

Ormiston Academies Trust

Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy

Attendance policy

Policy version control

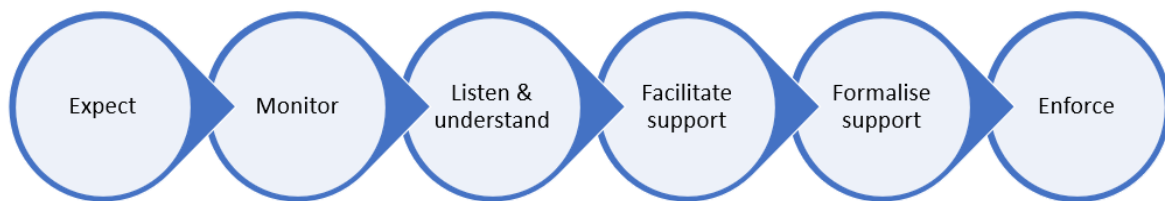
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1. Policy statement

- 1.1. Improving attendance is everyone's business. Every child of compulsory academy age is entitled, by law, to receive full time education and it is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child attends school. Attending school regularly is not only essential for them to achieve well in their learning but it also helps them with their social and emotional development and overall well-being. Attending school regularly gives children the best opportunity to have wider and better life chances.
- 1.2. The academy recognises that some children find it harder than others to attend school. The academy will always seek to work in partnership with parents to understand any barriers to attendance and provide support to address these. Small dips in attendance can lead to more significant attendance difficulties that are harder to overcome. Therefore, the academy will always intervene early to understand the needs of children and families and put the right support in place as soon as attendance falls below the expected standard.
- 1.3. The academy will **expect** high standards of attendance, **monitor** attendance data, **listen** to children and parents to **understand** barriers, provide **support**, formalising it when necessary, and **enforce** attendance through statutory intervention, only when all other avenues have been exhausted.



2. Legislation and guidance

- 2.1. This policy meets the requirements of the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory guidance on attendance: [Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#). Links to other relevant legislation and guidance can be found at Section 20.
- 2.2. A child must start full time education once they reach **compulsory school age**. This is on the 31st December, 31st March or 31st August following their fifth birthday – whichever comes first. A child can leave full time education on the last Friday in June if they will be 16 by the end of the school summer holidays. They must then do one of the following until they are 18:
 - stay in full-time education, for example at a college.
 - start an apprenticeship or traineeship.
 - spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

3. Attendance and punctuality expectations

- 3.1. This academy expects children to be in school, on time, every day unless they are too ill to attend or have an authorised absence. Attendance is often reported as a percentage. The following table shows how percentages equate to the number of days and lessons lost each year, how this would be graded and the type of support that would be **typically** put in place:

Attendance %	Academy days missed per year	Number of lessons missed per year	Attendance grading	Possible action
100%	0	0	Outstanding	-
98%	4	20	Very good	-
96%	7	25	Good	Academy monitoring
95%	10	50	Almost there	Academy support
94%	11	55	Improvement needed	Academy support
90%	20	100	Concern	External support/referrals
80%	29	145	Serious concern	External support / referrals / penalty notices

- 3.2. When a child arrives late to academy, even by a few minutes, they miss an important part of the academy day, which can include learning time, assemblies and teacher instructions. Children can feel embarrassed at having to enter the classroom late and it can disrupt the learning of others. **At Thomas Wolsey Omiston Academy, arrival within the registration window is really important in helping pupils 'get ready for learning'. Familiar morning routines help settle and orientate pupils. It is a time for class teams to attend to, and mitigate any barriers to learning, (such as sorting feeds, medications or meet intimate care needs), ensure pupils are in the optimal position for learning and ensure they have their tools for learning, (such as communication aids or equipment for sensory regulation). It is a time for their teacher to ensure they are registered correctly and have had time to meet and greet their peers. These routines are important and require concentration and care on the part of pupils and staff alike. Although valuable learning happens during the registration window, more focused learning will follow when all these routines are in place. Arrival during the registration window will therefore optimize focused learning time for the class as a whole. The table below shows how frequent lates can add up to a significant amount of lost learning of an average time-table:**

Minutes late per day	Academy days lost per year	Number of lessons lost per year
5 minutes	3	15 lessons
10 minutes	6	30 lessons
15 minutes	9	45 lessons

4. The academy day

4.1. The following table sets out the times of the academy day:

School arrival	9:00	Child should be in the academy reception or at the rear of school with parent/carer awaiting collection from academy staff or on Schools Transport at the rear of school awaiting collection from academy staff
Start of the academy day	9:00	Children engage in morning routines and, as far as is practicably possible, meaningful learning as soon as they arrive in school.
Morning registration 'arrival window'	9:00-9:20	<p><i>NB The process of collecting all pupils from the bus entrance or the reception takes time. Whilst every effort is made to make this process as swift as possible, not all pupils can be safely transported through the school in one go. Most children should have arrived in their class by about 9:20.</i></p> <p><i>An 'arrival window' also makes an allowance for additional challenges that may sometimes occur with children who have additional needs, e.g. a last-minute pad change, time to regulate in the event of an unexpected incident that has upset the child. There remains however a core expectation of a 9:00am arrival. (see above for morning routines as to why this is important)</i></p> <p><i>NB Some children, due to their needs, have a special arrangement to arrive after the 'arrival window'. This is a bespoke provision and needs to be made in prior agreement with the Attendance Lead. Regular review of bespoke arrangements will be made.</i></p>

Morning registration	9:00 – 9:40	<p>Child receives an ‘unauthorised absence’ (U) mark if they arrive after the register closes and no valid reason has been provided for their absence</p> <p><i>NB Children arriving <u>consistently</u> outside of the ‘registration window’, will receive a ‘Late’ code. Pupils will not be penalized for late arrival where it is no fault of their own, e.g. an issue with Schools Transport or staff delay to collect from the reception area. Patterns of late arrival, (where no prior agreement due to the needs of the pupil has been agreed) will be addressed through the appropriate channel, (i.e. via Schools Transport or with parents/carers).</i></p>
Afternoon registration	1:15-1:20	<p>Child receives an ‘unauthorised absence’ mark if they arrive after the close of afternoon registration, (and they have not previously been in school) and no authorized reason for their absence has been granted.</p>
End of the academy day	3:15 – 3:45	<p>Pupils start loading on to Schools Transport at 3:15.</p> <p>Pupils are collected from reception from 3:15 onwards by parents or carers.</p> <p><i>NB The process of loading pupils onto buses at the end of the school day takes time. Whilst every effort is made to make this process as swift as possible, not all pupils can be safely transported through the school in one go. <u>Most</u> children have been loaded onto buses by 3:45. No buses should be arriving after this time.</i></p> <p><i>Parents/carers collecting from the reception should collect their child at 3:15. NB Some children, due to their needs, have a special arrangement to be collected slightly before or after 3:15. This is a bespoke provision and needs to be made in prior agreement with the Attendance Lead. Regular review of bespoke arrangements will be made.</i></p>

5. Authorised and unauthorised absences

- 5.1. ‘Authorised absence’ means that the academy has either given approval in advance for a pupil of compulsory school age to be away from the school or has accepted an explanation offered afterwards as justification for absence. Please see codes below and the DfE’s Working together to improve school attendance guidance for more information.)

Authorised absence		
C1	Absent to participate in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad.	Authorised absence
C2	Pupil of compulsory school age is absent due to a parttime timetable agreed by the parent and the school	Authorised absence
C	Absence agreed by the school due to an exceptional circumstance At Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy, exceptional term-time leave is granted for <u>very</u> special events, such as ‘Make-a-wish’ experiences, events where the child may be involved in a charitable or promotional event for their condition, significant unavoidable events such as family funerals or a wedding of a close family member. Whilst we recognize the additional challenges that our families face taking holidays in peak times, we are unable to authorize these. Please continue to use the term-time absence request form to notify the academy of any intended absence. You will find this in the families section of the school website or one can be requested from the academy office via your child’s pastoral teacher. This allows honest and timely communication with the academy and allows a full consideration of any mitigating circumstances.	Authorised absence (See note re term-time holidays at the academy)
I	Illness (physical and/or mental health related)	Authorised absence
J1	Absence agreed by the school to attend an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution	Authorised absence
M	Absence agreed by the school for medical/dental appointment	Authorised absence
P	Approved sporting activity	Authorised absence
R	Day set aside for religious observance	Authorised absence
T	A mobile child (child of no fixed abode) who is travelling with their parent for their trade or business	Authorised absence
V	Educational visit or trip	Authorised absence
W	Work Experience	Authorised absence
X	Non-compulsory school age pupil not timetabled to attend	Authorised absence

