



# IWYS ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

## Attendance Policy

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| <b>Approved by:</b> | Charmaine Baines | <b>Date:</b> 12 <sup>h</sup> December 2024 |
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## 1. Aims

We are committed to meeting our obligation with regards to school attendance through our whole-school culture and ethos that values good attendance, including:

- › Promoting good attendance
- › Reducing absence, including persistent and severe absence
- › Ensuring every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- › Acting early to address patterns of absence
- › Building strong relationships with families to ensure pupils have the support in place to attend school

We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK](#) and refers to the DfE’s statutory guidance on [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- › Part 6 of [The Education Act 1996](#)
- › Part 3 of [The Education Act 2002](#)
- › Part 7 of [The Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- › [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006 \(and 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016 amendments\)](#)
- › [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

This policy also refers to the DfE’s guidance on the school census, which explains the persistent absence threshold also Keeping Children Safe In Education 2024 [Keeping children safe in education 2024](#) and [Keeping children safe in education 2024: part one – for school and college staff](#)

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

### 3.1 The Proprietor

The proprietor is responsible for:

- › Implementation of this policy at IWYS - Alternative Provision
- › Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- › Reporting to schools and LA in regard to Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary
- › Leading attendance across IWYS - Alternative Provision
- › Offering a clear vision for attendance improvement
- › Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- › Having an oversight of data analysis
- › Devising specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data
- › Arranging calls and meetings with parents and dual placement schools to discuss attendance issues
- › Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families

The designated senior leader responsible for attendance is Charmaine Baines and can be contacted via Tel: 07341 214173 and email [charmaine@iwys.co.uk](mailto:charmaine@iwys.co.uk)

- › Providing regular attendance reports to dual placement school staff and reporting concerns about attendance
- › Working with education welfare officers to tackle persistent absence

### 3.2 IWYS admin/office staff

IWYS admin/office staff will:

- › Take calls from parents about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on IWYS - Alternative Provision system
- › Transfer calls from parents to the proprietor in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance

### 3.3 Parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- › Make sure their child attends every day/timetabled session on time
- › Call IWYS - Alternative Provision to report their child's absence before 08:30am on the day of the absence (each subsequent day of absence), and advise when they are expected to return
- › Provide IWYS - Alternative Provision with more than 1 emergency contact number for their child
- › Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of IWYS - Alternative Provision Day

### 3.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- › Attend every timetabled session on time

## 4. Recording attendance

### 4.1 Attendance register

LA will implement DC Pro to monitor attendance. IWYS alternative provision will also keep an attendance register and place all pupils onto this register.

We will take our attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session using DC Pro. It will mark whether every pupil is:

- › Present
- › Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- › Absent
- › Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

Any amendment to the attendance register will include:

- › The original entry
- › The amended entry
- › The reason for the amendment
- › The date on which the amendment was made
- › The name and position of the person who made the amendment

See appendix 1 for the DfE attendance codes.

We will also record:

- › Whether the absence is authorised or not
- › The nature of the activity if a pupil is attending an approved educational activity
- › The nature of circumstances where a pupil is unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

We will keep every entry on the attendance register for 3 years after the date on which the entry was made.

Pupils must arrive in school by 09:00am on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 09:10am and will be kept open until 10:00am. The register for the second session will be taken at 11:30am and will be kept open until 12:00 noon.

### 4.2 Unplanned absence

The pupil's parent/carer must notify IWYS - Alternative Provision of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 08:30am or as soon as practically possible by calling IWYS - Alternative Provision staff or admin/office staff (see also section 7).

We will mark absence due to illness as authorised unless IWYS - Alternative Provision has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.

If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, IWYS - Alternative Provision may ask the pupil's parent/carer to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily.

If IWYS - Alternative Provision is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and parents/carers will be notified of this in advance.

### 4.3 Planned absence

Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent/carer notifies IWYS - Alternative Provision in advance of the appointment by phone and appointment letter if possible.

However, we encourage parents/carers to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

The pupil's parent/carer must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence. Go to section 5 to find out which term-time absences IWYS - Alternative Provision can authorise.

#### 4.4 Lateness and punctuality

A pupil who arrives late:

- › Before the register has closed will be marked as late, using the appropriate code
- › After the register has closed will be marked as absent, using the appropriate code
- › All late arrivals will be documented and reported to dual placement schools

#### 4.5 Following up unexplained absence

Where any pupil we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, without reason, IWYS - Alternative Provision will:

- › Call the pupil's parent/carer on the morning of the first day of unexplained absence to ascertain the reason. If IWYS - Alternative Provision cannot reach any of the pupil's emergency contacts, IWYS - Alternative Provision will contact named dual placement school, social care if student is under a care plan. All core group multi-agency professionals.
- › Identify whether the absence is approved or not
- › Identify the correct attendance code to use and input it as soon as the reason for absence is ascertained – this will be no later than 5 working days after the session
- › Call the parent/carer on each day that the absence continues without explanation to ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, IWYS - Alternative Provision will consider involving an education welfare officer

#### 4.6 Reporting to parents/carers

IWYS - Alternative Provision will regularly inform parents about their child's attendance and absence levels. Parents are phoned daily to ascertain attendance and absence.

### 5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

#### 5.1 Approval for term-time absence

IWYS alternative provision will only grant a leave of absence to a pupil during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. A leave of absence is granted at the proprietor's discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for. IWYS alternative provision will liaise with the named dual placement school for guidance and approval regarding absence.

We define 'exceptional circumstances' as bereavement, act of God incident, accident.

IWYS - Alternative Provision considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request.

