Centre we aim to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment, which offers opportunities:-

- For access to a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes the fulfilment of each child's academic, creative and physical potential and fosters their social, moral and spiritual values.
- For everyone within the school to have a sense of wonder, an enthusiasm for learning and help children to develop as independent thinkers and learners with enquiring minds.
- For children to learn to be organized, confident and persistent individuals and to develop a respect and understanding for others.
- For the development of positive relationships between all members of the school community to support and enhance children's learning.

Equal opportunities

At Chapel End Infant School & Early Years Centre school we believe that every child is entitled to equal access to the curriculum, regardless of race, gender, class or disability.

Inclusion

We are committed to promoting learning and teaching environments for all, which embraces the values of inclusive educational practices.

Through a child-centred approach, we aim to ensure that education is accessible and relevant to all our learners. At Chapel End Infant School & Early Years Centre we respect each other and celebrate diversity and difference.

At Chapel End, we believe that punctuality and good attendance are essential for all children to ensure that they can benefit from their education and reach their full potential, both academically and socially. We want to work with parents to ensure that all children achieve maximum possible attendance and that any problems preventing full attendance are identified and acted upon as soon as possible.

The Government expects schools to reduce absence and to ensure that every child has access to full-time education. The Governing Body of Chapel End Infant School & Early Years Centre has responsibility for ensuring that this expectation is met and for monitoring the effectiveness of our attendance policy and practice.

Parents and carers of children of compulsory school age have a legal duty to ensure that their children attend school regularly and on time. Parents and carers are also responsible for informing the school of any absence as soon as possible, preferably on the first day of the absence. This can be done by telephoning the school, personal contact or by note or letter. If a child does not arrive at school by 9:30 and no absence message has been received, the parent or carer will be contacted to find out why the child is not in school.

It is important for children to arrive at school on time so that they are involved in the settling in process that prepares them for the day ahead.

Our registers are taken at 9.00am and 1.15pm. The registers close 30 minutes from the start of the school day.

- Parents arriving with their children to school after 9.00am will have to enter the school via the school office in Beresford Road, or in the case of Reception children the Early Years Centre (EYC) office, where they will be met by office staff and asked for an explanation as to why they are late. A late code will be recorded on the register. If you have children in a year 1 or year 2 class and a Reception class, a 5 minute allowance is made before recording a child as late in Reception. The Reception classes build this into the organisation of the day so parents and carers should deliver children to the infant school site first.
- If children arrive in school after 9.30am they must enter via the school office in Beresford Road or the EYC office area if child's classroom is based there. The register will record an absence for the session. This will mean that although the child is in school they will miss their registration mark for that session. This will affect their overall attendance percentage.

The Attendance Officer is responsible for monitoring attendance and punctuality and for notifying parents and carers when attendance falls below expected levels or when a child is late more than 5 times in a half term without good reason.

Absences are recorded as authorised or unauthorised. An unauthorised absence can be where no communication from home has been received or if a child is absent for unacceptable reasons such as a shopping trip, going to the hairdresser, visiting family or friends etc.

An authorised absence means that the school has given approval in advance for a child to be away or has accepted an explanation offered afterwards as justification for the absence.

The school is required to record a reason for all absences through the use of DfE attendance codes. A letter will be sent to all parents of children with an absence for which the school has not been given a reason. For Nursery children absences will be followed up verbally in the first instance.

Parents and carers are asked to do everything they can to avoid taking their children out of school in term time and requests for absence will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. The Governors of Chapel End Infant School have agreed that the Headteacher can authorise a maximum of five days absence in an academic year for exceptional circumstances. Examples of when absences may be authorised are illness, medical and dental appointments, family bereavements or religious observance. The Headteacher will consider the following when deciding whether to authorise an absence:

- The reason for the absence
- The length of absence requested
- What the child will miss during their absence
- The child's current attendance level

Each request will be treated individually. Absence will not be authorised if a child's attendance is below 95%. Absence requests for days immediately before and after a school holiday will not be authorised.

Parents and carers who take unauthorised absence or who have made a request that has not been authorised and take their child out of school anyway, are likely to be referred to the **Behaviour, Attendance and Children Missing Education (BACME)** Service and may be served with a fixed penalty notice.

REMEMBER

- A year has 365 days, 52 weeks and 12 months
- A school year has 195 days, 39 weeks and six half terms
- Five days in each school year are training days for teachers (INSET days)
- Pupils attend school therefore for 190 days
- A school day is divided into two sessions. A pupil therefore should attend for 380 sessions

REMINDER

- 1 day off = 99.5% attendance
- 10 days off = 94.7% attendance
- 20 days off = 90% attendance (4 whole weeks off school)

Appendix 1 Chapel End Attendance Monitoring Procedures

Everyone is responsible for ensuring the best attendance possible for every child. It is essential that good communication between teachers, the office and senior leaders exist so that parents are encouraged to ensure that their children attend school regularly. The school must work towards attendance figure of more than 95%

Attendance %	Action	Led by	Time
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Attendance Officer (AO) will monitor the attendance of children and discuss concerns with parents/carers in the first instance. Teachers should speak to Attendance Officer about any concerns about a child's attendance 	Attendance Officer (AO)	Daily as necessary
Absence in term time	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Absence authorized in exceptional circumstances only Parents must make applications in writing to the Headteacher Headteacher will respond indicating concerns and highlighting potential for fine. Letter in file. On children's return, decision made whether to process fixed penalty fine. Letter in file. 	HT	As necessary
Illness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Calls made to absent children's parents after 9:30 each day. Absence due to illness monitored and discussions about attendance levels and possible support services Refer to necessary service/professional 	AO HT	Daily Weekly
100% termly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 100% Attendance Certificate awarded termly 	AO HT	Termly
98%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Good Attendance Certificate awarded termly 	AO	Termly
91-95%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Send letter to parent/carers sharing concern Call home where unexplained absences If children are away and causing concern, Behaviour, Attendance and Children Missing Education (BACME) informed and other services as appropriate 	AO DHT	Half-termly
85-90%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Send letter to parent/carer sharing concern Parent/carer invited to meet with AO or DHT to discuss importance of regular attendance and suggest support strategies which may include CAF AO to monitor and keep DHT updated If no improvement referral to BACME or other appropriate services 	AO DHT	Half-termly
Less than 85% attendance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting between parent/carers, DHT and AO Identify issues and refer to appropriate agencies Refer to BACME 	AO DHT	Weekly
Lateness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Five or more late arrivals in half a term – letter sent to parent/carer Regular lateness to be reported to DHT to investigate 	AO	Daily

Appendix 2

Record of Procedures for Persistent Absenteeism

name:							
date:	SEN	CP	CIN	LAC	EHCP	CAF	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check attendance register for patterns of persistent absence and discuss with Class Teacher. 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite parent/carer to meet with DHT/AHT (record information on pre-CAF) 	Next meeting:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss case at attendance meeting 	Decisions:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review (6 weeks from date of parent meeting) 	Impact of intervention:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further action 							

Attendance meeting notes:

Date:

Attending:

Monitoring period: