



Attendance, Absence and Punctuality Policy

Audience:	Parents REAch2 Staff Local Governing Bodies Cluster Boards Trustees
Ratified:	REAch2 Trust Board September 2024
Other related policies:	Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Complaints Procedures Policy Behavioural Policy Children Missing Education Policy Home Visit Policy Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
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Review:	Every 3 years

At REAch2, our actions and our intentions as school leaders are guided by our Touchstones.



Leadership

Finding the leader in all of us.



Inclusion

Realising the greatness in our difference.



Learning

Creating exceptional opportunities for learning.



Enjoyment

Loving what we do.



Inspiration

Feeling the power of the possible.



Integrity

Being courageously true to our purpose.



Responsibility

Unwavering commitment to seeing things through.

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Policy Overview

Kemsley Primary Academy recognises the importance of working in partnership with families to find supportive routes to improve attendance. It is very important, therefore, that parents/carers make sure their child(ren) should be at school, on time and ready to learn, every day school is open, unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. This policy sets out how together we will achieve this. Missing school means missing out. Our target for each child at Kemsley Primary Academy is to achieve a minimum of 97% attendance throughout the academic year.

One of our basic principles is to celebrate success. Good attendance is fundamental to a successful and fulfilling school experience. Alongside this, at Kemsley Primary Academy we want to support children to build habits and routines that will ensure successful characteristics and virtues as adults. We actively promote excellent attendance for all pupils, and we use a variety of weekly, termly and annual awards to promote good attendance and punctuality.

These include:

- Reggie Bear
- Certificates
- Flash playtimes (additional play time)
- End of year school reward

The school will develop strategies for ensuring that children with health needs or home circumstances that result in additional absences are not unfairly excluded from attendance rewards, e.g. by setting individualised targets.

We recognise that our pupils are individuals and will work effectively with them and their parents/carers to enable them to achieve maximum possible attendance and that any problems preventing good attendance are acted on promptly.

Children and families have 175 days off school to spend time together, including weekends and school holidays. There is a clear connection between regular attendance and achievement. As attendance deteriorates, so does performance, achievement, friendship circles and self-esteem.

Improving attendance is everyone's business. The Governors, Headteacher and Staff in partnership with parents have a duty to promote full attendance at Kemsley Primary Academy.

Kemsley Primary Academy is committed to promoting race, disability and gender equality within all practices and procedures related to attendance and punctuality.

Student attendance and punctuality data may be shared with Parents/Carers, REAch2, Local Authority, Early Help, School Liaison Officer, Social Services, Police, Ofsted and the DfE.

We are committed to:

- 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.
- Promoting and modelling good attendance and punctuality behaviour.
- Ensuring equality and fairness of treatment for all.

- Implementing our policies in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.
- Early intervention and working with other agencies to ensure the health and safety of our children.
- Rewarding regular attendance and good punctuality.

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 (2020) 'School attendance'
- DfE (2015) 'Child performance and activities licensing legislation in England'
- DfE current version of Keeping Children Safe In Education
- DfE (2016) 'Children missing education'
- DfE (2021) 'Improving school attendance: support for schools and local authorities'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Safeguarding and child protection policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behavioural Policy
- Part-time Timetable Policy
- *Pupils with Medical Conditions & Administrations of Medicines Policy*

Definitions

The following definitions apply for the purposes of this policy: **Absence:**

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

Authorised absence:

- An absence for sickness 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:

Only the Headteacher can authorise absence using a consistent approach. The Headteacher is not obliged to accept a parent's explanation. If absences are not authorised, parents will be notified.

Unauthorised absences are coded as "O". Please note that if correct procedures have not been followed to report absences or request a leave of absence, then they will automatically be classed as unauthorised, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Absence (leave) during term time can only be approved in "exceptional circumstances". The following reasons are examples of absence that will not be authorised:

- Persistent nonspecific illness e.g. poorly/unwell
- Absence of siblings if one child is ill
- Oversleeping
- Inadequate clothing/uniform
- Confusion over school dates
- Medical/dental appointments of more than half a day without very good reasons
- Child's/family birthday
- Shopping trip
- Family Holidays (with some rare exceptions)

Persistent absenteeism:

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

Lateness

- Arrival at school after the beginning of the school day but before the register has closed

Policy In Detail

Roles and Responsibilities

The governing board has overall responsibility for:

- Monitoring the implementation of this policy and all relevant procedures across the school.
- 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 'Keeping children safe in education' when making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy and all relevant procedures across the school.
- Ensuring all parents are aware of the school's attendance and punctuality expectations and procedures.
- Ensuring that every child has access to full-time education and will act as early as possible to address patterns of absence.
- Sharing daily attendance data with the Department for Education.
- Appointing a designated Senior Attendance Champion.
- Ensuring electronic registers are kept for six years.

