

Helsby High School

Attendance & Punctuality Policy 2025/26

‘Achieving success, valuing others’ (Helsby High School Aims)

‘Listen, understand, empathise and support – but do not tolerate’ (Ofsted, ‘Securing Good Attendance’, Feb 2022)

The name of the senior leader responsible for the strategic approach to attendance in school is:

Mrs Warburton (swarburton@helsbyhigh.org) – Senior Deputy Headteacher

The name of the member of the school attendance lead is:

Mrs L Nixon (lnixon@helsbyhigh.org) – Education Welfare and Attendance

**Approved by: The Full
Governing body**

Date: 22 September 2025

Next review due by: July 2026

**If you want to go straight to
our 1-page Attendance
Summary, it’s on page 12 ...**

Introduction and Aim

There are a lot of words in this policy, but our key message in school to our students is really simple:

- ✓ Attend regularly
- ✓ Attend punctually
- ✓ Attend prepared to learn

Helsby High School recognises the importance of good attendance and the impact it has on student’s progress, attainment, enjoyment of learning and relationships within school. Good attendance helps a young person to realise their potential and ensure they are motivated, confident and enjoy a diverse range of curricular opportunities and experiences. This matches our school ethos of achieving success. Our school policy promotes good attendance, which is recognised and rewarded

as an achievement. The school monitors attendance and ensures quick and early intervention if a problem is identified. We recognise that whole school preventative and proactive approaches are key to promoting wellbeing and attendance. We will support, but will also challenge, as per Ofsted findings for success. A young person must attend school every day that they are required to do so unless an exceptional circumstance applies.

This policy is accessible to leaders, staff, students, and parents, and is published on our school website. It will be sent to parents with any initial information when students join the school and reminders will be provided at the beginning of each school year and when it is updated. As the barriers to attendance evolve quickly, the policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary. In doing so going forwards, we will seek the views of students and parents.

1. Legislation

Regular and punctual attendance at school is a legal requirement. Regular attendance is essential to enable children to maximise their educational attainment, opportunities and further development.

- Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that “The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him/her to receive efficient full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise”.
- Section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1996 states that “if a child of compulsory school age who is a registered student at a school fails to attend regularly at the school his parent is guilty of an offence”.
- Section 576 Education Act 1996 – defines the meaning of “parent”

For the purposes of Education Law, the definition of a ‘parent’ and who is responsible for ensuring regular attendance to school is:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not
- any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative
- any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person. This could be one parent, both parents and/or carer/s.

2. Registers

Registers provide the daily record of attendance of all students. They are legal documents and the register may be required in a court of law, for example as evidence in prosecutions for non-attendance in school.

‘Education (Student Registration) (England) Regulations 2006’ (section 6)

Schools must take the attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day, morning (a.m.) and once during the second session, afternoon (p.m.).

On each occasion they must record whether every student is:

- Present
- Attending an approved educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

The school should follow up any absences to:

- Ascertain the reason
- Ensure the proper safeguarding action is taken
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not; and,
- Identify the correct code to use before entering it on to the school's electronic register, or management information system as a priority and returned to the school office in a timely manner. This is used to download data to the School Census.
- Consider early identification, assessment, intervention and support processes that may need to be implemented.

The register should be marked using the codes as advised by the Department for Education (DfE) 'Working together to improve School Attendance Guidance' (for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf (See appendix 3.)

3. Procedure

Young people are expected to attend school regularly, unless there is good reason for absence.

There are two types of absence:

- Authorised (where the school approves a student absence)
- Unauthorised (where school will not approve the absence)

The school has a duty to safeguard all its students. If a child is absent, the parents/carers should inform the school on the **first day of absence** and each following day of absence, stating the reason. They should contact Mrs Godden:

Mrs Godden (Attendance Administrator) using Attendance@helsbyhigh.org

To discuss any specific or wider attendance concerns and possible support parents/carers should contact:

Mrs Nixon (Education Welfare and Attendance Officer) using nixon@helsbyhigh.org

The school will make contact with home when a child is absent, and the parent/carer has not notified the school of the absence. If no contact can be achieved or the reason for absence is not accepted the absence will be unauthorised.

