



'We Shine Here'
Bramley Sunnyside
Infant School

Attendance and Absence Policy

Date of initial Policy: November 2022

Date of next review: September 2026

Revision History

<u>Version</u>	<u>Reason for issue</u>	<u>Governing Board Approval date</u>
1.0	Revised publication for approval by Governing Body	March 2023
2.0	Amended to include Rotherham SAMP/Updated FPN procedures & home visits (copy of letter/card)	November 23
3.0	Legal Framework updates	September 2024

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Statement of intent

At Bramley Sunnyside Infant School, pupil wellbeing and academic progress are paramount to us. We believe that regular attendance throughout the year is essential for children to experience a sense of belonging, success and fulfilment.

In order for teaching and learning to have the greatest impact, pupils need to be present and actively engaged in a safe and stimulating school environment. Pupils cannot achieve their full potential if they do not regularly attend.

We understand that barriers to attendance are complex, and that some pupils find it harder than others to attend school; therefore, we will continue to prioritise cultivating a supportive setting, as well as strong and trusting relationships with pupils and parents.

We take a whole-school approach to securing good attendance, and recognise the impact that our efforts in other areas – such as the curriculum, behaviour standards, bullying, SEND support, pastoral support, and the effective use of resources such as pupil premium – can have on improving pupil attendance.

We are committed to:

- Promoting and modelling high attendance and its benefits.
- Ensuring equality and fairness for all.
- Ensuring this attendance policy is clear and easily understood by staff, pupils and parents.
- Intervening early and working with other agencies to ensure the health and safety of our pupils.
- Building strong relationships with families to overcome barriers to attendance.
- Working collaboratively with other schools in the area, as well as other agencies.
- Ensuring parents follow the framework set in section 7 of the Education Act 1996, which states that the parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause them to receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude, and to any SEND they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.
- Ensuring our attendance policy is clear and easily understood by all staff, parents and pupils.
- Regularly monitoring and analysing attendance and absence data to identify pupils or cohorts that require more support.

The school's attendance lead is Miss Cheshire, and can be contacted via enquiries@bsi.school. Staff, parents and pupils will be expected to contact the attendance lead for queries or concerns about attendance.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (As amended)
- The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014
- Children and Young Persons Act 1963
- DfE (2024) 'Working together to improve school attendance'
- DfE (2024) 'Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE) 2024'
- DfE (2024) 'Children missing education'
- DfE (2024) 'Providing remote education'
- DfE (2024) 'Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy
- Children Missing Education Policy
- Home Visit Policy
- Pupils with Additional Health Needs Attendance Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board has overall responsibility for:

- Monitoring the implementation of this policy and all relevant procedures across the school.
- Promoting the importance of good attendance through the school's ethos and policies.
- Arranging attendance training for all relevant staff that is appropriate to their role.
- Working with the SLT to set goals for attendance and providing support and challenge around delivery against those goals.
- Regularly reviewing attendance data.
- Ensuring that this policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds, including, but not limited to, ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

- Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.
- Having regard to KCSIE when making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Ensuring there is a Children Missing Education Policy in place and that this is regularly reviewed and updated.
- Ensuring school staff receive adequate training on attendance

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy and all relevant procedures across the school.
- Appointing a member of the SLT to the attendance officer role.
- Ensuring all parents are aware of the school's attendance expectations and procedures.
- Ensuring that every pupil has access to full-time education and will act as early as possible to address patterns of absence.

Staff are responsible for:

- Following this policy and ensuring pupils do so too.
- Ensuring this policy is implemented fairly and consistently.
- Modelling good attendance behaviour.
- Using their professional judgement and knowledge of individual pupils to inform decisions as to whether any welfare concerns should be escalated.
- Where designated, taking the attendance register at the relevant times during the school day.

The attendance lead is responsible for:

- The overall strategic approach to attendance in school.
- Developing a clear vision for improving attendance.
- Monitoring attendance and the impact of interventions.
- Analysing attendance data and identifying areas of intervention and improvement.
- Communicating with pupils and parents with regard to attendance.
- Leading a compassionate approach when listening to parents and pupils regarding barriers to attendance.
- Following up on incidents of persistent poor attendance.
- Enforcing attendance through statutory interventions in cases of persistent poor attendance where other supports have not succeeded.
- Informing the LA of any pupil being deleted from the admission and attendance registers.

- Following the LA guidelines to effectively manage and prevent persistent absentees

Pupils are responsible for:

- Attending their lessons and any agreed activities when at school.
- Arriving punctually to lessons when at school.
- Following any support provided by the school to improve attendance.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing accurate and up-to-date contact details.
- Providing the school with more than one emergency contact number.
- Updating the school if their details change.
- The attendance of their children at school.
- Promoting good attendance with their children.
- Proactively engaging with any attendance support offered by the school and the LA.
- Notifying the school as soon as possible when their child has to be unexpectedly absent.
- Requesting leave of absence only in exceptional circumstances, and at least 2 weeks advance.
- Booking any medical appointments around school where possible.
- Following any family-based support implemented by the school to improve attendance.