5.2. Pupils taken ill during the academy day. If a pupil needs to be sent home due to illness, this should be by agreement with an appropriately authorised member of academy staff. **The Co-Principals, (or in their absence the senior member of staff on call) must be notified of any pupil leaving the academy during the day, and will make the ultimate decision around this.** In such circumstances, the pupil must be collected from the academy office by a parent/carer or another authorised adult (unless otherwise agreed between the school and the parent/carer) and signed out **on Inventory**. No pupil will be allowed to leave the academy site without parent/carer confirmation.

5.3. Religious observance

The academy acknowledges the multi-faith nature of the academy community and recognises that religious festivals sometimes fall outside of academy holidays or weekends.

- In accordance with the law, the academy will authorise one day's absence for a day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the parent/carer belongs – this will be marked with the R code. In line with the DfE's Working together to improve school attendance guidance, if necessary, the academy will seek advice from the parent/carer's religious body, about whether it has set the day apart for religious observance.
- Parents/carers should notify the academy in advance that their child will be absent for religious observance, so that the academy knows whether to expect the pupil into school or not. • If a parent/carer would like their child to be absent for an additional day, around a religious observance, they should contact the academy. The academy will consider each application individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request. If additional absence is authorised, this will be marked with the C code.
- The academy will ensure a pupil is not penalised for absence due to days of Religious Observance, for example if using attendance rewards.

5.4. Mobile pupil - parent travelling for occupational purposes

A mobile child is a child of compulsory school age who has no fixed abode and whose parent(s) is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as to require them to travel from place to place.

- The academy will authorise the absence of a mobile child who is unable to attend school because they are travelling with their parent in the course of their trade or business. This is subject to certain limits, depending on the child's age and number of sessions absent. The school will discuss cases individually with parents as necessary. Parents should let the school know of their plans as far in advance as possible.
- The academy will not unnecessarily ask for proof that a parent is travelling for occupational purposes, this will only happen when there are genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity of the reason for absence given. If there is doubt, the school may ask for proof that the family are required to travel for occupational purposes during the period of absence.
- To help ensure continuity of education for mobile children, when their parents are travelling for occupational purposes in England, wherever possible it is expected that children should attend a school where their parents is travelling and be dual registered at that school and at this academy, which is their 'main school'.
- The T code, which is an authorised absence, will be used when mobile children are known to be travelling for occupational purposes, but it is not known whether the child is attending another educational provision.
- When their parents are not travelling occupational purposes, mobile children are subject to the same rules as other children in terms of the requirement to attend school regularly.

- 5.5. Unauthorised absence is where the academy is not satisfied with the reason given for the absence, or where no reason has been provided. Please see codes below and the DfE's Working together to improve school attendance guidance for more information.)

Unauthorised absence		
G	Holiday not granted by the school.	Unauthorised absence
N	Reason for absence not yet established.	Unauthorised absence
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances.	Unauthorised absence
U	Arrived in school after registration closed (where an authorised absence code does not apply).	Unauthorised absence

- 5.6. Unauthorised absence includes (but is not limited to) absences due to:
- Reasons which have never been properly explained to the academy
 - Arriving at the academy after the register has closed. (Although late arrival for a reason such as a medical appointment will usually be an authorised absence – see section 7 for more information.)
 - Birthdays
 - Waiting at home for something to be fixed, or a parcel to be delivered
 - Parent/carer's or sibling's illness (unless very exceptional circumstances apply and have been agreed in writing by the academy)
 - Day trips, other than those organised by the academy
 - Holidays in term time (unless exceptional circumstances are agreed in writing, in advance, by the academy)
- 5.7. Where the academy has genuine and reasonable doubt about the actual reason for a pupil's absence, staff may seek additional information or evidence from parents/carers regarding the absence, and/or make a home visit in to verify the reason. If the reason cannot be verified and the academy has cause to believe the reason given for absence may not be genuine, parents/carers may be asked to provide satisfactory evidence of the reason. If satisfactory evidence is not provided, the school may record the absence as unauthorised.
- 5.8. Unauthorised absences may result in legal intervention, usually penalty notices or prosecutions. See 'Penalty notices, prosecutions and education supervision orders' section for more information.
- 5.9 **At Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy, other codes are sometimes needed. Notes are added to electronic registers and analysed as part of the academy's wider Safeguarding responsibilities. Pupils and their parents/carers will never be penalised for non-attendance where the absence is not their fault. Any patterns that occur of this nature will be addressed through the appropriate channels. The following are ones that may occur from time to time at the academy.**