Students wishing to discuss their attendance or barriers to attendance should contact:

Mrs Young (Attendance Student Support Co-ordinator) using jyoung@helsbyhigh.org

4. What parents/carers can do to help, and working in partnership with Parents/ Carers

Let the school know straight away why your child is absent. Home/school communication is extremely important in supporting your child to achieve and feel settled in school. Try to make any dental/GP type appointments outside of school time.

It is important that school and parents / carers work together with a shared plan and outcomes when supporting a child / young person's attendance and wellbeing. If, despite persistent attempts

to work with parents, there continues to be a lack of engagement, then legal procedures may be followed to secure engagement and school attendance.

As a school we recognise that building respectful relationships with families and working in collaboration is essential to ensuring the best outcomes for young people. We require all parents to actively support the work of the school, including promoting attendance and engagement. We are committed to ensuring that systems and processes are in place with regards to promoting and recognising good and improved attendance and would encourage parents to make contact if they have concerns about their child.

All parents will be formally advised by school in writing of their son/daughter's attendance figure at least twice each academic year; at the mid-year interim assessment point, and at the end of year summative assessment point, though the school will endeavour to share details of attendance with parents at other points in the year, particularly if there is a change which gives cause for concern.

5. Attendance Monitoring and Promotion

School monitors attendance on an hourly, daily and weekly basis. Data is analysed promptly to identify and address possible concerns and allow for early interventions to support the child/family's underlying needs. This will include –

- Weekly attendance code analysis
- Specific cohort and group monitoring – particularly for vulnerable groups i.e. children with a social worker
- Monitoring of lesson attendance across all subjects
- 'Welcome back' conversations for all students that have been absent for 5 days – to check wellbeing and ensure there are no ongoing needs that will impact on attendance

Good attendance is promoted and recognised across the school.

- Form tutors are provided with weekly attendance data for their form and every form tutor lesson (fortnightly on Monday) has a dedicated attendance update element.
- Good attendance is promoted at school events such as in-person parent consultation evenings, and open evenings. This promotion and celebration also happens via the school website and social media accounts.
- Year assemblies make regular reference to attendance data
- Other recognition events may take place in school or out. The exact nature will depend on logistics and 'student voice' feedback, but activities such as pizza/film events in school, or external trips visits have taken place previously.
- Staff briefings also feature regular attendance updates for all school staff.
- Staff training is provided, for new staff, and refresher opportunities for existing staff, with regard to the mechanics of register completion. This is then monitored both randomly and specifically on a regular basis through the academic year.
- Written communication from school flagging up full attendance, improved attendance, and attendance concerns, also take place on a termly basis.

6. Early Identification and Intervention:

Every young person has a right to a full-time education and Helsby High School sets high attendance expectations for all students. At Helsby we will consider the individual needs of students and their families who have specific barriers to attendance and will consider our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

For any young person who is absent from school it is essential to fully understand the reasons for this so that targeted, evidence-based interventions and support can be put into place. All our staff have a part to play in promoting attendance. We recognise the importance of ensuring that key members of staff from across the school work in collaboration, in combination as and when necessary to consider and identify the needs of the young person and to overcome barriers to attendance. We will work with students and parents/carers in this regard, including with reference to Emotionally Based School Non-attendance (EBSN), as appropriate.

Our materials now refer to an aspirational target for each individual student of 'full attendance' rather than '100% attendance'. This is in recognition that for some students, there may be occasions when a level of absence is unavoidable (for example a hospital visit for treatment due to a long-standing health condition). As such, there are cases where recognition should not be based on students with a 100% statistic, but on the best attendance that individual student can achieve. School recognition should also focus on improved as well as high attendance.

Regular reviews of support and attendance plans are essential to monitor the impact of interventions and to adjust these accordingly. If, despite targeted support and intervention, attendance and wellbeing concerns persist, school (and parents/carers) may seek further advice and support from external services.

Regular data analysis and attendance review meetings take place in school, and plans for individual students can be amended, to recognise and celebrate improvements and successes with students and parents, and to look for new/further ways to support if that has not happened.