3. Definitions

The following definitions apply for the purposes of this policy:

Absence:

- Arrival at school after the register has closed
- Not attending the registered school for any reason

Authorised absence:

- An absence for illness for which the school has granted leave
- Medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall during school time, for which the school has granted leave
- Religious or cultural observances for which the school has granted leave
- An absence due to a family emergency for which the school has granted leave

Unauthorised absence:

- Where school is not satisfied that the reason given is one that would be recorded as authorised.
- Truancy before or during the school day
- Arrival at school after the register has closed
- Absence due to wedding, looking after other children, family event or birthdays
- Absence due to day trips and holidays in term-time which have not been agreed
- Families taking their child out of school to attend events (including sporting) that are not arranged by, attended by or authorised by the school

Persistent absence (PA):

- Missing 10 percent or more of schooling across the year for any reason

Missing education

- Not registered at a school and not receiving suitable education in a setting other than a school

4. Attendance expectations

The school has high expectations for pupils' attendance and punctuality, and ensures that these expectations are communicated regularly to parents and pupils.

Pupils will be expected to attend school punctually every day they are required to be at school, for the full day.

The school day starts at 08:30am, and pupils will be in their classroom, ready to begin lessons at this time; therefore, pupils will be expected to be on the school site by 08:30am.

Pupils in Foundation Stage 2 have a lunch break at 11.30am until 12.30pm. Pupils in KS1 will have a morning break at 10:30am, which will last until 10.45am, and a lunch break at 12:00pm, which will last until 1:00pm – pupils will be expected to have returned from each break and be ready to recommence learning at the stated times.

Registers will be taken as follows throughout the school day:

- The morning register will be marked by 08:45am. Pupils will receive a late mark if they are not in their classroom by this time. Pupils attending after this time will receive a mark to show that they were on site, but this will count as a late mark
- The morning register will close at 09:15am. Pupils will receive a mark of unauthorised absence if they do not attend school before this time

- The afternoon register will be marked from 13:00pm. Pupils will receive a late mark if they are not in their classroom by this time
- Request to leave early will only be approved from 2:30pm for exceptional circumstances
- Medical appointments should be made out of school hours

Pupils will be encouraged to communicate any concerns related to attendance and absence as soon as possible to the relevant member of staff.

5. Absence procedures

Parents will be required to contact the school office via telephone before 08:30am on the first day of their child's absence – they will be expected to provide an explanation for the absence and an estimation of how long the absence will last, e.g. one school day.

Where a pupil is absent, and their parent has not contacted the school by the close of the morning register to report the absence, administrative staff will contact the parent by a text in the first instance, followed by a telephone call as soon as is practicable on the first day that they do not attend school. Should the school not receive an absence notification from the initial text, a phone call will be made. Should the phone call not receive a response, a member of staff will visit the home address to ascertain the reason for the absence.

The school will always follow up any absences in order to:

- Ascertain the reason for the absence.
- Ensure the correct safeguarding action is being taken.
- Identify whether the absence is authorised or not.
- Identify the correct code to use to enter the data onto the school census system.

Where a pupil is absent for more than three school days in a row, or more than 10 school days in one term, the pupil's parent will be expected to provide signed doctors/hospital correspondence.

The school will not request medical evidence in most circumstances where a pupil is absent due to illness; however, the school reserves the right to request supporting evidence where there is genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity of the illness.

Where a pupil has not returned to school for 10 days after an authorised absence, or is absent from school without authorisation for 20 consecutive school days, the school will remove the pupil from the admissions register if the school and the LA have failed to establish the whereabouts of the pupil after making reasonable enquiries.

6. Attendance register

The school uses Arbor to keep attendance registers to ensure they are as accurate as possible and can be easily analysed and shared with the appropriate authorities.

Designated staff members will take the attendance register at the start of each school day and at the start of the afternoon session. This register will record whether pupils are:

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

The school will use the national attendance codes to ensure attendance and absence are monitored and recorded in a consistent way. The following codes will be used:

- # = planned whole school closure
- / = Present in the morning
- \ = Present in the afternoon
- L = Late arrival before the register has closed
- C = Leave of absence granted by the school for exceptional circumstances
- S = Study leave
- C1 = Leave of absence for participating in a regulated performance or employment abroad
- C2 = Leave of absence for part-time pupils
- E = Suspended or permanently excluded but no alternative provision made
- J1 = Leave of absence for job or education interviews
- I = Illness
- M = Medical or dental appointments
- K = Attending provision arranged by the LA
- R = Religious observance
- B = Off-site education activity
- G = Unauthorised holiday
- O = Unauthorised absence
- U = Unauthorised arrival after registration closed
- N = Reason not yet provided
- X = Not required to be in school
- T = Parent travelling for occupational purposes
- Q = Absent due to a lack of access arrangements or due to the pupil having to attend a school that does not qualify for travel arrangements and is more than walking distance from where they live.
- V = School educational visit or trip

- P = Participating in a supervised sporting activity, arranged by, attended by or authorised by the school
- D = Dual registered – at another educational establishment
- W = Attending work experience
- Y1 = Absent due to their regular transport not being available
- Y2 = Absent due to travel disruption
- Y3 = Absent due to part of the school premises being closed
- Y4 = Absent due to the school site being closed
- Y5 = Absent due to being in criminal justice detention
- Y6 = Absent due to public health guidance or law, despite the pupil being well enough to attend
- Y7 = Absent due to any other unavoidable cause, the nature of which must be documented by the school.
- Z = Pupil not on admission register

When the school has planned in advance to be fully or partially closed, the code '#' will be used for the relevant pupils who are absent. This code will also be used to record year groups who are not due to attend because the school has set different term dates for different years, e.g. induction days.

Where there is more than one afternoon session, and therefore the attendance register is taken more than once in the same afternoon, the school will use the codes from the last afternoon session as the basis for its statistical attendance data.