Staff are responsible for:

- Following this policy and ensuring children do so too.
- Ensuring this policy is implemented fairly and consistently.
- Modelling good attendance and punctuality behaviour.
- Using their professional judgement and knowledge of individual children 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.
- Ensuring that the name the pupil uses at school is recorded on the register.

The *Attendance Lead* is responsible for informing the LA of any child being deleted from the admission and attendance registers if they:

- Are being educated from home.
- No longer live within a reasonable distance of the registered school.
- Have an authorised medical note.
- Have been permanently excluded.
- Have been recorded with code I (illness) for 15 days.

The *Senior Attendance Champion* is responsible for:

- Setting a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance.
- Establishing and maintaining effective systems for tackling absence.
- Ensuring systems are followed by all staff and all staff have a strong grasp of absence data to focus the collective efforts of the school.
- Monitoring and evaluating progress regularly, including the efficacy of the school's strategies and processes.
- Holding formal conversations with parents, and pupils if age-appropriate, where engagement in support is proving challenging.

Children are responsible for:

- Attending their lessons and any agreed activities when at school.
- Arriving punctually to lessons when at school.

Parents are responsible for:

- The attendance and punctuality of their children at school.
- 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.
- Promoting good attendance and punctuality with their children.

For the purpose of this policy, a parent means:

- all natural parents, whether they are married or not;
- any person who has parental responsibility for a child or young person; and,
- any person who has a legal duty of care of a child or young person

Training of staff

The school will recognise that early intervention can prevent poor attendance and/or punctuality. Teachers and support staff will receive training on this policy as part of their induction. Following this initial training, staff will receive regular and ongoing training as part of their development.

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

Child expectations

Children are expected to attend school every day and need to be ready for school, helping parents/carers to ensure that they arrive at school punctually.

Children at risk of persistent absence (PA)

The school will ensure it provides support to children at risk of persistent absence (PA), in conjunction with all relevant external authorities, where necessary.

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 review with the class teacher/vulnerable pupil meetings*.
 - Engaging with LA attendance teams.
 - Using fixed penalty notices.
 - Creating a culture of good attendance

The governing board will engage in attendance panels to reinforce messages and outline relevance in terms of training and employment.

Where a child at risk of persistent absence is also at increased risk of harm, the school will work in conjunction with all relevant authorities, e.g. social services, to support the child in line with the school's duty of care.

Where a child becomes at risk of persistent absence, the school will:

- Welcome children back following any absence and provide catch-up support to build confidence and bridge gaps.
- Meet with children and parents to discuss patterns of absence, barriers to attendance, and any other problems they may be having.
- Establish plans to remove barriers and provide additional support.
- Lead regular check-ins to review progress and the impact of support.

- Make regular contact with families to discuss and celebrate progress.
- Consider what support for re-engagement might be needed, including for vulnerable groups.

The school attendance system will be used to give an accurate and informative view of attendance, reasons for absence and patterns within vulnerable groups, including:

- Children with a social worker
- LAC
- Children who are eligible for FSM
- Children with EAL
- Children with SEND

Children Missing in Education (CME)

We understand the risks posed to children who are not receiving a full-time education, both in terms of their safety and their academic achievement. We are aware of both DfE guidance (Children missing education – Statutory guidance for local authorities, [2016]) and our Local Authority procedures concerning Children Missing in Education. We will work in full accordance with these expectations, including working jointly with the Local Authority to make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of a child who has not returned to school for ten days after an authorised absence or following twenty consecutive days of unauthorised absence. We will share information from our admissions and attendance registers as requested with the Local Authority, and with other schools when a child transitions to or from our school, to support with effective implementation of the authority’s policies relating to these statutory duties. In the event of any safeguarding concern regarding a child who is missing in education, we will follow our safeguarding policy.

After 20 consecutive days of absence, and if there are no reasonable grounds to believe the child will return to the school, even with reasonable support and enforcement to try to secure their return to school, a joint decision will be required between the school and the LA about removing the child from the school roll.