In school, the attendance of our young people may supported by a range of staff:

- Our dedicated attendance staff
- Form Tutors
- Student Support Coordinators linked to each year group (the SSCs)
- Progress & Pastoral Leaders linked to each year group (the PPLs)
- Our TAF (Team Around the Family) Lead
- Our team of Teaching Assistants (TAs) and the SEND staff in school

We also work with linked professionals who will come into school to talk to students, and may also contact parents at home. These may include:

- IAG (Independent Advice & Guidance) careers advisors
- Our externally commissioned school counsellor
- PSCOs working in our local communities
- Our school nurse and other health workers

In addition, there may be occasions where, school (and parents) contact other agencies as part of a wider plan which may include supporting improved or sustained attendance. This can include working with and alongside, and/or liaising with agencies such as:

- The Education Welfare Service
- Education Access Team at the local authority
- Early Help & Intervention teams at the local authority
- CWAC Children's Social Services
- Local CAMHS teams (Children's Adolescent Mental Health Service) and other health specialists as well as local GP surgeries.
- Our partner local primary schools
- Local alternative provision providers
- Education & Welfare colleagues at other secondary schools in the local area
- The Safeguarding Children in Education team in our local area (SCIE)

7. Medical Absence

Absence due to sickness should be reported to the school by emailing attendance@helsbyhigh.org on the first day of absence. The school should be kept informed during longer periods of absence. School will contact parents during the first day if no satisfactory reason for absence has been received.

Any medical absences in excess of 5 days (10 sessions) per academic year will need to be supported by medical evidence. There are a variety of different format this could take and advice and guidance is available from the Attendance Team. If no medical evidence is received, then the absence may be recorded as unauthorised. The school will work with all families on an individual basis if medical absences exceed the maximum threshold.

If a medical absence is likely to be ongoing or long term, then we will offer support in accordance with the school's policies and statutory guidance relating to Children with health needs. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-students-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>. As a school we need to plan how children can access education and how and when the child will return to school. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 the school must also demonstrate that reasonable adjustments are made to meet the child's educational needs.

For children who have a medical condition and cannot attend school, the school will refer to the Cheshire West and Chester Council's Education Access Team. <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/documents/education-and-learning/medical-needs-service/medical-needs-policy-latest.pdf>

Their policy states that referrals must come directly from the student's school and must be supported by medical evidence from one of the following health professionals:

- consultant paediatrician or adolescent psychiatrist
- consultant child psychiatrist
- hospital consultant

Supporting evidence from a General Practitioner alone cannot be accepted.

8. Lateness and Punctuality

School begins **8.40am** and all students are expected to be in school for registration at that time.

- Register taken at **0900**
- Registers close **0930**

Form time 8.40am – 9am is essential time for the students. They have valuable pastoral input from: assemblies; group activities; vital messages about a range of topics (e.g. exams and extra-curricular clubs; thoughts for the day; talking points from the news; literacy and numeracy support. It is an essential building block for all students to feel part of the school community and absorb the culture of the school.

Any child who arrives after the gates are closed must enter the school by the front entrance which leads to the Break out Space and sign in. If students are not in form class when the register is taken, they will be coded as 'L'. After 9.05am students enter via reception and sign in late with the Attendance Team.

In accordance with the 'School attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024', if a student arrives after the registers close, 0930 at Helsby High School, they will receive a mark, code U, that shows them to be on site, but this will **not** count as a present mark and it will mean they have an unauthorised absence for that session (i.e. an absence for the whole of the morning/ half a day of schooling). This may mean that parents could face the possibility of a Fixed Penalty Notice or other legal action if the problem persists. We will notify you the first time your child has a U code and at intervals thereafter.

Children who are consistently late for school are disrupting not only their own education, but also that of other children. School attendance staff will monitor lateness, and talk to students to try and find out why this is happening and how it can be solved. Where persistent lateness gives cause for concern, parents will be invited to a meeting to resolve the issues.

Parents/carers may approach the school at any time for support and advice if you are having difficulty getting your child to school on time or maintaining regular attendance.

