

# Attendance Strategy and Policy

## Devoran School



|                          |                               |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Approved by:             | Devoran School Governing Body | Date: 30 September 2025 |
| Reviewed and amended on: | October 2024                  |                         |
| Next review due by:      | October 2026                  |                         |

|                                                                                              |                                                                                               |                                                                                               |                                                                                                |                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>3</b> |  <b>18</b> |  <b>28</b> |  <b>41</b> |  <b>42</b> |
| <b>BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD</b>                                                           | <b>RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS</b>                                                              | <b>ACCESS TO EDUCATION</b>                                                                    | <b>BEST LAW FOR CHILDREN APPLIES</b>                                                           | <b>EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS</b>                                                     |

## Contents

|                                                                  |                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Aims .....                                                    | 2                                   |
| 2. Legislation and guidance.....                                 | 3                                   |
| 3. Roles and responsibilities .....                              | 3                                   |
| 4. Recording attendance.....                                     | 6                                   |
| 5. Authorised and unauthorised absence .....                     | 7                                   |
| 6. Strategies for promoting attendance .....                     | <b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b> |
| 7. Supporting pupils who are absent or returning to school ..... | 11                                  |
| 8. Attendance monitoring.....                                    | 11                                  |
| 9. Monitoring arrangements.....                                  | 13                                  |
| 10. Links with other policies .....                              | 13                                  |
| Appendix 1: attendance codes .....                               | 15                                  |

## 1. Aims

This policy aims to show our commitment to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance, including those laid out in the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance](#), through our whole-school culture and ethos that values good attendance, including:

- Setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils
- Promoting good attendance and the benefits of 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 make sure pupils have the support in place to attend school

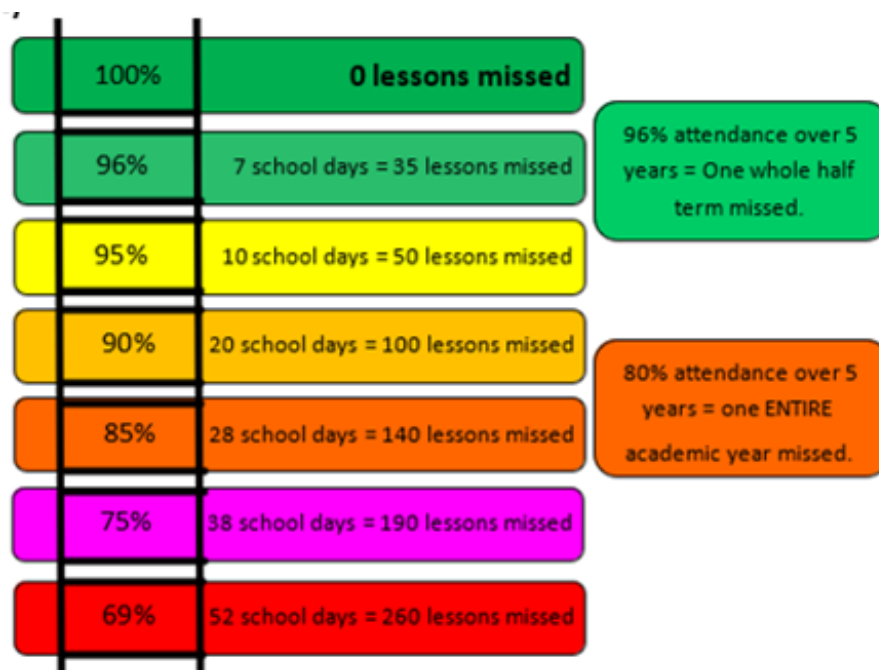
We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

We value every learning opportunity that we give our children. For this reason, it is our expectation that children attend every day that they are able to. We understand that children do get ill (these are coded accordingly) however it is our ambition to reduce the number of unauthorised absences throughout the school. We carefully plan our INSET days to enable travel either side of half terms / holiday periods wherever possible and always try to finish slightly earlier in the summer (through aggregating INSET days) to enable families to find cheaper holiday deals.

