



Oakgrove School

Attendance Policy

OAKGROVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS TO ATTENDANCE POLICY

Written June 2005

Section	Governors' Meeting or Committee
Whole Document	Curriculum 3 July 2007
Whole Document	ADW 13 May 2010
Whole Document	ADW 10 June 2011
Whole Document	FGB 16 June 2011
Whole Document	ADW 12 June 2014
Primary phase review	ADW 3 March 2016
Whole Document	ADW 15 June 2017
Whole Document	ADW 9th June 2020
Whole Document	ADW 8 th February 2023
Interim review	LGB, 15 th February 2024
Next review: 2023/2024	

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Rationale:

Oakgrove School is a successful school and every child on roll plays their part in making it so. We aim for an environment which enables and encourages all members of the school community to reach out for excellence. For our pupils to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and every child should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

Purposes:

1. To maximise attendance for all pupils in order to ensure they have access to the full education programme.
2. To promote consistency in monitoring attendance and follow up of non-attendance ensuring parents and carers are aware of their legal obligations regarding attendance and of the school policy.

Promoting regular attendance:

Pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education (Department for Education 2016). 'Regularly' means the pupil is expected to attend school every day that the school is open (Case study: Isle of Wight case 2016/17).

Helping to create a pattern of regular attendance is everybody's responsibility – parents and carers, pupils and all members of school staff.

1. A register of pupils will be taken by a tutor/teacher at the start of the day and during the afternoon session.
2. All pupils will be registered (absent or present). Late comers must report to the school office for their attendance to be recorded.
3. The secondary school day starts at 8.30am and the primary school day at 8.40am (8.50am for Foundation Stage). Pupils arriving after the closure of the register (at 9.15am) will be officially marked absent (unauthorised) for the morning session, although their presence in school will be recorded. For medical reasons (with evidence), pupils absence will be authorised as medical.
4. Secondary: Parent and carers are expected to contact the school absence line (01908 545300 extension 2102) or send a text to 07860 097184 or email twilliams@oakgrove.school as early as possible on the morning of the first day of absence – indicating the likely period of non-attendance and then to call each additional day thereafter.
Primary and Nursery: Parents and carers are expected to contact the school absence line (01908 545300 option 5) or email primaryabsence@oakgrove.school as early as possible on the morning of the first day of absence, indicating the likely period of non-attendance and then to call each additional day thereafter.
5. Where the school has not been contacted regarding an absence, the school will attempt to contact the parent/carer by text or email in the first instance. If there is no response the absence is unauthorised. Secondary parent/carers are informed of these absences monthly via letter.
6. Where a pupil is known to have attendance problems the school will make contact on each day of absence.

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7. Parents and carers will be contacted where attendance or lateness is unsatisfactory or where the pupil's non-attendance has not been satisfactorily explained.
8. Persistent non-attendance or lateness and unsatisfactory explanations of absences will be monitored closely and letters sent home. Meetings in school and intervention will take place to provide support and seek attendance improvement.
9. There is **no** automatic entitlement in law to take time off in school time to go on holiday. Absence from school for annual holidays is strongly discouraged because of the adverse impact the absence could have on a pupil's education. As such, holiday requests will be classified as unauthorised absence and may attract sanctions such as a Penalty Notice and/or Fixed Penalty Notice fine. If a family holiday during term-time is unavoidable due to exceptional circumstances, then parents and carers must inform the Headteacher of either the Primary or Secondary on the correct form, giving ample notice, as soon as the dates are known. In making a decision the school will consider the circumstances of each application individually, including any previous pattern of absence / lateness in term time.
10. Unauthorised absences for holidays, poor punctuality and general non-attendance may incur a Fixed Penalty Notice, a Fixed Penalty Notice fine, or prosecution (Anti-social Act 444(1) 2003) from the attendance team at Milton Keynes Council.
11. If absence is required for compassionate reasons then applications should be made to the Headteacher using the correct forms.
12. Attendance will be reported to parents and carers on the Targets for Learning Interim reports, the annual subject reports and via the Parent App.
13. A range of rewards are given for good or improving attendance at the secondary school.
14. Where a pupil has 15 school days or more absence due to a health need, the school will support the pupil in a variety of ways through the EBSA (Emotional Based School Avoidance) guidance and process. All Milton Keynes children who are unable to attend school because of health reasons, which have been recognised by the health services, should not be at home or in a hospital without access to education for more than 15 school days in an academic year. Therefore, a partnership approach to resourcing will be necessary between the school and the LA. The LA take responsibility. Refer to the Milton Keynes Children's Services Children and Young People unable to attend school because of health reasons guidance and referral form.

Conclusion:

Whatever efforts are made by the school and Milton Keynes Council, it is ultimately the parent/carer's responsibility to see their child attends school regularly and punctually.

Oakgrove School
February 2024