9. Unauthorised Absence and Fixed Penalty Notice

An absence may be coded as 'unauthorised' if:

- no reason for absence has been given
- medical evidence is not received when requested
- a request for a leave of absence has been unauthorised
- a student arrives at school after registration has closed at **9.30am**

Parents/carers should be aware that Helsby High School may contact the Local Authority Education Welfare Service if a student has 10 or more unauthorised absences within a rolling 10 school week period, with a view to issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or other legal action. The Fixed Penalty Notice is issued individually to each parent/carer who fails to ensure their child's regular attendance at school. The Penalty is £80 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. Non-payment of the Fixed Penalty Notice may result in prosecution in the Magistrates court (*see appendix 1*).

A second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3 year period being charged at a higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower rate of £80.

A national limit of 2 penalty notices that can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3 year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another tool will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).

10. Application for Exceptional Circumstances

The School attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024', make it clear that Head Teachers may not grant any Leave of Absence (holiday) during term time unless there are **'exceptional circumstances'**.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request. Schools maintained by a local authority, as we are at Helsby High School, can only grant such leave under regulation 11 (11), where an application is made in advance by the parent the pupil normally lives with. Working Together to Improve School Attendance 2024 states that generally the need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

If parents/carers need to request Exceptional Leave of Absence, they must complete a 'Request for Leave of Absence' form available from the school website (search 'Absence') or the school office, at least 4 weeks in advance. It should be noted that if any application is declined and absence occurs of a consecutive 5 or more unauthorised days, then school may apply to the Local Authority for a Fixed Penalty Notice to be issued to each parent/carer.

The following will not be deemed to be exceptional circumstances:

- Family holiday
- Availability of less expensive holiday
- Availability of holiday accommodation
- Parent/carer's working commitments
- Holiday pre-booked by another family member

A young person's absence during term time seriously disrupts their continuity of learning. Not only do they miss the teaching on the days they are away but are less prepared for the lessons building on that teaching when they return to school. There is a consequent risk of under achievement, which we must seek to avoid.

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring any attendance issues are dealt with in line with school policy.

11. Religious Observance

We recognise that some students may need to participate in days of religious observance. Where a day of religious observance:

- falls during school time and
- has been exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the student belongs

We ask that parents/carers notify the school in writing in advance where absence is required due to a religious observance.

12.Enforced School Closure

If Helsby High School was forced to close for a period of time, we have the facility to operate an online virtual school. The expectation is students will still engage with ALL activities when work is set. Procedures for online learning will be sent to parents as and when required.

13. Impact

All students will achieve well by developing knowledge and skills on their journey through school. Due to robust monitoring of attendance, all students, including vulnerable children and children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), will have fair and equitable access to school in order to achieve the best possible outcomes. Students will leave Helsby High School ready for a successful transition to the next stage of their learning pathway.

The table below sets out the attendance targets and at what stage parents/carers will be contacted about their child's attendance.

What does that % look like?		
100%	No absences 😊	Outstanding attendance > recognised weekly & termly
96%	Less than 1.5 days absent each half term 8 days (One and a half weeks) a year (40 lesson hours)	Recognised as very good attendance weekly & termly
Less than 96%	More than 1.5 days absent each half term 8 days (One and a half weeks) a year (40 lesson hours)	School will seek to provide support via a Form Tutor
Less than 93%	More than 2 days absent each half term 13 days (over 2 weeks) a year (65 lesson hours)	Attendance Team Monitoring closely, contact home via email/Stage 1 letter
Less than 90%	More than 3 days absent each half term Over 19 days (nearly 4 weeks) a year (95+ hours)	Concern continuing, now classed as 'persistently absent', Attendance team contact home/Stage 2 letter
Less than 80%	More than 3.5 days absent each half term Over 38 days (5+ weeks) a year (190+ hours)	Escalated concern, Attendance team intervention, possible Attendance Panel Meeting

Appendices to this policy:

See appendix 1 for Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) information
 See appendix 2 for further breakdown of missed sessions
 See appendix 3 for summary of support and sequence of escalation for formalised support
 SEE APPENDIX 4 FOR OUR 'POLICY ON A PAGE' SUMMARY
 See appendix 5 for further details on roles and responsibilities of staff, parents – and students themselves
 See appendix 6 for official Department for Education attendance and absence register codes

Appendix 1

Cheshire West & Chester

Code of Conduct for Education Fixed Penalty Notice (Unauthorised Leave of Absence & Irregular Attendance)