This table shows our attendance expectations:

|        |             |                                                                                                                                            |
|--------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Green  | 100%- 96%   | Expected attendance                                                                                                                        |
| Yellow | 95.9% - 90% | Risk of underachievement - interventions in liaison with school staff (eg Class Teacher; Pastoral Lead, Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher) |
| Amber  | 89.9% - 85% | Serious risk of underachievement - interventions in liaison with school staff as above and Educational Welfare Officer                     |
| Pink   | 84.9% - 70% | Severe risk of underachievement – interventions in liaison with Educational Welfare and other organisations                                |
| Red    | 69.9% - 0%  | Extreme risk- court action in liaison with the Local Authority                                                                             |

Here is a table that demonstrates the impact that missing (any number of) days of education can have on your child:



## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance](#) and [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). The guidance is based on the following pieces of legislation, which set 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 \(and 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2016 amendments\)](#)
- [The School Attendance \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#)
- [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 and the 2024 amendment](#)

It also refers to:

- [School census guidance](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools](#)
- [Ofsted's 2025 framework toolkit](#)

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

### 3.1 The governing board

The governing board is responsible for:

- Setting high expectations of all school leaders, staff, pupils and parents
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties, including:
  - Making sure the school records attendance accurately in the register, and shares the required information with the DfE and local authority
  - Making sure the school works effectively with local partners to help remove barriers to attendance, and keeps them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate

- Recognising and promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos
- Making sure the school's attendance management processes are delivered effectively, and that consistent support is provided for pupils who need it most by prioritising staff and resources
- Making sure the school has high aspirations for all pupils, but adapts processes and support to pupils' individual needs
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on individual pupils or cohorts who need it most
- Working with school leaders to set goals or areas of focus for attendance and providing support and challenge
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school and repeatedly evaluating the effectiveness of the school's processes and improvement efforts to make sure they are meeting pupils needs
- Where the school is struggling with attendance, working with school leaders to develop a comprehensive action plan to improve attendance
- Making sure all staff receive adequate training on attendance as part of the regular continued professional development offer, so that staff understand:
  - The importance of good attendance
  - That absence is almost always a symptom of wider issues
  - The school's legal requirements for keeping registers
  - The school's strategies and procedures for tracking, following up on and improving attendance, including working with partners and keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate
- Making sure dedicated training is provided to staff with a specific attendance function in their role, including in interpreting and analysing attendance data
- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy

The link governor for attendance is Colin Wheeler.

### 3.2 The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The implementation of this policy at the school
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary, and/or authorising an EWO to be able to do so
- Working with the parents of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with SEND, including where school transport is regularly being missed, and where pupils with SEND face in-school barriers
- Communicating with the local authority when a pupil with an education, health and care (EHC) plan has falling attendance, or where there are barriers to attendance that relate to the pupil's needs
- Communicating the school's high expectations for attendance and punctuality regularly to pupils and parents through all available channels
- Sharing information from the school register with the local authority, including:
  - Notifying the local authority when a pupil's name is added to or deleted from the school admission register outside of standard transition times
  - Providing the local authority with the details of pupils who fail to attend school regularly, or who have been marked with an unauthorised absence for a continuous period of 10 school days
  - Providing the local authority with the details of pupils who the school believes will miss 15 days consecutively or cumulatively because of sickness

### 3.3 The Designated Senior Leader responsible for attendance

The designated senior leader is responsible for:

- Leading, championing and improving attendance across the school
- Setting a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Having a strong grasp of absence data and oversight of absence data analysis
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating progress in attendance
- Establishing and maintaining effective systems for tackling absence, and making sure they are followed by all staff
- Liaising with pupils, parents/carers and external agencies, where needed
- Building close and productive relationships with parents to discuss and tackle attendance issues
- Creating intervention or reintegration plans in partnership with pupils and their parents/carers
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families

The designated senior leader responsible for attendance is Anna Morris and can be contacted via the school office 01872 863223 / [secretary1@devoranschool.co.uk](mailto:secretary1@devoranschool.co.uk)