Children with medical conditions or special educational needs and disabilities

Some children face greater barriers to attendance than their peers. These can include children who suffer from long term medical conditions or who have special educational needs and disabilities. Staff at the school will work with the parents and be mindful of the barriers these children face and put additional support in place where necessary to help them access their full-time education whilst maintaining the same, high expectations regarding their attendance.

This includes mental or physical health needs. The school should provide additional support and refer to local available services. Medical evidence for recording absences is likely only required in a minority of cases, but schools can seek medical evidence to better understand the needs of the child and identify the most suitable provision where reasonable adjustments or support may be needed.

Part-time timetables

All children at our school are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a child’s best interest, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs. For example, where a medical condition prevents a child from attending full-

time education and a part-time timetable is considered as part of a re-integration package. Any part-time timetable will have a time limit by which point the child will be expected to attend full-time, either at school or an alternative provision. This will be kept under regular review with the child and their parents. **Please see the Part-time timetable policy for more information.**

Parental Responsibility and Involvement

The school will build respectful relationships with parents and families to ensure their trust and engagement. Open and honest communication will be maintained with child's and their families about the expectations of school life, attendance, punctuality and performance so that they understand what to expect and what is expected of them. The school will liaise with external agencies to support families with attendance and punctuality.

Parents will be expected to:

- Treat staff with respect.
- Actively support the work of the school.
- Ask staff for help when they need it.

Communicate with the school about possible circumstances which may affect their child's attendance / punctuality or require support.

Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child(ren) attend school. We expect pupils to attend school every day when the school is open and arrive on time. This is essential to the all-round development of the child and they should be allowed to take full advantage of educational opportunities available to them. Poor attendance undermines their education and sometimes puts pupils at risk, encouraging anti-social behaviour.

The school listens to parents and pupils, seeking to understand what is stopping individual pupils from attending regularly and they put the right support in place to help solve the problem but will not tolerate poor attendance.

It is the parents' responsibility to contact the school on the first day their child is absent office@kemsley-academy.org

Or you can send a message via class dojo/ or contact the office on 01795 428689. **This is a safeguarding requirement so that all parties know that your child is safe and their whereabouts is known.** Parents should regularly update the school and inform on when their child is returning.

If your child has been sick or had an upset stomach, it is advised they remain at home for 24 hours since the last episode. Where sickness/diarrhoea is not due to a contagious infection ie a coughing bout/IBS and the child shows no sign of being unwell, then parents should use their discretion regarding their child's fitness to attend school.

Procedure for an absent child

A child's safeguarding risk will be assessed using any safeguarding information and/or thresholds known to us. In such cases, the school's designated safeguarding lead should be consulted on a risk assessment and the degree of vulnerability of the child.

If a pupil is absent, a designated member of staff will endeavour to contact the parent or carer on the first day of absence and continue to make every effort to locate the pupil. If required two members of staff will complete a home visit.

Kemsley Primary Academy will follow the procedure below:

Day 1 – Phone call

Response From Parent	Next Step From School
A staff member telephones the child's home to seek reasons for the absence.	If there is no answer, school send a message. Call back. Risk assess after 2 hours. Kemsley may complete a home visit or request a police 'safe and well' check if the vulnerability is considered high.
The parent/ carer answer the call, the child is safe with them.	Ask for reason for absence and record on your school's attendance management system.
The person answering is not the parent/carer and the school is not reassured that the child is home safe.	The school's designated safeguarding lead for child protection should be consulted on a risk assessment and the degree of vulnerability of the child. Kemsley may complete a home visit or request a police 'safe and well' check if the vulnerability is considered high.
The parent/carer answered the call, the child is not with them or safe and the parent is concerned	Advise the parent to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Contact the local police station to inform them that the child is missing- Contact all people and places the child is known to talk to and visit to tell them that the child is missing and ask if they can help to find the child, by providing information which may shed light on the child's whereabouts or actively searching for the child- Contact the family GP and Accident and Emergency Centres near where the child lives and goes to school, in case he/she has sustained an injury and been taken in for medical treatment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report back to school if the child is found or remains missing - School to make a referral to children's services
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- *If the judgement on Day One is that there is reason to believe that the child is at risk of harm the school will contact Integrated Front Door immediately on: 03000 41 11 11.*
- *If the judgement on Day One is that there is no reason to believe that the child is at risk of harm, the Academy continues to make enquiries and informs Kent's Children Missing Education Team on Day Ten that the child is missing education.*

Day 2 – Follow up phone call

A subsequent telephone call must be made either from the school landline or preferably a mobile phone. A home visit by two members of staff.