1. A Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) can only be issued in cases of unauthorised absence.
2. A maximum of two FPNs may be issued in a three year period and these FPNs may be issued against each parent/carer of a child. Once two FPNs have been issued, should there be further unauthorised absences, the Local Authority are able to move to prosecution immediately.
3. A FPN may be issued per parent per child.
4. Penalty Notices may be considered appropriate if:
 - Unauthorised absences of at least 10 consecutive school sessions (five school days) within a rolling 10 school week period.
 - Sessions either side of a weekend or school holiday will be counted as consecutive school days.
 - For poorly attending learners, at least 10 sessions (five school days) are lost due to unauthorised absence during a school term. These do not need to be consecutive.
 - For poorly attending learners, persistent late arrival at school in a term. Persistent means at least 10 sessions of late arrival.
 - The presence of an excluded child in a public place in the child's first five days of exclusion.
6. The school must notify parents of the Attendance Policy and clearly state that parents may receive an FPN for an unauthorised leave of absence relating to holiday in term time.
7. Schools and the Education Welfare Services will take into account any exceptional circumstances when determining whether to issue a FPN.

Appendix 2

What does 'percentage attendance' mean?

Parents/carers should be advised that the Government have categorised those students who have attendance of 90% and below as 'Persistent Absence' students (PA) and those with attendance below 50% as 'Severely Absent' (SA).

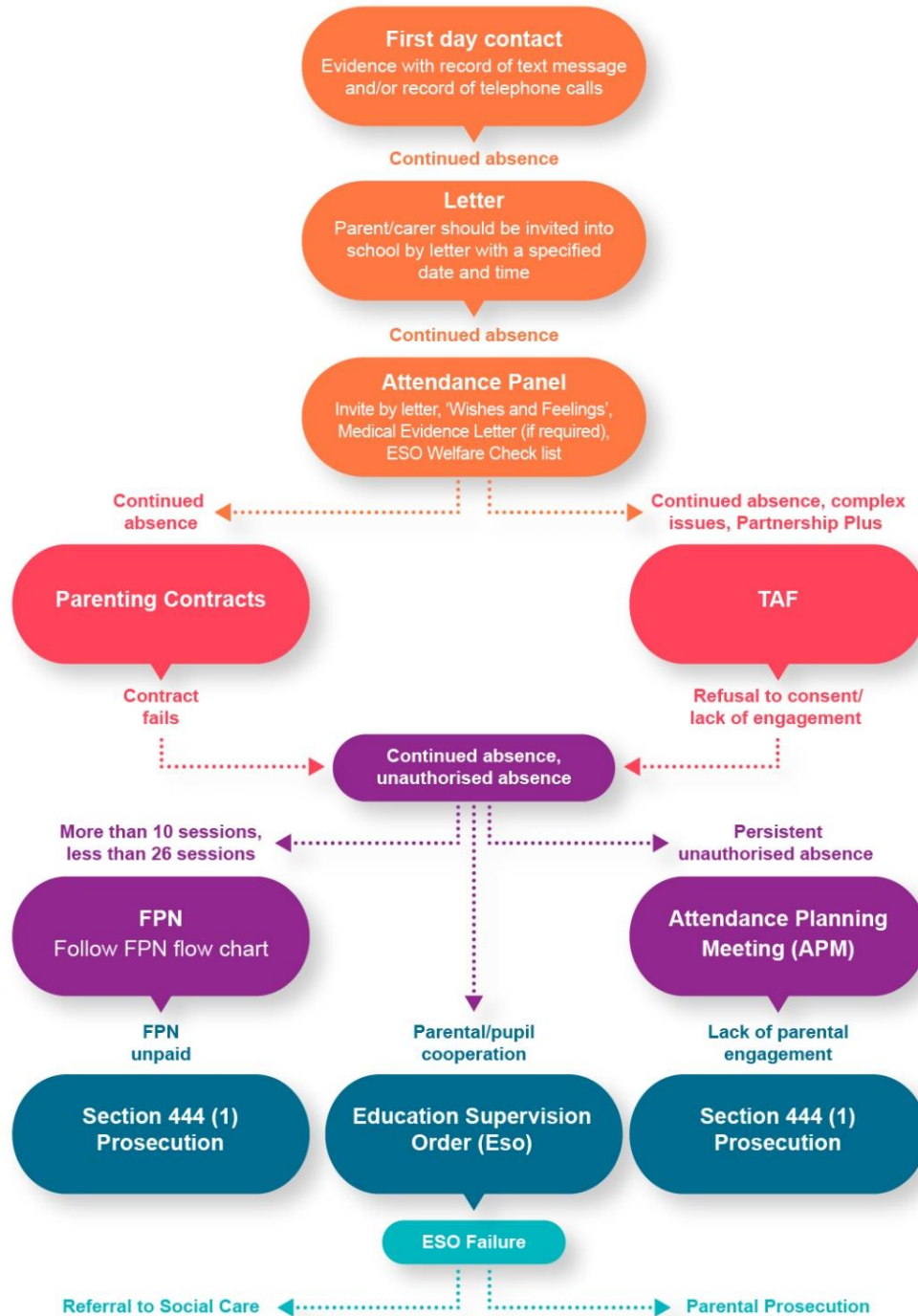
The school will be specifically targeting students with attendance below 90%, in an effort to improve their attendance in the future. The table below shows the learning time lost against percentage attendance figures.