Unauthorised absence		
B	Attending other approved educational activity (This code is allocated to pupils in receipt of home-learning from the SPLSA team or may be given where suitable arrangements are in place from one of the	Authorised absence

	Hospital Schools or other suitably registered and properly checked specialist learning provisions)	
Q	Unable to attend – lack of access arrangements (This code is allocated to pupils where there their specialist provision needed to access school has fallen through – typically those with high medical needs)	Authorised absence
Y1	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being provided (This code is allocated where issues have arisen with Schools Transport)	Authorised absence
Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel (This code is sometimes needed where extreme weather or the closing of the Orwell Bridge has created gridlock and impossible travel)	Authorised absence

6. Reporting a child's unplanned absence

6.1. If a child is absent, parents must:

- Contact the academy as early as possible, but before 9:00 am, on the first day of absence, either by telephone or in person.
- The telephone number to report an absence is: 01473 467600
- Parents/carers can also report an absence by email. Again this must be done by 9:00 am. The email address to report an absence is pupilabsence@thomaswolseyoa.co.uk (Parents/carers are asked to also copy in their child's pastoral teacher so they are aware of the absence in good time)
- Call every day thereafter to advise the academy of the child's progress.

6.2. Absence due to physical or mental illness will be marked as authorised unless the academy has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness. Where there are doubts about the authenticity of the illness, the academy will ask for medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription or note from a pharmacist, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. The academy will not ask for medical evidence without good reason.

6.3. If the academy is not satisfied about the authenticity of illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised, and parents notified of this.

7. Reporting a child's planned absence

7.1. Wherever possible, all appointments should be made outside of the academy day. If this is not possible, parents should ensure that children are out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary e.g. if an appointment can only be arranged for 11am, a child should be in the academy both before and after the appointment.

7.2. Planned absences for appointments should be reported to the academy as far in advance as possible by as far in advance as possible by notifying the child's pastoral teacher and emailing

pupil.absence@thomaswolseyoa.co.uk. Parents/carers may also phone the academy office on 10474 467600. Where a child is likely to be off for an extended period of time, (e.g. an operation), parents/carers are asked to speak directly to the relevant Head of Department.

8. Leave of absence during term time

- 8.1. In accordance with the DfE's [Working together to improve school attendance](#), there are very limited circumstances where the academy will grant a leave of absence during term time. These are:
- Taking part in a regulated performance or employment abroad
 - Attending an interview
 - A temporary, time limited part-time timetable (see section 18)
 - **Exceptional circumstances:** the academy may grant a leave of absence for exceptional circumstances at their discretion. This must be requested in advance by a parent who the child normally lives with. The academy will consider each application individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request. If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the academy to determine the length of time the child can be away from the academy. **(Please see notes in the code box above (Code C) regarding exceptional circumstances. Please do contact your child's Head of Department or the Attendance Lead if you would like to discuss any exceptional circumstances further).**
- 8.2. The law does not grant parents/carers the automatic right to take their child out of school during term time for holidays or other absence such as trips and visits. The academy will not authorise any leave of absence in term-time unless satisfied the reason for absence is exceptional. The academy will consider each application individually. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the academy's discretion. Parents/carers should not make plans to take their child out of school without making a request to the school first and the school gives permission for the absence. The request should be made by the parent/carer with whom the child normally lives.
- 8.3. Leave of absence will not be granted for a child to take part in protest activity during academy hours.