### 3.4 The Attendance Officer

The school attendance officer is responsible for:

- Monitoring and analysing attendance data (see section 7)
- Benchmarking attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Providing regular attendance reports to school staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the designated senior leader responsible for attendance, and the headteacher
- Working with education welfare officers to tackle persistent absence
- Advising the headteacher when to issue fixed-penalty notices

The attendance officer is Jo Andrews and can be contacted via the school number 01872 863223 or email address [secretary1@devoranschool.co.uk](mailto:secretary1@devoranschool.co.uk)

### 3.5 Class teachers

Class teachers are responsible for recording attendance for both morning and afternoon sessions on a daily basis, using the correct codes (see Appendix 1), and submitting this information onto our online MIS Arbor every day. If there is a problem with the online system, attendance must be reported to the school office each day.

### 3.6 School office staff

School office staff will:

- Take calls from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system
- Transfer calls from parents/carers to the class teacher / pastoral lead / Headteacher where appropriate, in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance

### 3.7 Parents

Where this policy refers to a parent, it refers to the adult the school and/or local authority decides is most appropriate to work with, including:

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not
- All those who have parental responsibility for a child or young person
- Those who have day-to-day responsibility for the child (i.e. lives with and looks after them)

Parents are expected to:

- Make sure their child attends every day on time
- Call the school to report their child's absence before 08:40 on the day of the absence (and each subsequent day of absence), and advise when they are expected to return
- Provide the school with more than 1 emergency contact number for their child
- Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day
- Seek support, where necessary, for maintaining good attendance, by contacting the class teacher, pastoral lead, Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher who can be contacted via the school office.

### 3.8 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Attend school every day, on time

## 4. Recording attendance

### 4.1 Attendance register

We will keep an electronic 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. It will mark, using the appropriate national attendance and absence codes from the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, 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, where 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 6 years after the date on which the entry was made.

The school day starts at 08:40 and ends at 15:20.

Pupils must arrive in school by 08:55 on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 08:40 and will be kept open until 08:55. The register for the second session will be taken at 13:00 and will be kept open until 13:10.

### 4.2 Unplanned absence

The pupil's parent must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 08:45 or as soon as practically possible, by calling the school office staff, who can be contacted via the school telephone number 01872 863223. There is a direct absence line where you can report your child absent on the school number: 01872 863223.

We will mark absence due to physical or mental illness as authorised, unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.

Where the absence is longer than 5 days, or there are doubts about the authenticity of the illness, the school will ask for 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 the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and parents 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 notifies the school in advance of the appointment. This can be done through emailing or ringing the school.

However, we encourage parents 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 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 the school 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

If your child is continually late, we will work with the parents to see what we can do to support you in getting your child into school on time so that they don't miss out on valuable learning time.

#### 4.5 Following up unexplained absence

Where any pupil we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, without reason, the school will:

- Call the pupil's parent on the morning of the first day of unexplained absence to ascertain the reason. If the school cannot reach any of the pupil's emergency contacts, the school may contact the family worker / social worker / police.
- 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(s) for which the pupil was absent
- Call the parent on each day that the absence continues without explanation, to make sure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, the school will consider involving an education welfare officer
- Where relevant, report the unexplained absence to the pupil's youth offending team officer
- Where appropriate, offer support to the pupil and/or their parents to improve attendance
- Identify whether the pupil needs support from wider partners, as quickly as possible, and make the necessary referrals
- Where support is not appropriate, not successful, or not engaged with: issue a notice to improve, penalty notice or other legal intervention (see section 5.2 below), as appropriate.

#### 4.6 Reporting to parents

The school will regularly inform parents (see definition of 'parent', as used in this policy, in section 3.7 above) about their child's attendance and absence levels via the Arbor parent app and through our parent consultations and reports that are sent out in March / April.

### 5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

#### 5.1 Approval for term-time absence

The headteacher will allow pupils to be absent from the school site for certain educational activities, or to attend other schools or settings.