Day 3 – Write/email parents

Kemsley will write or email to the parent in plain English, asking for contact to be made with the school immediately. The parents/carers will be given 3 working days to make contact and if the school is aware that English may not be the parent's first language, the letter will be, wherever possible, copied into a language that may be more accessible.

Day 5/6 – Home visit *(If we feel that we need to do a home visit earlier, we will do so.)*

Kemsley will arrange a visit to the home address either by themselves or through requesting a police 'safe and well' check dependent on vulnerabilities identified through a risk assessment.

In the event that Kemsley has completed all relevant checks to try and ascertain the whereabouts of a child who is not in school (or within 10 days, whichever is earlier) and the child has still not been seen and the parents/carers have not made contact with either, the Academy will report the child as missing from education, following Kent's Missing in Education Policy 2016.

If Kemsley become aware of any child who is not receiving an education we will contact:

Kent CME Team – call 03000 41 69 69; email cme@kent.gov.uk

Or refer online: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-attendance/children-missing-education>

However, if Kemsley is at all concerned about a child's safety i.e.

- a serious concern about the safety of a child
- a concern that a child is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed
- worry that a child is living in circumstances where they are treated badly and not cared for properly
- we will URGENTLY contact: Integrated Front Door immediately on: 03000 41 11 11, The Out of Hours Services can be contacted on 03000 41 91 91.

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

- Ascertain the reason for the absence.
- Ensure the proper 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.

In the case of 'Persistent Absence' (below 90% attendance), arrangements will be made for parents to speak to the Attendance Lead and Headteacher.

Where a child 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 child from the admissions register if the school and the LA have failed to establish the whereabouts of the child after making reasonable enquiries. (*CME statutory guidance pg 8, para 18*).

Attendance register

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 children 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:

- / = Present in the morning
- \ = Present in the afternoon
- L = Late arrival before the register has closed
- C = Authorised absence for exceptional circumstances
- C1 = Participating in regulated performance or regulated employment abroad.
- C2 = Part-time timetable
- E = Excluded but no alternative provision made
- I = Illness
- M = Medical or dental appointments
- R = Religious observance
- B = Off-site education activity
- K = Attending LA arranged alternative provision
- G = Unauthorised holiday
- O = Unauthorised absence (for other reasons)
- U = Arrived after registration closed
- N = Reason not yet provided
- X = Not required to be in school
- T = Gypsy, Roma and Traveller absence
- V = Educational visit or trip
- P = Participating in a supervised sporting activity
- D = Dual registered – at another educational establishment
- Q = Unable to attend due to lack of access arrangements
- Y (1-7) = Exceptional circumstances

- Z = Child 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 children 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.

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.

Children who are absent from school and receiving remote education will be recorded as absent.

Every entry received into the attendance register will be preserved for **six years** from the date of the last entry.

If they are persistently absent, children will be referred to the *Attendance Lead* who will attempt to resolve the situation through a parent agreement. If the situation cannot be resolved and attendance does not improve, then a formal meeting is arranged with the Senior Attendance Champion. If persist absence continues, the *Local Authority* has the power to issue sanctions such as prosecutions or penalty notices to parents.

The *Attendance Lead* will monitor and analyse attendance data regularly to ensure that intervention is delivered quickly to address absence and will provide regular reports to staff across the school to enable them to track the attendance of children and to implement attendance procedures. The Senior Attendance Champion will oversee this.

Where a child's absence is 50% or below, the Headteacher will report this to the relevant staff members in school (e.g. DSL) and the Deputy Director of Education (DDoE), providing them with a detailed report of the issues relating to the poor attendance and the school's actions to address this. The DDoE may decide to refer to this the Safeguarding Lead for further advice and support.

Length of School Day

- Schools are expected to publish their school hours on their website
- Schools are expected to be teaching a minimum of 32.5 hours each week at the latest from September 2023 and should be actively working towards this during 2022-23.
- The 32.5 hours includes all the time that all pupils are expected to be in school from the point at which the register is taken to the end of the school day. This includes break times, lunch times assemblies and so on. However, it does not include optional before or after school clubs.
- For schools that operate a 'soft start' at the beginning of the day, this time does NOT count towards the 32.5 hours. The school day begins at the time at which the register is taken and all pupils are expected to be in school.