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Lessons Missed
96%	7.6 Days	15.2 Sessions	1.5 Weeks	38 Hours of lessons
90%	19 Days	38 Sessions	3.8 Weeks	95 Hours Lessons

Appendix 3:

Support and Escalation Guidance

Attendance Guidance Flow Chart

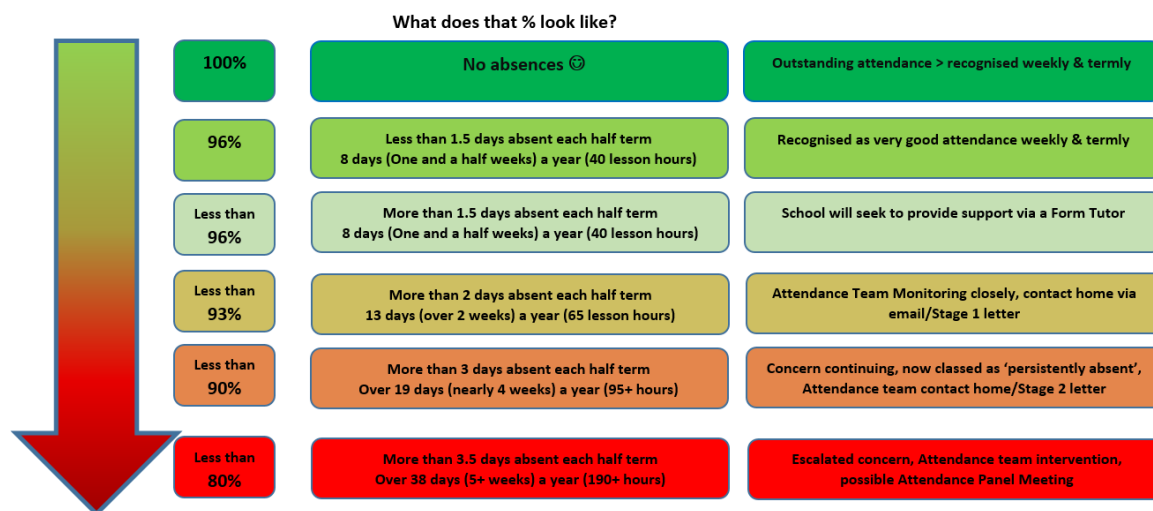


Second Offences and severe offences can go to Section 444 (1a) prosecution and will be PACE interviewed.