Pupils who are absent from school but are receiving remote education for any reason will be marked as absent in the register.

All amendments made to the attendance register will include the original entry, the amended entry, the reason for the amendment, the date of amendment and the name and role of the person who made the amendment.

Every entry received into the attendance register will be preserved for three years.

7. Authorising parental absence requests

Parents will be required to request certain types of absence in advance. All requests for absence will be handled by the headteacher – the decision to grant or refuse the request will be at the sole discretion of the headteacher, taking the best interests of the pupil and the impact on the pupil's education into account. The headteacher's decision is not subject to appeal; however, the school will be sympathetic to requests for absence by parents, and will not deny any request without good reason.

Leave of absence

The school will only grant a pupil a leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. In order to have requests for a leave of absence considered, the school will expect parents to contact the headteacher in writing at least two weeks prior to the proposed start date of the leave of absence, providing the reason for the proposed absence and the dates during which the absence would be expected to occur.

Any requests for leave during term time will be considered on an individual basis and the pupil's previous attendance record will be taken into account. Where the absence is granted, the headteacher will determine the length of time that the pupil can be away from school. The school will not grant leaves of absence for the purposes of family holidays.

Requests for leave will not be granted in the following circumstances:

- Immediately before and during statutory assessment periods
- When a pupil's attendance record shows any unauthorised absence
- Where a pupil's authorised absence record is already above 10 percent for any reason

If term-time leave is not granted, taking a pupil out of school will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and may result in sanctions, such as a fixed penalty notice. The school cannot grant leaves of absence retrospectively; therefore, any absences that were not approved by the school in advance will be marked as unauthorised.

Illness and healthcare appointments

Parents will be expected to make medical or dental appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. Where this is not possible, parents will be expected to obtain approval for their child's absence to attend such appointments as far in advance as is practicable. Parents will be responsible for ensuring their child misses only the amount of time necessary to attend the appointment.

Performances and activities, including paid work

The school will ensure that all pupils engaging in performances or activities, whether they receive payment or not, which require them to be absent from school, understand that they will be required to obtain a licence from the LA which authorises the school's absence(s).

Additional arrangements will be made by the school for pupils engaging in performances or activities that require them to be absent from school to ensure they do not fall behind in their education – this may involve private teaching. These arrangements will be approved by the LA who will ensure that the arrangements are suitable for the pupil.

The pupil will receive education that, when taken together over the term of the licence, amounts to a minimum of three hours per day that the pupil would be required to attend a school maintained by the LA issuing the licence. This requirement will be met by ensuring a pupil receives an education:

- For not less than six hours a week; and
- During each complete period of four weeks (or if there is a period of less than four weeks, then during that period), for periods of time not less than three hours a day; and
- On days where the pupil would be required to attend school if they were attending a school maintained by the LA; and
- For not more than five hours on any such day.

Where a licence has been granted by the LA and it specifies dates of absence, no further authorisation will be needed from the school. Where an application does not specify dates, and it has been approved by the LA, it is at the discretion of the headteacher to authorise the leave of absence for each day. The headteacher will not authorise any absences which would mean that a pupil's attendance would fall below 96 percent. Where a licence has not been obtained, the headteacher will not authorise any absence for a performance or activity.

Religious observance

Parents will be expected to request absence for religious observance at least two weeks advance.

The school will only accept requests from parents for absence on grounds of religious observance for days that are exclusively set apart for religious observance by the relevant religious body. The school will define this as a day where the pupil's parents would be expected by an established religious body to stay away from their employment to mark the occasion.

The school may seek advice from the religious body in question where there is doubt over the request.

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller absence

Where a pupil's parent belongs to a community covered by this code and is travelling for occupational purposes, the parent will be expected to request a leave of absence for their child at least two weeks in advance. Absences will not be granted for pupils from these communities under this code for reasons other than travel for occupational purposes.

8. SEND- and health-related absences

The school recognises that pupils with SEND and/or health conditions, including mental health issues, may face greater barriers to attendance than their peers, and will incorporate robust procedures to support pupils who find attending school difficult.

In line with the SEND Policy and Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy, the school will ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for disabled pupils to reduce barriers to attendance, in line with any EHC plans or IHPs that have been implemented. The school will secure additional support from external partners to help bolster attendance where appropriate.

Where the school has concerns that a pupil's non-attendance may be related to mental health issues, parents will be contacted to discuss the issue and whether there are any contributory factors to their child's lack of attendance. Where staff have a mental health concern about a pupil that is also a safeguarding concern, they will inform the DSL and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be followed. All pupils will be supported with their mental health in accordance with the school's Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy.

If a pupil is unable to attend school for long periods of time due to their health, the school will:

- Inform the LA if a pupil is likely to be away from the school for more than 15 school days.
- Provide the LA with information about the pupil's needs, capabilities and programme of work.
- Help the pupil reintegrate at school when they return.
- Make sure the pupil is kept informed about school events and clubs.
- Encourage the pupil to stay in contact with other pupils during their absence.

The school will incorporate an action plan to help any pupils with SEND and/or health issues cope with the stress and anxiety that attending school may cause them. Such plans will be regularly monitored and reviewed until the pupil is attending school as normal and there has been signs of significant improvement.