9. Key contacts for attendance

- 9.1 All academy staff are responsible for monitoring and supporting good attendance. However, the following members of staff provide specific oversight of attendance and/or can provide support to parents and children:

Role	Name	Can support with:	Contact details
Senior Attendance Champion	Emily Webster	Ultimate decision-making around matters relating to	Emily.webster@thomaswolseyoa.co.uk

		attendance, e.g. EHE, term-time absence requests, special considerations for later starts, part-time time-tables etc.	
Academy Attendance officer	As above	As above	As above
Pastoral teachers	Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy - Staff and Structure	Primary point of contact for children off school	Via main switchboard/reception Direct email
Head of years	Lower School Middle School Upper School	Attendance requiring multi-disciplinary approach. Additional layer of support for pastoral teachers.	Amanda.jebb@thomaswolseyoa.co.uk Laura.goodfellow@thomaswolseyoa.co.uk Miglena.gencheva@thomaswolseyoa.co.uk
Designated safeguarding lead	Helen Dickenson	As above. Additional layer of support for HODs and more complex attendance issues of a safeguarding nature.	Helen.dickenson@thomaswolseyoa.co.uk
Co-Principals	Helen Dickenson Emily Webster	As above	Helen.dickenson@thomaswolseyoa.co.uk Emily.webster@thomaswolseyoa.co.uk
Senior mental health lead	Amanda Jebb	Additional advice, support, links with partner organisations	Amanda.Jebb@thomaswolseyoa.co.uk

10. Following up unexplained absence

10.1. Where any child the academy expects to attend does not, or stops attending, without reason, the academy will:

- Call the child's parent on the first morning of the first day of unexplained absence to find out the reason. At least two points of contact must be given to the academy for this purpose, **ideally three**. If the

academy cannot reach any of the child's emergency contacts, the academy will contact the child's social worker if they are known to social services.

- If after a period of 3 days of absence the child has not been seen and contact has not been made with the academy, all reasonable enquiries will be made by the academy to establish contact with the parent of the child, including making enquiries to known friends and extended family **and other professionals known to work with the family**. In addition, a home visit will be made, by senior leadership team or a related professional, (usually a therapist working in close partnership with academy staff) to check the safety and wellbeing of the child and to find out the reason for absence.
- Children whom the academy assesses as being at greater risk of harm will receive safe and well checks on each day of absence. If a child has a social worker, the academy will notify them on the same day of any absence.
- Where a child has not returned to the academy for ten days after an authorised absence or is absent without authorisation for twenty consecutive academy days, they are considered to be 'Children Missing Education (CME)' (see [Children Missing Education](#)). The child may be removed from the academy admission register when the academy and local authority have failed, after jointly making reasonable enquiries, to establish the whereabouts of the child.

11. Safeguarding

- 11.1. Lack of consistent or regular attendance, erratic attendance or persistent and severe absence or children missing education (CME) are safeguarding issues and must act as a warning sign to a range of possible concerns including neglect, sexual abuse or child criminal exploitation (CCE) and serious violence. They may also be an indication of child-on-child abuse including bullying and sexual harassment or significant mental ill health concerns. They must not be seen as purely isolated attendance concerns.
- 11.2. Where children have or have had a social worker or need safeguarding, this will inform decisions about safeguarding support.
- 11.3. The academy is responsible for the safeguarding of children placed in alternative provision and for monitoring their attendance at alternative provision. This will follow the same process as for children attending the mainstream setting.

12. Promoting and rewarding good attendance

- 12.1 The academy recognises that rewarding good and improved attendance should be carefully considered, to ensure it does not make pupils who have poor attendance, feel marginalised, worried or guilty about their low attendance rate, its impact on the pupil's own learning or the learning or rewards for the class as a whole.
- 12.2. The academy promotes good attendance to parents through:

- Ensuring it is celebrated at each Annual Review of the EHCP
- Rewarded through the departmental rewards schemes celebrated in departmental assemblies

12.4 The academy will regularly review any reward systems to ensure they are not negatively impacting on individual pupils or groups of pupils.