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, at least 2 weeks before the absence, and in accordance with any leave of absence request form, accessible via named dual placement school. IWYS alternative provision may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

Valid reasons for **authorised absence** include:

- Illness and medical/dental appointments (see sections 4.2 and 4.3 for more detail)
- Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parents belong. If necessary, IWYS - Alternative Provision will seek advice from the parents' religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart
- Traveller pupils travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh gypsies, Irish and Scottish travellers, showmen (fairground people) and circus people, bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and new travellers. Absence may be authorised only when a traveller family is known to be travelling for occupational purposes and has agreed this with the named dual placement school but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision

## 5.2 New National Framework – Penalty Notices

Named dual placement schools or local authority can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age. IWYS Alternative Provision follow the same sanctions.

- To meet the threshold prior to considering use of penalty notices there must be 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period
- The 10 unauthorised sessions can be made up of any of the following codes: O, G and U codes
- Over a 3 year period a maximum of 2 penalty notices can be issued per child
- A third offence during the 3 years would result in prosecution in the magistrates courts
- This means schools will need to track individual student's attendance over that period of time
- Any absence of leave in term time over 5 days – a Penalty Notice can still be issued
- Should a Penalty notice be issued – the amount will go up from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> day it will double to £160 rather than the current £120
- This is for a first offence only!
- If attendance does not improve and a further Penalty Notice is considered this will be issued at the higher rate of £160
- Should a 3<sup>rd</sup> incidence occur – this will be automatically prosecuted in the Magistrates court
- If a family has been prosecuted before then the current referral process will be applied

## 6. Strategies for promoting attendance

IWYS alternative provision will communicate daily with parents/carers and schools to encourage attendance and address and support with any concerns regarding absences.

## 7. Attendance monitoring

IWYS alternative provision keep daily registers and inform named dual placement school and core multi-agency professionals of any attendance issues. IWYS alternative provision keep daily communication named dual placement school regarding attendance and absence issues.

### 7.1 Monitoring attendance

IWYS – Alternative provision will:

- Monitor attendance and absence data half-termly, termly and yearly across IWYS - Alternative Provision and at an individual pupil level
- Identify whether or not there are particular groups of children whose absences may be a cause for concern

Pupil-level absence data will be collected each term and published at national and local authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases. The underlying school-level absence data is published alongside the national statistics.

## 7.2 Analysing attendance

IWYS - Alternative Provision will:

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

## 7.3 Using data to improve attendance

IWYS - Alternative Provision will:

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

## 7.4 Reducing persistent and severe absence

Persistent absence is where a pupil misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence is where a pupil misses 50% or more of school.

IWYS - Alternative Provision will:

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

## 8. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority or DfE is updated, and as a minimum of one year by Charmaine Baines (Director/Proprietor).

## 9. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- › Child protection and safeguarding policy
- › Behaviour policy

### Appendix 1: attendance codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's guidance on school attendance.

| Code | Definition | Scenario |
|------|------------|----------|
|------|------------|----------|

|          |                               |   |
|----------|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>/</b> | Present (am)                  | Pupil is present at morning registration  |
| <b>\</b> | Present (pm)                  | Pupil is present at afternoon registration  |
| <b>L</b> | Late arrival                  | Pupil arrives late before register has closed   |
| <b>B</b> | Off-site educational activity | Pupil is at a supervised off-site educational activity approved by IWYS - Alternative Provision   |
| <b>D</b> | Dual registered               | Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered                    |
| <b>J</b> | Interview                     | Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment                      |
| <b>P</b> | Sporting activity             | Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by IWYS - Alternative Provision |
| <b>V</b> | Educational trip or visit     | Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised, or approved, by IWYS - Alternative Provision     |
| <b>W</b> | Work experience               | Pupil is on a work experience placement   |

| <b>Code</b>               | <b>Definition</b>           | <b>Scenario</b>  |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Authorised absence</b> |                             |  |
| <b>C</b>                  | Authorised leave of absence | Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances |
| <b>E</b>                  | Excluded                    | Pupil has been excluded but no alternative provision has been made         |
| <b>H</b>                  | Authorised holiday          | Pupil has been allowed to go on holiday due to exceptional circumstances   |
| <b>I</b>                  | Illness                     | School has been notified that a pupil will be absent due to illness        |
| <b>M</b>                  | Medical/dental appointment  | Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment                                |



|                             |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>R</b>                    | Religious observance              | Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance   |
| <b>S</b>                    | Study leave                       | Year 11 pupil is on study leave during their public examinations  |
| <b>T</b>                    | Gypsy, Roma and traveller absence | Pupil from a traveller community is travelling, as agreed with IWYS - Alternative Provision   |
| <b>Unauthorised absence</b> |                                   |   |
| <b>G</b>                    | Unauthorised holiday              | Pupil is on a holiday that was not approved by IWYS - Alternative Provision   |
| <b>N</b>                    | Reason not provided               | Pupil is absent for an unknown reason (this code should be amended when the reason emerges, or replaced with code O if no reason for absence has been provided after a reasonable amount of time) |
| <b>O</b>                    | Unauthorised absence              | School is not satisfied with reason for pupil's absence   |
| <b>U</b>                    | Arrival after registration        | Pupil arrived at school after the register closed   |

| <b>Code</b> | <b>Definition</b>                                 | <b>Scenario</b>  |
|-------------|---|--|
| <b>X</b>    | Not required to be in school                      | Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend   |
| <b>Y</b>    | Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances | School site is closed, there is disruption to travel as a result of a local/national emergency, or pupil is in custody |
| <b>Z</b>    | Pupil not on admission register                   | Register set up but pupil has not yet joined IWYS - Alternative Provision  |
| <b>#</b>    | Planned school closure                            | Whole or partial school closure due to half-term/bank holiday/INSET day  |