Lateness

The school will regard punctuality as of the utmost importance and lateness will not be tolerated.

The school gates open at **8:30am** and close at **8:45am**.

The school day starts at **8:45am**. Children should be in their classroom at this time. Registers are taken as follows throughout the school day:

- Registers are marked by **8:50am**. Children will receive a late mark if they are not in their classroom by this time.
- The register closes at **9:20am**. Children will receive a mark of absence if they do not attend school before this time.
- After lunch, registers are marked by **1:00pm**. Children will receive a late mark if they are not in their classroom by this time.
- The register closes at **1:30pm**. Children will receive a mark of absence if they are not present.
- Children attending after **9:20am** will receive a mark to show that they were on site, but this will count as a U code, which is an unauthorised absence.

The school day ends at **3:15pm**.

The school gates open at **3:15pm** and close at **3:25pm**.

All pupils are expected to be collected at this time, unless they are attending Tetita Childcare (which finished at 5:30pm latest) or if they are attending extracurricular clubs (which end at 4:15pm).

Term-time leave

The school will require parents to observe the school holidays as prescribed; therefore, the headteacher will be unable to authorise holidays during term-time in most cases. The headteacher will be only allowed to grant a leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. Applications will be made in advance and the headteacher will be satisfied by the evidence which is presented, before authorising term-time leave. The headteacher will determine the amount of time a child can be away from school during term-time. Any leave of absence is at the discretion of the headteacher. Any requests for leave during term-time will be considered on an individual basis and the child's previous attendance record will be taken into account.

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

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

If parents take their child out of school during term-time without authorisation from the headteacher, they may be subject to sanctions such as penalty fines.

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 child 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 child and will include the child's name on the off-site register.

Parents will be required to meet their child *at the school office* when taking them off the premises – the child 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 child leaves the premises and upon their return to sign them back in. No child will leave the premises before the member of staff has given their permission.

If a child is expected to be leaving the school premises, they are required to do so – children will go home as soon as they leave the site and will not loiter outside the premises.

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 *half-termly* basis – letters will be sent to parents at the beginning of each term to confirm whether they would like their request to continue.

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. **This will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.**

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

All children are expected to be in their classes **by 8:45am and 1:00pm**, where the teacher will record the attendance electronically. Any child 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 child 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 child 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 child, 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 where there is overt truancy, inappropriate parentally–condoned absence, excessive holidays in term–time and persistent late arrival at school.

Leaving the school without permission

Children will not be permitted to leave the school premises during the school day unless they have permission from the school. Please refer to REAch2 Missing Pupil Policy.

Religious observances

The school will take advice from local religious leaders of all faiths to establish the appropriate number of days of absence required for religious festivals. Parents will be required to inform the school in advance if absences are required for days of religious observance.

Appointments

As far as possible, parents will be encouraged to book medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, parents are encouraged to provide the school with a note, appointment card or screenshot of an appointment text message as evidence.

If the appointment requires the child to leave during the school day, they will be signed out at the school office by a parent. Children will be expected to attend school before and after the appointment wherever possible.

Modelling, sport and acting performances/activities

The school will ensure that all children engaging in performances/activities (whether they, or another person, receives 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 children 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 child.

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

below 97%. Where a licence has not been obtained, the headteacher will not authorise any absence for a performance or activity.

Young carers

The school understands the difficulties that face young carers and will endeavour to identify young carers at the earliest opportunity, as well as through their time at the school. A caring and flexible approach will be taken to the needs of young carers and each child will be examined on a case-by-case basis, involving other agencies if appropriate.

The school, in conjunction with relevant authorities, will implement support for children who are young carers, to encourage their sustained and regular attendance at school in line with the school's expectations.

Attendance Monitoring and review

Attendance and punctuality will be monitored throughout the year. The school's attendance target is 97% – full details of the school's absence levels can be found on: <https://www.kemsley-academy.org/>

Kemsley Primary Academy has adopted the following attendance and punctuality monitoring procedures, to ensure that children' attendance and punctuality meets the expected standard, and effective intervention is provided where children' attendance and/or punctuality falls below the standard:

1. A spreadsheet is sent by the Trust to the *Senior Attendance Champion and Attendance Lead* detailing *weekly and annual (cumulative)* attendance and punctuality to date.
2. Attendance and punctuality is discussed by classroom teachers. Any attendance/punctuality trends noticed by classroom teachers are passed immediately to the SLT.
3. Contact is made with parents on the first day of absence for any child absence not reported. 'N' codes are used to indicate that the child is absent for a reason not yet provided; these N codes are reported the Attendance Lead daily.
4. Contact is made to the parents of any children marked using the N code. Any N codes not established after a week are recorded as an unauthorised absence.