To support the attendance of pupils with SEND and/or health issues, the school will consider:

- Holding termly meetings to evaluate any implemented reasonable adjustments.
- Incorporating a pastoral support plan.
- Carrying out strengths and difficulties questionnaire.
- Identifying pupils' unmet needs through the Common Assessment Framework.
- Using an internal or external specialist.
- Enabling a pupil to have a reduced timetable.

- Ensuring a pupil can have somewhere quiet to spend lunch and breaktimes.
- Implementing a system whereby pupils can request to leave a classroom if they feel they need time out.
- Temporary late starts or early finishes.
- Phased returns to school where there has been a long absence.
- Small group work or on-to-one lessons.
- Tailored support to meet their individual needs.

9. Leave during lunch times

Parents may be permitted to take their child away from the school premises during lunch times with permission from the headteacher – it is at the headteacher's discretion as to whether a pupil will be allowed to leave the premises.

Parents will submit a written request, outlining the reasons for their child to leave the premises during lunch time – this request will be submitted to the headteacher. The headteacher will consider the request and will invite the parent into the school for a discussion regarding any concerns, as well as the timely return of their child at the end of lunch time and their child's behaviour when not on the school premises. The headteacher reserves the right to grant or refuse a request and will inform the parent in writing of their decision within one week of the request.

Where permission has been granted, the headteacher will ensure a photo lunchtime pass is printed for the pupil and will include the pupil's name on the off-site register.

Pupils will leave the school premises within 10 minutes of the start of lunch and will return no later than 5 minutes before the end of lunch.

Parents will be required to meet their child at the school office when taking them off the premises – the pupil will be signed out and back in using the lunch time register at the school office. A member of staff will be available at the school office before the pupil leaves the premises and upon their return to sign them back in. No pupil will leave the premises before the member of staff at the school office has given their permission.

The headteacher reserves the right to withdraw their permission at any time – this may occur, for example, where there are attendance concerns. Any decision to withdraw permission will be in writing, explaining the reasons for the headteacher's decision. If permission is withdrawn, parents will not be entitled to appeal the decision. Parents will be able to withdraw their request at any time – the request will be submitted in writing to the headteacher.

Permission will be updated on a termly basis – letters will be sent to parents at the beginning of each term to confirm whether they would like their request to continue.

10. Truancy

Truancy will be considered as any absence of part, or all, of one or more days from school, during which the school has not been notified of the cause behind such absence.

All staff will be actively engaged in supporting the regular attendance of pupils, and understand the importance of continuity in each pupil's learning.

All pupils are expected to be in their classes by 08:30am and 13:00pm, where the teacher will record the attendance electronically. Any pupil with permission to leave the school during the day must sign out at the school office and sign back in again on their return.

Immediate action will be taken when there are any concerns that a pupil might be truanting. If truancy is suspected, the headteacher is notified, and they will contact the parent in order to assess the reasons behind the pupil not attending school.

The following procedures will be taken in the event of a truancy:

- In the first instance, a letter of warning will be sent to the parents of the pupil, informing them of the truancy and stating that any future occurrences could result in further action being taken.
- If any further truancy occurs, then the school will consider issuing a penalty notice.
- A penalty notice will be issued in line with the [Penalty notices and legal intervention section of this policy](#) where there is overt truancy, inappropriate parentally-condoned absence, excessive holidays in term-time and persistent late arrival at school.

The DSL will be involved where an instance of truancy may be linked to a safeguarding concern. Any safeguarding concerns will be dealt with in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

11. Absent pupils

Pupils will not be permitted to leave the school premises during the school day unless they have permission from the school. The following procedures will be taken in the event of a pupil going missing whilst at school:

- The member of staff who has noticed the absent pupil will inform the headteacher immediately
- The office staff will also be informed as they will act as a point of contact for receiving information regarding the search

- A member of staff will stay with the rest of the class, and all other available members of staff will conduct a thorough search of the school premises as directed by the headteacher
- The following areas will be systematically searched:
 - All classrooms
 - All toilets
 - Changing rooms
 - The library
 - Any outbuildings
 - The school grounds
- Available staff will begin a search of the area immediately outside of the school premises, and will take a mobile phone with them so they can be contacted.
- If the pupil has not been found after 10 minutes, then the parents of the pupil will be notified
- The school will attempt to contact parents using the emergency contact numbers provided
- If the parents have had no contact from the pupil, and the emergency contacts list has been exhausted, the police will be contacted.
- The absent pupil's teacher will fill in an incident form, describing all circumstances leading up to the pupil going missing
- If the absent pupil has an allocated social worker, is a looked-after child, or has any SEND, then the appropriate personnel will be informed
- When the pupil has been located, members of staff will care for and talk to the pupil to ensure they are safe and well
- Parents and any other agencies will be informed immediately when the pupil has been located

The headteacher will take the appropriate action to ensure that pupils understand they must not leave the premises, and sanctions will be issued if deemed necessary. Appropriate disciplinary procedures will be followed in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.

The headteacher will carry out a full investigation and will draw a conclusion as to how the incident occurred. A written report will be produced, and policies and procedures will be reviewed in accordance with the outcome where necessary.

12. Attendance intervention

In order to ensure the school has effective procedures for managing absence, the attendance officer, supported by the SLT, will:

- Establish a range of evidence-based interventions to address barriers to attendance.

- Monitor the implementation and quality of escalation procedures and seek robust evidence of the escalation procedures that work.
- Attend or lead attendance reviews in line with escalation procedures.
- Establish robust escalation procedures which will be initiated before absence becomes a problem by:
 - Sending letters to parents.
 - Having a weekly attendance review meeting with the HT/DSL.
 - Engaging with LA attendance teams.
 - Using fixed penalty notices.
 - Creating attendance clinics.