13. Attendance monitoring

- 13.1. The academy will use attendance data to identify any patterns of poor attendance so that barriers can be identified at the earliest opportunity and support put in place to prevent any issues worsening.
- 13.2. Weekly attendance will be monitored and analysed to see if there are any patterns or trends in the data that need further investigation and targeted support will be provided. The analysis will be shared with relevant staff e.g. class teachers, form tutors, heads of year, SENCO, designated safeguarding lead (DSL) who will be expected to explore any issues with individual children and provide appropriate support. **At Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy, a weekly meeting between the Attendance Lead and Attendance Support takes place each Friday. Attendance is also discussed as part of a standing agenda item on the weekly DSL meeting each Thursday.**
- 13.3. The attendance of groups of children (e.g. year groups, boys and girls), will be monitored and analysed by the academy **as part of these regular meetings**. This data will be compared with local, regional and national levels to identify any areas of focus for improvement, and a report shared with the governing body.

14. Reducing persistent and severe absence

- 14.1. Persistent absence (PA) is when a child misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence (SA) is when a child misses 50% or more of school. For both PA and SA, the absence can be for both authorised and unauthorised reasons or a mixture of both.
- 14.2. PA and SA will always be regarded as a significant concern. Absence for whatever reason disadvantages a child by creating gaps in their learning. It also means they miss out on important aspects of social and emotional development that contribute to their overall wellbeing and can be an indication of a safeguarding risk.
- 14.3. The academy will use attendance data to identify those children who are **at risk of becoming PA** and intervene early to identify barriers to good attendance. Strategies may include:
- Close partnership working with pastoral teams, therapists and other professionals to ensure pupils absent for medical or physical reasons are supported to return to school as soon as possible through bespoke packages of support, (this may include part-days, additional postural management etc.)

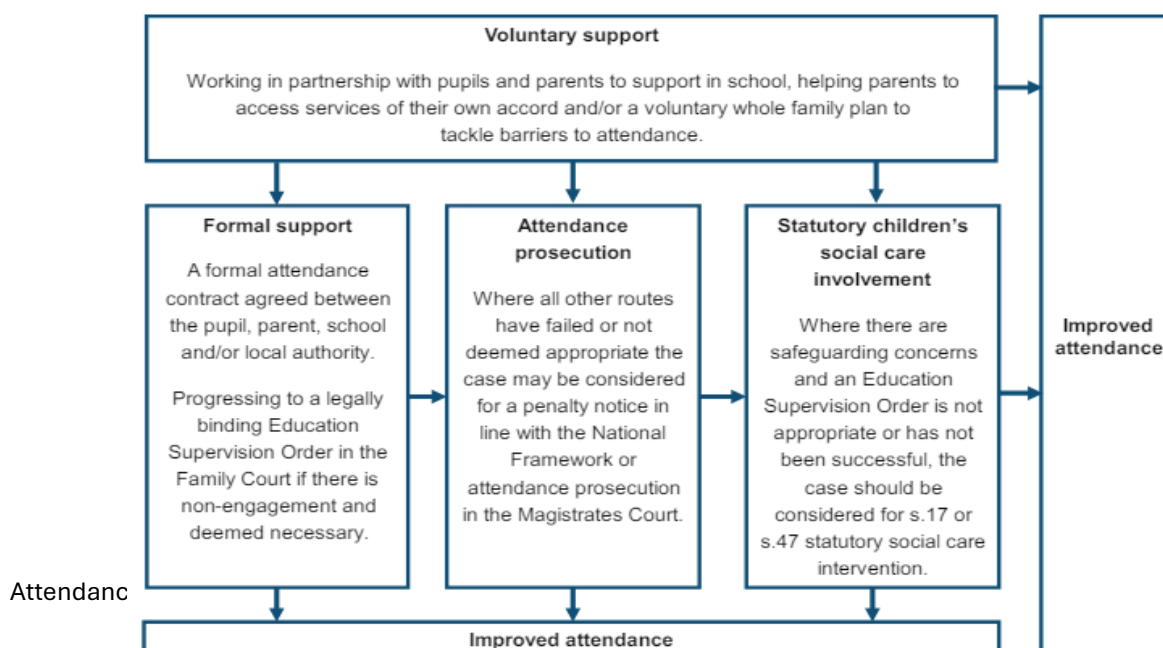
- Close partnership working with pastoral teams and other professionals, e.g. Social Services, Schools Transport to ensure any barriers to full attendance at school are removed as quickly as possible
- Ensuring attendance is a standing agenda item in the weekly Attendance and DSL meetings
- Clear processes for attendance monitoring and ensuring that all admin staff are clear about attendance processes and are kept up-to-date of any changes.

