



Northern Lights
LEARNING TRUST

Northern Lights Learning Trust

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Reviewed:	Summer 2024
Next Review Date:	Summer 2025
Person in Charge:	CEO
Governance:	Chair of Board and LGB

The quality of relationships between all members of school staff and pupils, and the relationship with parents and carers is the area that is most commonly associated with the ethos of the schools in our Trust. It is expressed in the terms of sharing and caring.

In the Church schools in our Trust, we follow the teachings of

Matthew 22:39 'Love your neighbour as yourself'

John 15:17 'This is my commandment: love each other'.

In the none Church schools in our Trust we follow the spiritual ethos of treating others as we would ask to be treated and to care for others with kindness.

In our schools we believe every pupil is an individual who is valued for who they are. We have a series of overlapping networks of relationships, which includes governors, staff, children, parents, church members, and members of the community which the school seeks to serve. Our pastoral work will strive to meet the significant challenge to create and maintain such networks, including in our Church schools in ways which reflect the Gospel. Those who are in leadership roles, which includes all who have a particular responsibility, ensure that by their personal example they set the highest standards expected.

It is from this premise that both Christian and spiritual love will pervade all aspects of life at Northern Lights Learning Trust. It will influence how we reward and teach discipline. It will affect how we value work and the achievements of pupils and staff. It will be seen in the way in which the school environments are created and cared for, in the way in which the needs of pupils, parents, and community are met, and in the way in which teaching and non-teaching staff work together effectively as a team.

Pastoral care pervades all aspects of school life and therefore will be reflected in the way the schools are organised and the policies are written and implemented.

Attendance Policy

Northern Lights and all academies that are part of the Trust are committed to meeting our obligation with regards to school attendance through our whole-school culture and ethos. We fully believe that good attendance is central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential and, we have a culture of ‘attendance is everyone’s business’. Pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both Primary and Secondary school. For these reasons, the Trust will proactively work in partnership with all parents/carers to promote and secure good attendance and overcome any barriers through proactive, strong partnership working and a supportive environment.

AIMS

As a Trust, we aim to:

- Promote good attendance
- Reduce absence, including persistent and severe absence
- Ensure every pupil has access to full-time education, which they are entitled to
- Act early to address patterns of absence and support families in any barriers that are identified
- Ensure all pupils are punctual to lessons
- Build strong and trusting relationships with families and ensure support is given if needed

Attendance is categorised below



Attendance

2024/2025

At St. Peter's we are committed to the best attendance each pupil is able to achieve. We all work to the Northern Lights way of doing our best to be in every day.

	%	AUTUMN	AUTUMN & SPRING	AUTUMN, SPRING & SUMMER	IMPACT ON LEARNING
BLUE	98 - 100%	up to 1 day missed	up to 2.5 days missed	up to 3.5 days missed	Minimum impact on learning
GREEN	96 - 97%	up to 2.5 days missed	up to 5 days missed	up to 7.5 days missed	Some impact on learning
YELLOW	90 - 95%	up to 7 days missed	up to 13.5 days missed	up to 19 days missed	Impact on learning. Aim to improve with our support
AMBER	80 - 89%	up to 14 days missed	up to 27 days missed	up to 38 days missed	Impact on learning. Attendance needs to improve. School are here to support.
RED	79% & Below	up to 14.5+ days missed	up to 27.5+ days missed	up to 38.5+ days missed	Significant impact on learning. Attendance must improve. School support provided.

The above table shows days missed within each band. This links our attendance approach. The amount of days that are missed will vary depending on the term in the academic year.






Working together to improve attendance

LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This policy meets the requirements of the [working together to improve school 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:

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 \(and 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016 amendments\)](#)

[The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

[KCSIE \(2024\)](#)

This policy also refers to the DfE's guidance on the school census, which explains the persistent absence threshold.

The Education Act 1996 places a legal obligation on the Local Authority to provide education suitable to a child's age, aptitude and ability and to any special educational needs they may have. Section 444 states that:

“The parent/carer of a child of compulsory school age registered at school and failing to attend regularly is guilty of an offence punishable by law”.

We recognise and fully support that every pupil has a right to a full-time education and high attendance expectations will be set for all pupils. However, our policy and procedures account for specific needs of pupils and pupil cohorts. Our policy is applied fairly and consistently and we will always consider individual needs of pupils and their families who have specific barriers to attendance. We have considered our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trust delegates responsibility for managing school attendance to the Local Governing Body. The Trust board will monitor attendance and provide challenge and support as required.

- Promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos
- Making sure school leaders fulfill expectations and statutory duties
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school and across the Trust
- Making sure staff receive adequate training on attendance
- Holding the Headteacher/Head of School to account for the implementation of this policy

Northern Lights supports their responsibility by having an identified person to oversee attendance on a strategic level across the Trust schools - (Director of Inclusion). Each school also has an identified Governor that supports the monitoring of attendance across the individual school.

At St Peter's Elwick Church of England Primary School, we recognise that improving school attendance is a school leadership issue and therefore we have a designated senior leader (Sara McLaren) with overall responsibility for championing and improving attendance. We fully understand that absence is a symptom and that improving pupil's attendance is part of improving a pupil's overall welfare. We will achieve this by:

- Prioritising attendance in strategies on attainment, behaviour, bullying, special educational needs support and supporting pupils with medical conditions or disabilities
- Prioritising potential safeguarding and escalating these concerns swiftly following all safeguarding procedures

The **Head of School** is responsible for:

- Implementation of this policy at school level
- Monitoring school-level absence data, inclusive of ensuring next steps and plans are implemented to improve attendance and reporting it to governors
- Benchmarking attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils and identified next steps
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- Working with education attendance officers to tackle persistent absence
- Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary and appropriate
- Working in partnership with external agencies to improve attendance
- Securing and promoting strong, trusting relationships with parents/carers by identifying barriers and removing where possible

The **designated attendance lead** within each school is responsible for:

- Leading attendance across the school
- Offering a clear vision for attendance improvement
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Monitoring and analysing attendance data and providing support for next steps
- Providing professional development/training for all staff linked to 'attendance is everyone's responsibility'
- Providing regular attendance reports to school staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the Head of School
- Having an oversight of data analysis and forensically analysing for patterns etc. to make improvements and demonstrating impact
- Devising specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data
- Arranging calls and meetings with parents to discuss attendance issues sharing clear plans and strategies to secure improvements
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families
- Liaising with the Local Authority and additional multi-agencies where necessary

The designated attendance lead at St Peter's Elwick CofE Primary is Sara McLaren and can be contacted via 01429274904 or info.elwick@nllt.co.uk

The **class teacher** is responsible for:

- Recording attendance on a daily basis
- Using the correct codes, and submitting this information on the school system – Scholarpack - every morning and afternoon after registration
- Supporting the whole school and attendance champion in raising the profile of attendance, working in partnership with parents/carers and being proactive if patterns etc. are noticed by liaising with attendance champion
- Building positive, trusting relationships with parents/carers and pupils

School **office staff** are responsible for:

- Taking calls from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it accurately on the school system
- Recording absence messages left on the school automated service every day
- Transferring calls from parents/carers to relevant personnel in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance
- Following the First Day Response procedures in a timely manner

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Ensure their child/children attend school regularly and punctually fulfilling their legal responsibility
- Ensure that they contact the school by telephoning 01429 274904 by 9.15 on the day of absence and each subsequent day of absence, advising 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
- Contact school with any problems or concerns, which may affect their child's attendance. Thus, allowing school to support and work in partnership
- To attend any meetings arranged in school to support and improve attendance/punctuality
- To update contact details i.e. change in telephone numbers, address, contacts

Pupils are expected to:

- Attend school every day on time
- Be ready for learning
- Inform a member of staff of any problem or reason that may prevent them for attending school

RECORDING ATTENDANCE

Across all schools, a 'First Day Response' procedure will be implemented. This will follow the outlined procedure below:

1. If any child is not registered as present after the beginning of the school day (9.15) a list will be made
2. Staff will listen to any voice recording messages left on the school telephone
3. A visual check in school will be carried out in case register codes have been submitted in error
4. Phone call made to parents/carers to confirm reason of absence and to discuss procedures and provide support for families if needed
5. If no contact is made following the phone call, a message should be recorded on MIS system around no contact.
6. The school will decide if other emergency contacts are to be contacted in order to ascertain reason for absence and safeguarding of child/children
7. If there is still no contact or reason given then the individual school in most cases will carry out a home visit and liaise with other stakeholders if involved.
8. If at any point an individual school has any concerns around the absence then they should follow their safeguarding procedures.

Attendance register

Each school will keep an attendance register, and place all pupils onto this register. Attendance registers will be taken at the start of each school day 8.45 and the start of the afternoon session 1.15 once during the second session.

An electronic registration system is used (Scholarpack) in each class. Pupils are marked as being present using the following code: / (am) \ (pm).