The school will use attendance data, in line with the '[Monitoring and analysing absence](#)' section of this policy, to develop specific strategies to improve attendance where patterns of absence are emerging. These strategies will be developed on a case-by-case basis, and will consider the particular needs of the pupils whom the intervention is designed to target.

The school will acknowledge outstanding attendance and punctuality in the following ways:

- Positive postcard home
- 100% attendance certificates, stickers and pencils
- Attendance included on the weekly newsletter
- Class attendance treat / reward
- 'Spotlight' day each term
- End of year prize raffles

School trips and events will be considered a privilege. Where attendance drops below 90 percent, these privileges may be taken away. The school will develop strategies for ensuring that pupils with health needs or home circumstances that result in additional absences are not unfairly excluded from attendance rewards, e.g by setting individualised targets.

13. Working with parents to improve attendance

The school will work to cultivate strong, respectful relationships with parents and families to ensure their trust and engagement. Open and honest communication will be maintained with pupils and their families about the expectations of school life, attendance and performance so that they understand what to expect and what is expected of them. The school will liaise with other agencies working with pupils and their families to support attendance, e.g. social services.

The school will ensure that there are two sets of emergency contact details for each pupil wherever possible to ensure the school has additional options for getting in touch

with adults responsible for a pupil where the pupil is absent without notification or authorisation.

The school will ensure that parents are aware of their legal duty to ensure that their child attends school regularly and to facilitate their child's legal right to a full-time education – parents will be made aware that this means their child must attend school every day that it is open, save for in certain circumstances, e.g. sickness or absences that have been authorised by the headteacher in advance. The school will regularly inform parents about their child's levels of attendance, absence and punctuality, and will ensure that parents are aware of the benefits that regular attendance at school can have for their child educationally, socially and developmentally.

If a pattern of absence becomes problematic, the attendance officer will work collaboratively with the pupil and their parents to improve attendance by addressing the specific barriers that prevent the pupil from being able to attend school regularly. The school will always take into consideration the sensitivity of some of the reasons for pupil absence and will approach families to offer support rather than immediately reach for punitive approaches.

Where these barriers are related to the pupil's experience in school, e.g. bullying, the attendance officer will work with the headteacher and any relevant school staff, e.g. the DSL and SENCO, to address this. Where the barriers are outside of the school's control, e.g. they are related to issues within the pupil's family, the attendance officer will liaise with any relevant external agencies or authorities, e.g. children's social care or the LA, and will encourage parents to access support that they may need.

14. Persistent absence (PA)

There are various groups of pupils who may be vulnerable to high absence and PA, such as:

- Children in need
- LAC
- Young carers
- Pupils who are eligible for FSM
- Pupils with EAL
- Pupils with SEND
- Pupils who have faced bullying and/or discrimination

The school will use a number of methods to help support pupils at risk of PA to attend school. These include:

- Offering catch-up support to build confidence and bridge gaps.
- Meeting with pupils to discuss patterns of absence, barriers to attendance, and any other problems they may be having.

- Establishing plans to remove barriers and provide additional support.
- Leading weekly check-ins to review progress and the impact of support.
- Making regular contact with families to discuss progress.
- Assessing whether an EHC plan or IHP may be appropriate.
- Considering what support for re-engagement might be needed, including for vulnerable groups.

The school will focus particularly on 'severely absent' pupils who have rates of absence over 50 percent, and will work with the LA and other partners to engage all relevant services needed to identify and address the wider barriers to attendance these pupils are facing.

Where a pupil at risk of PA is also at increased risk of harm, the school will work in conjunction with all relevant authorities, e.g. social services, to support the pupil in line with the school's duty of care. The school will also bear in mind that the continuation of severe PA following intervention may, in itself, constitute neglect, and will escalate any concerns in this regard in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

15. Penalty notices and legal intervention

The school will allow sufficient time for attendance interventions and engagement strategies to improve pupils' attendance; however, where engagement strategies to improve attendance have not had the desired effect after one term, the attendance officer will consider:

- Holding a formal meeting with parents and the school's point of contact in the School Attendance Support Team.
- Working with the LA to put a parenting contract or an education supervision order in place.
- Engaging children's social care where there are safeguarding concerns.

Where the above measures are not effective, the headteacher will issue a notice to improve as a final opportunity for parents to engage in support and improve attendance before a penalty notice is considered.

Where a pupil reaches the national threshold of 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks, the school will consider whether a penalty notice is appropriate. Each case will be considered individually to determine whether a penalty notice or another tool or legal intervention should be used to improve attendance.

A fixed penalty notice will be issued in line with the LA's code of conduct and the DfE's ['Working together to improve school attendance'](#) guidance.

Penalty notices for unauthorised absences will be charged at £160, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

A penalty notice of £160 may also be issued where parents allow their child to be present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification during the first five days of a fixed period or permanent exclusion. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

Parents will only get up to two fines for the same child in a three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

Where attendance still does not improve following a fixed penalty notice, the school will work with the LA to take forward attendance prosecution as a last resort.

Parents who are prosecuted and attend court because their child has not been attending school may be fined up to £2,500.

Education Supervision Orders (ESOs)

Where interventions have not been successful, an ESO can be an alternative to provide formal legal intervention without criminal prosecution. ESOs are made through the Family or High Court and give the LA a formal role in supporting the pupil and parents to improve their attendance. LAs will issue parents with a notice of the intention to consider an ESO, set up a meeting to discuss with the parent and pupil, and decide whether the case will be taken forward.