The attendance and Persistent Absence (P.A) of all children will be ragged (Purple, Green, Yellow, Amber, Red).

Purple	Green	Yellow	Amber	Red
Attendance at or above 97%	Attendance between 95.5 – 96.9%	Attendance between 94 – 95.4%	Attendance between 92.5% – 93.9%	Attendance 92.4% or below

PA 8% or below	PA 8.1% – 10%	PA 10.1% –12%	PA 12.1% – 14%	PA 15% or above
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Purple – Attendance at or above 97% and/or PA at 8% or below

Attendance is above the national Primary average and persistent absence is below the national average.

Green – Attendance 95.5% – 96.9% and/or PA at 8.1% – 10%

Attendance is broadly in line with or above the national average. A child’s attendance needs further improvement in order to maximise their learning.

If a child’s attendance falls within the 95.5% – 96.9% band, the *Attendance Lead* will speak to the child in school to discuss any issues or problems to ascertain how the school can help to improve their attendance. The *Attendance Lead* will also make a phone call home to discuss this with parents, if necessary.

Yellow – Attendance 94% – 95.4% and/or PA at 10.1% – 12%

Attendance is below national average. A child’s attendance needs further improvement to avoid becoming disadvantaged in their learning.

If a child’s attendance falls within the 94% – 95.4% band, a letter is sent home explaining that the child’s attendance is now being monitored, and the *Attendance Lead* will contact the parents to discuss this. The child’s attendance will be monitored for *four weeks* and, if attendance does not improve after this time, parents are required to attend a meeting in school with the classroom teacher and set targets for their child. At this meeting, the barriers to the child attending school should be discussed and ways in which both parents and the school can work together to overcome such barriers.

After the *four-week* monitoring period, and if targets are met, a letter is sent home from the SLT to congratulate the child and their parents on improving attendance. Monitoring and communication with the parents continues until attendance stabilises to *within 95.5% – 96.9% (green band) and/or PA is less than 10%*

Amber – Attendance 92.5% – 93.9% and/or PA at 12.1% – 14%

Attendance is well below the national average and is causing concern. It is highly likely that a child is disadvantaged by poor attendance.

Where absence intensifies, so should the support provided. The school will work in tandem with the local authority and any other relevant partners. A meeting will be held with parents to clearly explain the consequences of persistent and severe absence to the child (if old enough) and family and the

potential need for legal intervention in the future. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to continue to listen to and understand the barriers to attendance and explain the help that is available to avoid these consequences.

The *Attendance Lead* should maintain regular contact with the child and parents and celebrate any improvements made in the child's attendance.

Red – Attendance 92.4% or below and/or PA 15% or above

A child's attendance is persistently and significantly below average and is significantly disadvantaged as a result of poor attendance.

Where voluntary support has not been effective and/or has not been engaged with the school will work with the local authority to:

- Put formal support in place in the form of a parenting contract or an education supervision order
- Issue a fixed penalty notice where support would not be appropriate or has not been successful or engaged with and it is likely to change the parents' behaviour
- Intensify support through statutory children's social care involvement where there are safeguarding concerns, especially where absence becomes severe (below 50% attendance).
- Issue a 'Notice to Improve'.
- Prosecute parents where all other routes have failed or are not deemed appropriate. This could include making the case for a community or parenting order where the parent is convicted to secure engagement with support.

Please note that the time of year may impact attendance percentages, a day in Autumn term has a greater impact on a child's attendance than in summer term. Leaders must consider this when making decisions about what actions should be taken.

In all cases, the school will monitor the impact of any intervention(s) and make adjustments where necessary in discussion with the child, parents and any other partners involved as part of any whole family plan or team around the family. Where interventions are failing, all parties should work together to identify the reasons why and either adjust or change the approach.

Policy Review

The Attendance, Absence and Punctuality Policy will be reviewed **every 3 years** or sooner, taking into account any legislative changes and the latest guidance issued by the DfE.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.