Should a pupil arrive late, but before the register closes, the following code is used. – L. It is important that pupils arrive in school on time, ready to start the school day, minimising disruption in class, when lessons have started and also alleviating stress/embarrassment to the pupil.

If a pupil arrives in school after the close of registration, the relevant absence code is marked.

Registration closes across all Northern Lights Academy schools 30 minutes after the start of the school day. For St Peter's Elwick CofE Primary, this will be 9.15. Any pupil arriving after the close of registration will be marked as a U code – (unauthorised).

(DfE Attendance Codes can be detailed in Appendix 1)

Any amendment to the attendance register will include:

- 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.

Attendance will also be recorded via the DfE portal as statutorily required.

We will also record for pupils of compulsory school age whether the absence is authorised or not. The nature of the activity if a pupil is attending an approved educational activity and 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.

Attendance will also be recorded via the DfE portal as statutorily required.

UNPLANNED ABSENCE

Each school will mark absence due to illness as authorised unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness. If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, the school may ask the pupil's parent/carer to provide 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/carers will be notified of this in advance. The school will also not authorise the absence if the pupil is subject to an attendance plan and medical evidence is required as part of the plan. (Parents/carers will already be aware of this when a plan is put in place).

Following up unexplained absence

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

As explained above the school will first follow – 'First Day Response' procedures. However, if the school cannot reach any of the pupil's emergency contacts, the school may make a home visit, involve an external Local Authority attendance officer or involve other agencies such as social care/police

The school will also:

- 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 absence
- Call the parent/carer on each day that the absence continues without explanation to ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary.

PLANNED ABSENCE

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

We ask parents/carers to notify school in advance of the appointment by telephone or informing the main school office in person. Parents/carers must bring copies of appointment cards where possible.

However, we encourage parents/carers 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.

AUTHORISED AND UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

Granting leaves of absence

At St Peter's Elwick CofE Primary School we will grant leave of absence when a pupil needs to be absent from school with permission following the DfE guidance of Working Together to Improve Attendance 2024. We will restrict leaves of absence to the specific circumstances set out in regulation 11 of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. These circumstances are:

- **Taking part in a regulated performance or employment abroad:** in line with a licence issued by a local authority or Justice of the Peace or a body of persons approval (BOPA). (For full details please see code C1)
- **Attending an interview:** for entry into another educational institution or for future employment where requested in advance by a parent the pupil normally lives with
- **Study leave:** for public examinations, as agreed in advance with a parent the pupil normally lives with. Please note this does not include any internal examinations such as mocks as study leave should not be granted in such cases.
- **A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable:** where the pupil is of compulsory school age, both the parent who the pupil normally lives with and school agree the pupil should temporarily be educated on a part-time basis for exceptional reasons and have agreed the times and dates when the pupil will be expected to attend school as part of that timetable.

Exceptional Circumstances

The Head of School will only grant other leave of absence to a pupil during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. It is important to note that Changes have been made to the Attendance regulations in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations. These changes make it clear that Headteachers/Head of School may not grant any other leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

A leave of absence is granted at the Head of School discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for. Each application will be considered individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.

Northern Lights Learning Trust define 'exceptional circumstances' as 'unusual' or 'rare' and each request will be considered individually, taking in to account the specific facts, circumstances and context behind the request.

Exceptional Circumstances could include:

1. Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
2. Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue
3. When a family needs to spend time together to support each other during a terminal illness or death of a family member (compassionate grounds).

Evidence would be required.

Circumstances that are NOT considered exceptional include:

1. Parents' employment restrictions
2. Visiting family and friends who have different school holidays
3. Availability of cheap holidays and cheap travel arrangements
4. Celebrations of birthdays etc.

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 which can be obtained via

the school office. **PLEASE NOTE:** The Head of School may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

The absence request will then be processed and a decision letter will be sent out. Any absence, which has not been agreed in advance by the Head of School, is marked as unauthorised absence.

LEGAL SANCTIONS

Northern Lights Learning Trust are committed to supporting all our families in overcoming any barriers to attendance. Where this is not successful, or is not engaged with, and/or are not appropriate (e.g. an unauthorised holiday in term time) the individual school or local authority can fine parents/carers via a penalty notice for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age. The law protects pupils' right to education and provides a range of legal interventions to formalise attendance improvement.

A penalty notice can be issued to parents/carers as an alternative to prosecution where they have failed to ensure that their child of compulsory school age regularly attends school or, in certain cases, at a place where alternative provision is provided. A penalty notice can be issued to each parent/carer liable for the offence or offences.