Once an ESO is secured, a supervisor from the local authority will decide any actions or requirements. These may include:

- Requiring the parents to attend support meetings.
- Requiring the parents to attend a parenting programme.
- Requiring the parents to access support services.
- Requiring an assessment by an educational psychologist.
- Review meetings involving all parties to be held every 3 months.

Failing to comply with an ESO will result in a fine and decisions will be made about whether further action is required.

16. Monitoring and analysing absence

The attendance officer will monitor and analyse attendance data regularly to ensure that intervention is delivered quickly to address habitual absence at the first signs.

The school will collect data regarding punctuality, truancy, and authorised and unauthorised absence, for:

- The school cohort as a whole.
- Individual year groups.
- Individual pupils.
- Demographic groups, e.g. pupils from different ethnic groups or economic backgrounds.
- Other groups of pupils, e.g. pupils with SEND, LAC and pupils eligible for FSM.
- Pupils at risk of PA.

The attendance officer will conduct a thorough analysis of the above data on a half-termly, termly and full-year basis to identify patterns and trends. This will include identifying, for each group:

- Patterns in uses of certain codes.
- Particular days of poor attendance.
- Historic trends of attendance and absence.
- Barriers to attendance.

The attendance officer will provide regular reports to staff across the school to enable them to track the attendance of pupils and to implement attendance procedures. The attendance officer will also be responsible for monitoring how attendance data changes in response to any interventions implemented to increase attendance in future.

The governing board will regularly review attendance data, including examinations of recent and historic trends, and will support the SLT in setting goals and prioritising areas of focus for attendance support based on this data.

The school will also benchmark its attendance data against local-, regional- and national-level data to identify areas of success and areas for improvement, and will share practice which has been shown to be effective with other schools.

17. Training of staff

The school will recognise that early intervention can prevent poor attendance. As such, staff will receive training in identifying potentially at-risk pupils as part of their induction and refresher training.

The governing board will ensure that teachers and support staff receive training in line with this policy as part of their induction. Following this initial training, staff will receive regular and ongoing training as part of their development.

Training will cover at least the following:

- The importance of good attendance
- That absence is almost invariably a result of wider circumstances

- The legal requirements on schools, e.g. the keeping of registers
- The school's strategies and procedures for monitoring and improving attendance
- The school's procedures for multi-agency working to provide intensive support for pupils who need it

The governing board will provide dedicated and enhanced attendance training to the attendance officer and other staff with specific attendance functions in their role – this will include training regarding interpreting and analysing attendance data and supporting pupils to overcome barriers to attendance.

Staff will receive training to ensure they understand that increased absence from school could indicate a safeguarding concern, and know how such concerns should be managed.

18. Deletions of names from the admission register

The school will ensure that it only deletes names from the admission register for a reason set out in regulation 9 of the School Attendance Regulations. A pupil's name will never be removed for any other reason and the school is aware that doing so could constitute off-rolling.

The school will make returns to the LA when pupils' names are deleted from the admission register. This will be with the exception of pupils whose name has been deleted from the register at or after the end of the last term of the school year when they are in the most senior year group, unless the LA has requested this information.

When the school is notifying the LA that a pupil's name is being deleted from the admission register, the following information about the pupil will be provided:

- Full name
- Address
- The full name and address of any parent the pupil normally lives with
- At least one telephone number by which any parent the pupil normally lives with can be contacted in an emergency
- If applicable, the pupil's future address, the full name and address of the parent who the pupil is going to live with and the date the pupil will start living there
- If applicable, the name of the pupil's other school and when the pupil began or will begin to attend the school
- The reason under which the pupil's name has been deleted from the admission register

Names will never be retrospectively deleted from the admission or attendance register – these registers will remain an accurate record of who is a registered pupil and their

attendance at any given time. Pupils' attendance will be recorded up until the date that their name is deleted from the admission register.

19. Monitoring and review

Attendance and punctuality will be monitored throughout the year. The school's attendance target is 96 percent – full details of the school's absence levels can be found on the school website.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher. The next scheduled review date for this policy is date.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all relevant stakeholde

Attendance Monitoring Procedures

Bramley Sunnyside Infant School has adopted the following attendance monitoring procedures, to ensure that pupils' attendance meets the expected standard, and effective intervention is provided where pupils' attendance falls below the standard:

1. Data is sent to SLT half termly stating contextual attendance figures to date.
2. Attendance is closely monitored by classroom teachers. Any trends noticed are reported to the attendance lead/SLT.
3. Contact is made with parents on the first morning of absence for any pupil absence not yet reported. 'N' codes are used to indicate that the pupil is absent for a reason not yet provided. The attendance lead must then ascertain the reason of absence and input the appropriate code. Failure to make contact with parents before 11am, will then result in a home visit to ensure the safety of the child.
4. As we recognise the importance of punctuality and how this can affect learning outcomes, we monitor our registers closely for re-occurring late marks. In the case that a pupil is persistently late, we will issue a letter and attendance certificate to highlight the frequency of late marks for your information. This letter welcomes a supportive conversation to discuss any ongoing reasons that may prevent the prompt arrival to school each day.
5. In the case that a pupil's attendance falls to 93 percent, the attendance lead will issue **letter one**. Our first letter encourages a partnership approach to prevent pupils becoming Persistent Absentees. The attendance certificate will also be enclosed so that parents are aware of their child's attendance picture.
6. The attendance is then monitored over a four-week period. In the instance that the attendance does not improve during this time, **letter two** is issued inviting parents to a meeting in school to discuss matters of concern.
7. If a pupils' attendance falls below 90 percent, this is officially classed as a Persistent Absentee. With this in consideration, we may no longer be able to authorise any further absence without signed doctor or hospital correspondence.
8. Following the monitoring period, if our data demonstrates an improving picture, a letter is sent home to congratulate the pupil and their parents on improving attendance. Close monitoring will continue until attendance stabilises to 96 percent as per government expectations.
9. If parents choose to not engage with this process and the support offered, this may result in being issued with a standardised letter from the Local Authority which provides a Notice to Improve or alternatively, a 'Request for Support' being made. Within this, a fixed penalty notice may be served or further enforcement as per the provisions of the Education Act (1996.)