Appendix 4 - Attendance Policy Summary: Policy on a page

Our whole school target: 96%

Your individual student target: Full attendance



What will happen if I attend well?	We will recognise your achievement: 😊 - Weekly recognition > in form time - Half termly recognition > different recognitions each half term - Termly recognition > celebration, assemblies, rewards <i>We will also recognise your form group and year group attendance</i> <i>Every year we will also ask you and your parents/carers for your views about our attendance policy and our recognitions</i>
What will happen if my attendance drops?	You will get support to help you improve: - Conversations with pastoral staff to listen to you, and to find out what school can do to help - Staff contacting home to find out what your parents/carers say - Agreeing a support plan with you/your parents/carers - Monitoring your attendance progress - Celebrating your improvements: 😊 - If things haven't got better, seeing what else can be done, and inviting you and your parents to meet attendance staff in school and find out if there is further help or support from outside school needed > setting a new target for monitoring

Our Senior Attendance Champion: Mrs Warburton swarburton@helsbyhigh.org

Our Education Welfare and Attendance Lead: Mrs Nixon lnixon@helsbyhigh.org

Our Attendance email address (priority way of communicating): attendance@helsbyhigh.org

Our Attendance phone number: 01928 723551

Our students should arrive on site by: 0835

Our morning attendance register opens at: 0900 (and closes at 0930)

Our afternoon attendance register is taken at: 13.10

Our school day ends at: 1510

NOTES: Persistent absence classed as below 90%. All students are supported on an individual basis, but the core principle is to approach every case from a supportive angle. In persistent, prolonged and severe cases, school will liaise with the local authority for advice. In rare cases, once other options have been explored, schools and local authorities are expected to consider issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and Prosecution. In these cases, parents are always advised in writing beforehand. FPNs for holidays in term time may and can be processed when an absence of 5 or more days occurs.

Appendix 5

Roles and responsibilities:

1 The Helsby High School governing body

The Governing body is responsible for:

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

Our Attendance Link governor plays a key role in these processes.

2 The Helsby High School Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementation of this policy at the school
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to Governors
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual students
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary

3 The Senior Attendance Champion

The Senior Attendance Champion is responsible for the following:

- Leading attendance across the school
- Offering a clear vision for attendance improvement
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Having an oversight of data analysis
- Devising specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data

The Senior Attendance Champion responsible for attendance is Mrs. S Warburton and can be contacted via 01928 723551 swarburton@helsbyhigh.org

4 The Education Welfare and Attendance Lead

The school attendance officer is responsible for:

- Monitoring and analysing attendance data
- Benchmarking attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement

- Providing regular attendance reports to school staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the designated leaders responsible for attendance
- Working with education welfare officers (external) and pastoral staff (internal) to tackle persistent absence
- Advising the Headteacher when to issue fixed-penalty notices
- Arranging calls and meetings with parents to discuss attendance issues
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to students and families

The Attendance and Welfare officer The Attendance & Welfare Officer is Mrs Nixon
lnixon@helsbyhigh.org and can be contacted via 01928 723551

5 The Attendance Student Support Co-ordinator

The Attendance Student Support Co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Monitoring the attendance of students educated off site
- Arranging calls and meetings with parents to discuss attendance issues
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to students and families
- Making arranged and unannounced visits to families to discuss barriers to their child attending school

6 Form tutors and subject teachers

These staff are responsible for recording attendance on a daily basis, using the correct codes, and submitting this information on to the school SIMS data recording system. Form tutors will hold regular sessions to enable students to reflect on their attendance.

7 School attendance staff

School attendance staff will:

- Take calls from parents about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system
- Where necessary transfer calls from parents to the pastoral staff in order for more detailed support on attendance to be provided.

8 Parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Make sure their child attends every day/session on time
- Call the school to report their child's absence before 8.35am 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

9 Students

Students are expected to:

- Attend every timetabled session on time

Appendix 6

Absence Codes:

According to the DfE guidance the following codes are used on the register.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf

Code I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)
Code M	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending a medical or dental appointment
Code C	Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance
Code C1	Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad
Code C2	Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable
Code D	Dual registered at another school
Code J1	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution
Code P	Participating in a sporting activity
Code R	Religious observance
Code V	Attending an educational visit or trip
Code W	Attending work experience
Code G	Holiday not granted by the school
Code U	Arrived in school after registration closed
Code N	Reason for absence not yet established
Code O	Absent in other or unknown circumstance
Code X	Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school
Code K	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority
Code B	Attending any other approved educational activity
Code S	Leave of absence for the purpose of studying for a public examination
Code T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes

Code E	Suspended or permanently excluded
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There are other codes, rarely used by school that are referred to in the guidance (see link above).