At Northern Lights we fully understand that Penalty notices must be issued in line with the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended and can only be issued by a headteacher or someone authorised by them, a local authority officer or the police. They must also be issued in line with Local Codes of Conduct which are drawn up and maintained by each local authority.

- 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.
- A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 and is payable within 28 days.

Important Legal Information – New from 19th August 2024

The Government has introduced a single National threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England. This threshold is **10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days)** of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The period of 10 school weeks can span different terms or school years.

WHEN MAY A PENALTY NOTICE FOR ABSENCE BE APPROPRIATE?

When a school becomes aware that the National threshold has been met, they must consider whether a Penalty Notice can and should be issued or not. The National threshold has been met when:

- A pupil has been recorded as absent for **10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days)** within 10 school weeks, with one of, or a combination of the following codes
- **Code G** (the pupil is absent without authorisation for the purpose of leave in term time)
- **Code O** (none of the other rows of Table 3 in regulation 10(3) of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 applies) and
- **Code U** (the pupil attended after the taking of the register ended but before the end of the session, where no other code applies)

The Local Code of Conduct for Issuing Penalty Notices for School Absence from Hartlepool Borough Council can be found on the attendance page on our school website.

Northern Lights Learning Trust will support the individual schools in their decisions if the following have been taken into account:

- Documented proactive, early support has been in place and no improvements have been made
- Pupil attendance is below the 90% threshold and attendance support procedures are already in place such as an attendance contract, Fast Track, etc.
- The number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year is concerning and impacting on the pupil's education
- One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission are re-occurring
- Where an excluded pupil is found in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason

STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING ATTENDANCE

At St. Peter's Elwick CofE Primary School, we promote good attendance through our In to Win awards each term. Pupils who have attended each day for the whole week will be given a ticket from their class teacher each Friday to place in the special box before the start of Celebration and Worship. These are promoted by the Junior Leadership Team and at the end of each term, a winner is drawn from all tickets. We work closely with our families and support attendance with bespoke strategies where needed. Clear expectations about school attendance are communicated to all parents of children starting St. Peter's for the first time.

ATTENDANCE MONITORING

SLT work closely with the Office Manager to analyse attendance and absence data weekly to identify pupils or cohorts that require support with their attendance and pupils who are in danger of becoming a persistent absence so that early intervention can be put in place. We are fortunate as a small school to know our pupils and families well which means we can offer bespoke support to improve attendance where needed.

Monitoring attendance

All schools within Northern Lights Learning Trust will report and record their data through the DfE attendance portal.

The school will:

- Monitor attendance and absence regularly to enable a proactive approach to improvements in attendance. (Analysis and monitoring of data, weekly, half-termly, termly and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil level)
- Identify whether or not there are particular groups of children whose absences may be a cause for concern

Pupil-level absence 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 compare attendance data to the national average, and share this with the local governing body and the board of Trustees.

Analysing attendance

The school will:

- Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify pupils or cohorts that need additional support with their attendance, and use this analysis to provide targeted support to these pupils and their families in line with procedures and the staged approach
- Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns.

Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

- Provide regular attendance reports to class teachers, and other school leaders, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies

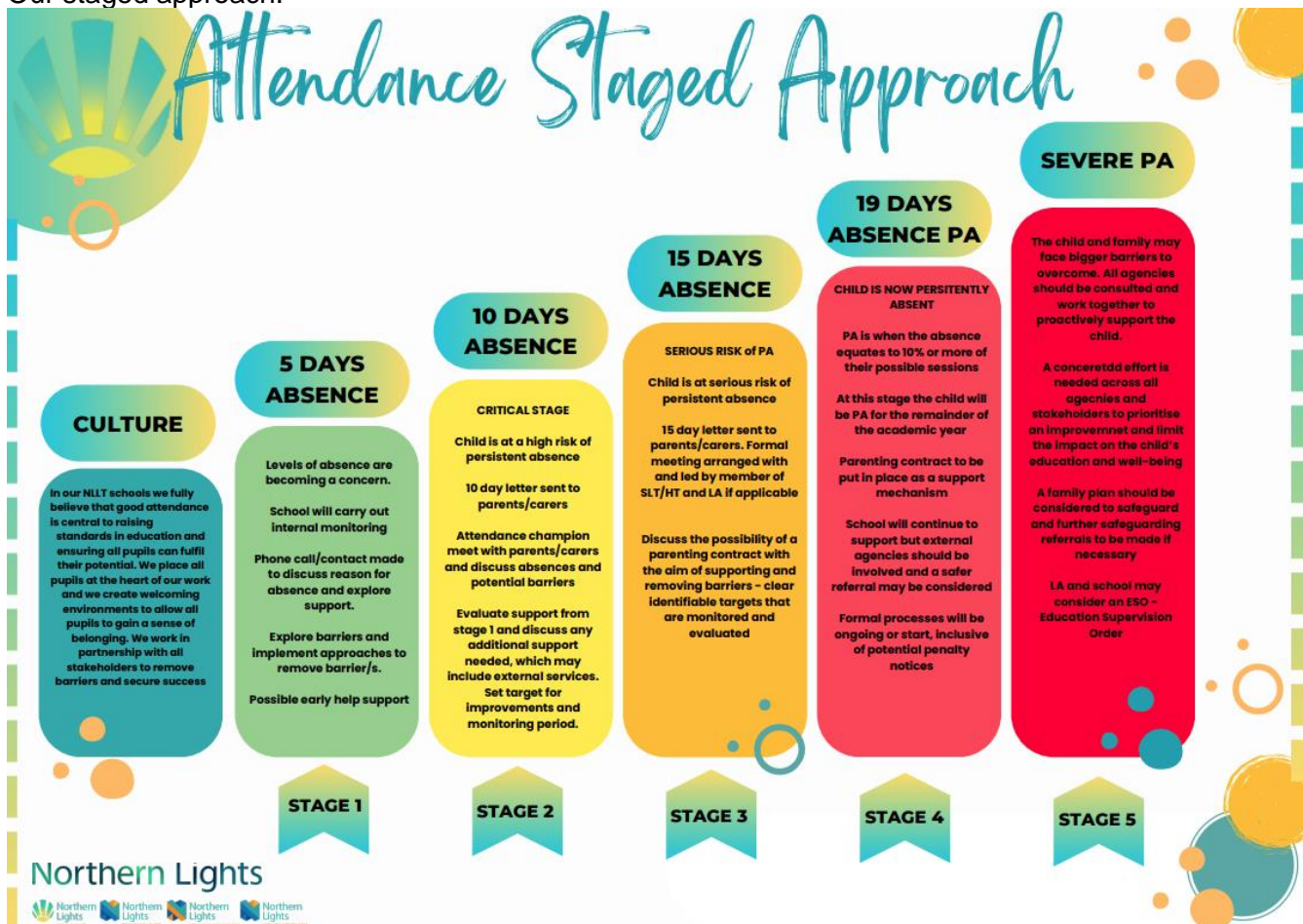
Reducing persistent and severe absence

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.

The school will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence
- Hold regular meetings with the parents/carers of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable, or are persistently or severely absent, to discuss attendance and engagement at school
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance

Our staged approach:



Attendance Staged Approach

EXPECT

Aspire to high standards of attendance from all pupils and parents and build a culture where all can, and want to, be in school and ready to learn by prioritising attendance improvement across the school.

MONITOR

Rigorously use attendance data to identify patterns of poor attendance (at individual and cohort level) as soon as possible so all parties can work together to resolve them before they become entrenched.

LISTEN & UNDERSTAND

When a pattern is spotted, discuss with pupils and parents. In order to listen to and understand barriers to attendance and agree how all partners can work together to resolve them.

FACILITATE SUPPORT

Remove barriers in school and help pupils and parents access the support they need to overcome the barriers outside of school. This might include an early help or whole family plan where absence is a symptom of wider issues.

FORMALISE SUPPORT

Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, partners should work together to explain the consequences clearly and ensure support is also in place to enable families to respond. Depending on the circumstances this may include formalising support through an attendance contract or education supervision order.

ENFORCE

Where all other avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or not being engaged with, enforce attendance through statutory intervention: a penalty notice in line with the National Framework or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education.

As part of the culture of school we encourage strong partnerships between home and school. As part of our staged approach we continually engage with parents and carers to support and remove any barriers in partnership, forming strong, trusted relationships.

Northern Lights



Lateness after school

There may be occasions when children are not collected from school. If this situation were to arise, we will carry out the following:

- If parents/carers do not arrive at the expected time, a phone call will be made after 10 minutes to all available contact numbers
- If no contact is made the child/children will be taken to a member of the SLT (Senior Leadership) to wait for contact.
- If after 20 minutes we still have had no response from parents/carers then school would contact the Local Attendance Team. The team would then visit the child's home and school.
- The decision to contact Emergency Duty Social Care will be made if all other avenues of making contact with parents/carers has failed.