All letters referred to are provided for your information at the end of this policy.



Bramley Sunnyside Infant School

Flanderwell Lane, Rotherham. S66 3QW

Tel: 01709 543061 Email: enquiries@bsi.school

Head Teacher: Mrs S Searson

Mr/Mrs/Miss
Bramley,
Rotherham,
South Yorkshire,

Date

Letter One - Supporting Good School Attendance

Dear,

Upon reviewing our whole school pupil attendance, we have identified that **child name** has missed _____ sessions of school since September. As a result of this, their attendance has fallen to ____%.

To this letter, we enclose _____ attendance certificate for your information.

Please be aware, that if their attendance falls below 90%, they will be categorised as being a 'Persistent Absentee'.

This is _ hours of missed learning which includes _ missed phonics lessons, _ missed writing lessons and _ missed maths lessons.

Pupil wellbeing and academic progress are paramount to us at Bramley Sunnyside Infant School and we believe that regular attendance throughout the year is essential for children to experience a sense of belonging, success and fulfilment.

As we recognise that all circumstances are different, we work with our families to provide the best education for every child.

Should you feel that there are any ongoing reasons preventing regular attendance, we would welcome a supportive conversation with you so that we can understand and overcome any barriers together.

Alternatively, we look forward to seeing an immediate and sustained improvement in _____ attendance.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Searson

Miss E Cheshire

Head Teacher

Attendance Lead



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Tel: 01709 543061 Email: enquiries@bsi.school

Head Teacher: Mrs S Searson

Mr/Mrs/Miss
Bramley,
Rotherham,
South Yorkshire,

Date

Letter Two - Invitation to an Attendance Meeting

Dear,

Upon reviewing our pupil attendance during the period _____, unfortunately **childs name** attendance has fallen from _____ to _____. This equates to _____ missed sessions of school since September.

As the attendance is now 90% or below, this is officially classed as a Persistent Absentee. With this in consideration, we are no longer able to authorise any further absence without signed doctor or hospital correspondence.

In an attempt to resolve issues regarding attendance, we would like to invite you for an attendance meeting on _____. This meeting is a supportive opportunity to discuss any matters of concern.

It is very important that you attend. It is only by working together that we will be able to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child.

If this date and time is not suitable for you, please call Miss Cheshire, Attendance Lead, to re-arrange.

We must make you aware that non-engagement with this process may result in you being issued with a Notice to Improve or a 'Request for Support' from the Local Authority being made.

I must advise you that it is your legal responsibility to ensure that your child attends school.

I thank you for your urgent attention to this matter and we look forward to meeting with you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Searson

Head Teacher

Miss E Cheshire

Attendance Lead



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Head Teacher: Mrs S Searson

Mr/Mrs/Miss
Bramley,
Rotherham,
South Yorkshire,

Date

Letter Two – Supporting Good School Attendance, An Improving Picture.

Dear,

Upon reviewing our pupil attendance during the period _____, we are pleased to celebrate a marked improvement in **childs name** attendance which has risen from _____ to _____. We sincerely thank you for your support and commitment around this matter.

As a school, we aim for each child to have an attendance of 96% or above in line with Government Guidelines. High attendance is vital to your child's academic achievement, wellbeing and wider development. There is evidence to suggest that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children and young people's educational, economic and social outcomes.

Whilst we appreciate that absences may have been due to illness, we feel that it is important to bring this information to your attention. We will continue to monitor your child's attendance which we expect to be over 90% next half term and show an improvement towards the 96% that is expected. If your child's attendance falls, we will write to you again.

If you do have any further questions, or if there is anything at all that we can do to support you, please contact Miss Cheshire, Attendance Lead, to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Searson

Miss E Cheshire

Head Teacher

Attendance Lead



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Mr/Mrs/Miss
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Rotherham,
South Yorkshire,

Date

School Attendance – Punctuality.

Dear,

Following routine register checks we have identified that **child name** has been late to school on a number of occasions this academic year.

The school day starts at 08:30am. At this time, pupils are expected to be in their classroom, ready to begin lessons. The morning register will be marked by 08:45am. Pupils will receive a late mark 'L' if they are not in the classroom by this time. At 9:15am the register closes, in which your child will then receive an unauthorised absence mark 'U' which can result in penalties from the Local Authority.

To this letter, we enclose **child's name** attendance certificate which will highlight the frequency of the late marks for your information.

To provide an indication on how punctuality affects your child's learning, should they be 5 minutes late per day, this equates to approximately 25 minutes per week and 3 whole school days/ 20 lessons of missed learning per year.