- 14.4. If a child meets the threshold for **persistent absence**, the academy will work in partnership with parents and the child to agree a voluntary early help plan. This may include referrals to and support from external services. This may include referrals to and support from the Educational Welfare Officer in addition to the support listed above.
- 14.5. If a child meets the threshold for **severe absence**, the academy will intensify its support strategies. This will include referrals to and support from external services. This may include referrals to and support from the Educational Welfare Officer in addition to the support listed above.
- 14.6. Children who are persistently or severely absent will be prioritised for support. The academy understands that absence is often a symptom of wider issues a family is facing and will always seek to understand these barriers and provide support. Where that is not successful, or is not engaged with, the law protects children's right to an education and provides a range of legal interventions to formalise attendance improvement efforts. In addition, individual cases may be referred to Children's Social Care. Attendance legal intervention will only be used as a last resort and after all other avenues have been exhausted.

15. Legal intervention

- 15.1. This diagram sets out how the academy may progress to legal interventions once all other support strategies have been exhausted. In making any decision to use legal interventions, the academy will always consider the individual circumstances of a family on a case-by-case basis.

Providing support first before attendance legal intervention



- 15.2. In some circumstances, the academy may feel it is appropriate to use an attendance contract. An attendance contract is a formal written agreement between a parent and either the academy or the local authority. It is not legally binding but allows a more formal written agreement to support where a voluntary early help plan has not worked. An attendance contract is intended to provide support and offer an alternative to prosecution. Further details on attendance contracts can be found in [Working together to improve school attendance](#).
- 15.3. If an attendance contract is agreed but the parent does not comply with its contents, the academy and local authority may proceed to an alternative course of action including legally binding interventions and ultimately a prosecution. Again, this will always be a last resort after every attempt has been made to secure engagement.

16. National framework for penalty notices

- 16.1. Penalty notices can be issued to parents as an alternative to prosecution where a child's absence is recorded as unauthorised and that absence(s) constitutes an offence. Penalty notices can only be issued by the Principal, or someone authorised by them, a local authority officer or the police.
- 16.2. While there is a national threshold for when it is appropriate to issue a penalty notice, the academy has a duty to consider each case individually in deciding whether this is an appropriate course of action.
- 16.3. The national threshold is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. A school week means any week in which there is at least one school session. This can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 4 sessions of holiday taken in term time plus 6 sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks). The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).
- 16.4. A penalty notice 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 5 days of a fixed period or permanent exclusion.
- 16.5. In deciding whether to issue a penalty notice, the academy will consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether this is the best tool to improve attendance or whether alternatives may be more appropriate. They will also consider any obligations under the Equality Act 2010 such as when the child has a disability.

Students attending other educational settings (AP etc)

Parents reporting absence at AP – systems and processes of the school still apply.

17. Supporting children with specific needs

- 17.1. Some pupils face greater barriers to attendance than their peers. These can include pupils who suffer from long term medical conditions or who have special educational needs and disabilities. In working with parents to improve attendance, we are mindful of the barriers these pupils face and will put additional support in place where necessary to help them access their full-time education. **At Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy, working in partnership with our parents/carers, (and other professionals) is essential. All situations will be treated individually and with understanding for the needs of each individual and the barriers to attendance that may present as a result.**
- 17.2. If a child has an education, health and care plan (EHCP), the academy will communicate with the local authority where a child's attendance becomes a concern.

18. Part time timetables

- 18.1. In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a child's best interests, there may be a need for the academy to provide a child of compulsory school age with less than full-time education through a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs. For example, where a medical condition prevents a child from attending school or another setting full-time, and a part-time timetable is used to help the child access as much education as possible and as part of a reintegration package.
- 18.2. A part-time timetable should not be used to manage a child's behaviour.
- 18.3. Part time timetables will be in place for the shortest time necessary and, unless there are exceptional circumstances, last no longer than 6 weeks. **Formal reviews will take place regularly** and will include the child, parents and other professionals as appropriate.
- 18.4. The Principal (or another member of the senior leadership team authorised by them) will agree all part-time timetables. A lead member of staff with responsibility for monitoring the part -time timetable will be agreed, and they will provide information and updates to other relevant members of staff in the academy e.g. DSLs, pastoral team, as well as liaising closely with parents and the child.
- 18.5. A plan between the academy, the child and the parent will be drawn up. It will record the details of the timetable including **any review dates and a proposed end date** and responsibilities for safeguarding and review dates. Records of all review meetings will be added to the plan. **Records will be kept added to the pupil's time-line on CPOMS.**
- 18.6. Where the child has a social worker, the academy will keep them informed and involved in the process.
- 18.7. If the child has an EHCP, the academy will discuss the part time timetable with the local authority so that any support package that is in place can be reviewed as swiftly as possible.
- 18.8. **At Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy, a small number of pupils will have reduced time-tables to support their complex medical needs. These time-tables fall under the category of exceptional**