REPORTING TO PARENTS/CARERS

The school will regularly inform parents about their child's attendance and absence levels through a half termly attendance letter. These letters will be sent out electronically in the same way as other communications from school. Children's attendance will also be reported on in their end of year written report. If any parents/ carers want to discuss these further, they can contact Sara McLaren vis the school email address (info.elaick@nllt.co.uk)

MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority or DfE is updated, and as a minimum annually.

Appendix 1 – DfE Attendance Codes

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	Off-site educational activity	Pupil is at a supervised off-site educational activity approved by the school
K	Attending education provision arranged by the Local Authority	The pupil is attending a place, other than the school or any other school at which they are a registered pupil, for educational provision arranged by a local authority under section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996 (exceptional provision of education), section 42(2), or 61(1) of the Children and Families Act 2014 (special educational provision off site)
V	Attending an educational visit or trip	The pupil is attending a place, other than the school or any other school at which they are a registered pupil, for an educational visit or trip arranged by or on behalf of the school and supervised by a member of school staff. The visit or trip must take place during the session for which it is recorded.
P	Sporting activity	Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school
W	Attending work experience	Pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is work experience provided under arrangements made by the local authority or school as part of the pupil's education.
D	Dual registered	Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered
C	Authorised leave of absence	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
C1	Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad	All schools can grant leaves of absence for pupils to undertake employment (paid or unpaid) during school hours (see additional detail under regulation 11(2))
C2	Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable	All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs in line with paragraphs 67 – 70.
M	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending a medical or dental appointment	Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment and the appointment could not have been made out of school hours
G	Holiday not granted by the school	The school has not granted a leave of absence and the pupil is absent for the purpose of a holiday. A school cannot grant a leave of absence retrospectively. If the parent did not apply in advance, leave of absence should not be granted
N	Reason for absence not yet established	When the reason for absence has not yet been established before the register closes, the absence must be recorded with Code N Where absence is recorded as code N (reason not yet established) in the attendance register, the correct absence code should be entered as soon as the reason is ascertained, but no more than 5 school days after the session (regulation 10(7) to (9)). Code N must not therefore be left on the pupil's attendance record indefinitely; if a reason for absence cannot be established within 5 school days, schools must amend the pupil's record to Code O
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	Where no reason for absence is established or the school is not satisfied that the reason given is one that would be recorded using one of the codes statistically classified as authorised.

U	Arrived in school after registration closed	Where a pupil has arrived late after the register has closed but before the end of session
#	Planned whole school closure	Whole school closure that are known and planned in advance such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half terms • Days between terms
J1	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending and interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution	Pupil attending interview or for admission to another educational establishment
S	Leave of absence for the purpose of studying for a public examination	Leave has to be agreed in advance with parents/carers who the pupil normally lives with. (See further detail in DfE guidance)
X	Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school	Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	The pupil is a mobile child and their parent(s) is travelling in the course of their trade or business and the pupil is travelling with them. A mobile child is a child of compulsory school age who has no fixed abode and whose parent(s) is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as to require them to travel from place to place
R	Religious observance	Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance
I	Illness (not medical or dental)	School has been notified that a pupil will be absent due to illness
E	Suspended or permanently excluded	Pupil has been excluded but no alternative provision has been made
Q	Unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause	Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements
Y1	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available	The pupil is unable to attend because the school is not within walking distance of their home and the transport to and from the school that is normally provided for the pupil by the school or local authority is not available.
Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel	Pupil is unable to attend school due to widespread disruption to travel caused by local, national or international emergency
Y3	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed	Part of the school premises is unavoidably out of use and the pupil is one of those that the school considers cannot practicably be accommodated in those part of the premises that remain in use
Y4	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed	Where a school was planned to be open for a session, but the school is closed unexpectedly, the attendance register is not taken as usual because there is no school session
Y5	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention	The pupil is unable to attend the school because they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in police detention, • remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or • detained under a sentence of detention
Y6	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law	The pupil's travel to or attendance at the school would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contrary to any guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of infection or disease published by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care or • prohibited by any legislation relating to the incidence or transmission of infection or disease.
Y7	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause	An unavoidable cause, that is not covered by one of the other 'unable to attend' codes detailed above, is preventing the pupil from attending the school
Z	Pupil not on admission register	Register set up but pupil has not yet joined the school