Being punctual for school is also crucial to develop and establish positive life habits for the future.

We understand that on rare occasions, due to unforeseen circumstances, being late is unavoidable, however we are concerned about the impact that lateness is having on your child's education.

Should you feel that there are any ongoing reasons preventing your child's arrival to school on time, we would welcome a supportive conversation with you so that we can discuss how we can work together to improve the situation.

Alternatively, we look forward to seeing a sustained improvement in _____ punctuality each day.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Searson

Head Teacher

Miss E Cheshire

Attendance Lead



Home Visit Slip

Date

RE :

Our records show that your children are absent from school today. We have not received a reason for absence and there has been no reply to our attendance phone call.

We have therefore visited your home address on the _____ at _____.

We are concerned about your child's attendance and wellbeing so appreciate you getting in touch with school as a matter of urgency to re-assure us of your safety.

You can contact us on 01709 543061.



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Date

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL: NOTICE TO PARENTS/CARERS

NAME OF CHILD:

DATE OF BIRTH:

REGISTERED PUPIL AT: (insert)

Dear (insert parent/carer name)

I am writing to notify you that due to the concerns around (Insert child's name) attendance a referral will now be made to the Local Authority for enforcement action.

The Education Act (1996) places a duty upon parents/carers, to ensure that children of school age attend school every time it is open, unless the children are prevented from doing so as a result of their own illness. In the case of illness, medical evidence should always be submitted.

The Local Authority and School together take attendance very seriously and have strong evidence that children who attend regularly are much more likely to achieve positive outcomes and perform well in school and achieve in later life.

During the period (START DATE) – (END DATE) (insert child's name) has been absent from school for (enter figure) unauthorised sessions.

The explanations given by you, for your child's absences, are not considered to be reasonable within the provision of the Education Act and the requirements in the Local Authority Code of Conduct have been met. I must, therefore, advise you that I will now refer this to the Local Authority.

It is my duty to bring to your attention the penalties which may be imposed:

A fixed penalty notice (FPN) charged at £160 if paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

A request for a second fixed penalty notice charged at £160 (if issued within 3 years from a first FPN.)

Other enforcement action, as outlined in Rotherham's Code of Conduct.

In the event of a fixed penalty notice (fine) being issued, the Local Authority will write to you with details of when and how to pay.

I should be pleased if you would give your immediate attention to this matter, and if you have any queries regarding this letter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

(Insert head teachers name)



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Head Teacher: Mrs S Searson

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Date

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL: NOTICE TO IMPROVE

NAME OF CHILD:

DATE OF BIRTH:

REGISTERED PUPIL AT: (insert)

Dear (insert parent/carer name)

I am writing to you to share my concern regarding the attendance of your child, (insert child's name.)

(Insert child's name) attendance is currently (insert attendance %) and the school are concerned as this is unsatisfactory. The Local Authority and School together take attendance very seriously and have strong evidence that children who attend regularly are much more likely to achieve positive outcomes and perform well in school and achieve in later life.

School and the Local Authority are keen that families who experience difficulties are supported to help make improvements with issues that are affecting family life and that can result in poor attendance.

The school have offered support to you and your family to try and help improve (Insert child's name)'s attendance, including:

1.Telephone calls. The school contacted you in line with your child's school attendance policy to understand why your child was absent and to offer their support with any issues your child may be having.

2.An Attendance Overview Letter. The school wrote to you, letting you know about (Insert child's name) attendance, the impact of their continued absence, and inviting you to contact the school to discuss the situation further.

3.An Attendance Support Meeting Invite. The school invited you to a meeting to discuss your child's unauthorised absences and to offer support to ensure that their attendance improved. You were notified of the consequences should your child continue to have unauthorised absence and you did not effectively engage with the support offered.

4. An Early Help Assessment. Support is available for families through the Early Help Assessment and Plan. This is a process that helps professionals understand the issues that may be affecting the child and family and plan appropriate support to help. We recognise that family life can at times be difficult and sometimes families' need a helping hand to assist.

Please list any additional support given to each individual family

Unfortunately, despite the support that was offered to your family, attendance remains a cause for concern. Between «START_DATE» and «END_DATE» the pupil failed to attend regularly at «School_Name», which resulted in 10 sessions (half days) or more of unauthorised absences being recorded. Please see the attached registration certificate for details.

You now have until **(Date)** in which to improve your child's attendance. During this time your child must show improvements in attendance and avoid having any unauthorised absences from school during this period. Should we not see sufficient improvement and further unauthorised absences take place during this period, a Penalty Notice may be issued, or other enforcement considered. For your child sufficient improvement is sessions out of a possible..... sessions during the monitoring period.

It is, however, important to note that **enforcement action may be taken if an improvement in attendance is not made.** If there is not a marked improvement in (**insert child's name**) attendance at school, the matter will be reported to the Local Authority with a view to seeking enforcement as per the provisions of the Education Act (1996.)

A penalty notice is charged at £160 if paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

A second fixed penalty notice within 3 years will be charged at £160.

Where there is a third request to the Local Authority alternative enforcement will be considered, which may include prosecution.

It is important that you take this information seriously and act in the best interests of your child to ensure future good attendance.

If you wish to discuss this notice, or discuss what further support is available, please contact (**insert school contact person**) on (**INSERT CONTACT NUMBER/ EMAIL**) as soon as possible:

Yours sincerely,

(**Insert head teachers name**)