circumstances. They will nonetheless be regularly reviewed where appropriate. The expectation will always be to increase to full-time attendance wherever possible.

19. Roles and responsibilities

19.1. The trustees and governors are responsible for:

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

19.2. The Attendance Lead (Co-Principal with responsibility for attendance) is responsible for:

- Implementation of this policy at the academy
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual children
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- Issuing penalty notices, where necessary
- Setting a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Establishing and maintaining effective systems for tackling absence
- Using absence data to track and monitor whole school attendance and identify children or cohorts that require support
- Devising strategies to address poor attendance and remove any barriers
- Building relationship with parents and external agencies to discuss and address attendance issues
- Creating intervention and reintegration plans in partnership with children, parents and external agencies
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to children and families
- Co-ordinating safe and well checks and home visits
- Monitoring and analysing attendance data
- Benchmarking attendance data against local, regional and national data to identify areas of focus for improvements
- Working with the local authority or other professionals to address persistent or severe absence

19.3. Class teachers/form tutors are responsible for

- Recording attendance on a daily basis
- Being a regular, first point of contact for all pupils in their pastoral care
- Reporting any concerns onto HOD without delay and implementing any agreed strategies to improve attendance as quickly as possible
- Ensuring any bespoke arrangements to support attendance are carried out e.g. providing work and setting up links for pupils needing to attend sessions on-line, usually through illness

19.4. Attendance Support in the admin team is responsible for:

- Taking calls from parents about absence on a daily basis and recording it on the academy system
- Carrying out calls to parents where a child's absence is not explained and following up any unknown absence, (this includes reporting this on to a HOD where no contact can be made)
- Transferring calls from parents to an appropriate member of staff who can provide them with more detailed support on attendance
- Analyzing attendance data on a weekly basis and meeting with the Attendance Lead to discuss this
- Supporting with any follow-up actions, e.g. drafting letters or contacting other professionals to clarify further information
- Keeping academy attendance data up-to-date, accurate and as comprehensive as possible – this includes ensuring that any coding has additional information added to it

19.5. Parents are responsible for:

- Making sure their child attends the academy every day on time
- Calling the academy to report their child's absence before 9:00 on the first day of absence and each subsequent day of absence
- Providing the academy with at least 2 emergency contact numbers for their child
- Ensuring that, wherever possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the academy day
- Only requesting a leave of absence in advance and only for exceptional circumstances
- If appropriate, inform and work with the academy to address any issues with attendance at the earliest opportunity

19.6. Children are responsible for:

- Looking after their health and well-being by, e.g. getting a good night's sleep, drinking lots of water, sharing any concerns or worries that they may have with a trusted adult etc in order to reduce any barriers to low attendance

20. Additional guidance and legislation

20.1. Relevant legislation

- [The Education Act 1996 and 2002](#)
- [The Children Act 1989](#)
- [The Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- [The School Attendance \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2004](#)
- [The Education \(Parenting Contracts and Parenting Orders\) \(England\) Regulations 2007](#)
- [The Education \(Penalty notices\) \(England\) Regulations 2007, as amended](#)
- [The Education \(Information about individual pupils\) \(England\) Regulations 2013](#)
- [The Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and 1963](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)

20.2. Relevant government guidance

- [Children Missing Education](#)

- [Keeping children safe in education and Working together to safeguard children \[update to latest versions\]](#)
- [Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years](#)
- [Elective Home Education](#)
- [Alternative provision: statutory guidance for local authorities](#)
- [Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England](#)
- [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)
- [Promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges](#)
- [Preventing and tackling bullying](#)
- [Providing remote education](#)