The headteacher will only grant a **leave of absence** to a pupil during term time if the request meets the specific circumstances set out in the [2024 school attendance regulations](#). These circumstances are:

- Taking part in a regulated performance, or regulated employment abroad
- Attending an interview
- Study leave
- A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable
- Exceptional circumstances

A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher's discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for.

We define 'exceptional circumstances' as:

- Genuine illness
- Unavoidable medical / dental appointments (but try to make these after school if at all possible)
- Days of religious observance
- Seeing a parent who is on leave from the armed forces
- External examinations

Leave of absence will not be granted for a pupil to take part in protest activity during school hours.

As a leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, at least **20 school days** before the absence, and in accordance with any leave of absence request form, accessible via the school website or the school office. The headteacher may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

## 5.2 Other reasons for authorised absence

Other valid reasons for **authorised absence** include (but are not limited to):

- Illness (including mental-health 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 parent(s) belong(s). If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parent's religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart
- Parent(s) 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 school, but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision
- If the pupil is currently suspended or excluded from school (and no alternative provision has been made)

## 5.3 Absences from the school site (which are not classified as absences)

Other reasons the school may allow a pupil to be absent from the school site, which are not classified as absences, include (but are not limited to):

- Attending an offsite approved educational activity, sporting activity or visit or trip arranged by the school
- Attending another school at which the pupil is also registered (dual registration)
- Attending provision arranged by the local authority
- Attending work experience
- If there is any other unavoidable cause for the pupil not to attend school, such as disruption to travel caused by an emergency, a lack of access arrangements, or because the school premises are closed

## 6.0 Strategies for promoting attendance

We want our pupils to succeed and develop their skills. To do this, pupils need to avoid missing lessons and days of school as much as possible. As a school, we want to reward high attendance and not just penalise pupils for poor attendance.

We do not reward children who achieve 100% attendance as we appreciate that illness does happen. We prefer to nurture an approach whereby we make every learning day count and create an ethos and atmosphere whereby the children want to be in school every day and make the most of every learning opportunity available to them. This is also reflected in the opportunities we give our children across a broad range of subjects i.e. sport, music, performance. We foster an inclusive approach to attendance and support our families on a case-by-case basis.

We maintain and promote good attendance and punctuality through:

- Rewarding pupils for their attendance and punctuality
- Raising awareness of attendance and punctuality issues among all staff, parents and pupils
- Ensuring that parents understand the responsibility placed on them for making sure their child attends regularly and punctually
- Equipping pupils with the life skills needed to take responsibility for good school attendance and punctuality appropriate to the child's age and development
- Maintaining effective means of communication with parents, pupils, staff and governors on school attendance matters
- Developing and implementing procedures for identifying, reporting and reviewing cases of poor attendance and persistent lateness
- Supporting pupils who have been experiencing any difficulties at home or at school which are preventing good attendance
- Developing and implementing procedures to follow up non-attendance at school

## 7. Supporting pupils with poor attendance

Our school will make use of the full range of support and potential sanctions – including, but not limited to, those listed below – to tackle poor attendance. Decisions will be made on an individual, case-by-case basis.

### Notice to improve

If the national threshold has been met and support is appropriate, but parents do not engage with offers of support, the school may offer a notice to improve to give parents a final chance to engage with support.

A notice to improve will be issued in line with processes set out in the local code of conduct for the local authority area in which the pupil attends school.

It will include:

- Details of the pupil's attendance record and of the offences
- The benefits of regular attendance and the duty of parents under [section 7 of the Education Act 1996](#)
- Details of the support provided so far
- Opportunities for further support or to access previously provided support that was not engaged with
- A clear warning that a penalty notice may be issued, or prosecution considered, if attendance doesn't improve within the improvement period, along with details of what sufficient improvement looks like, which will be decided on a case-by-case basis
- A clear timeframe of between 3 and 6 weeks for the improvement period
- The grounds on which a penalty notice may be issued before the end of the improvement period

### Penalty notices

The headteacher (or someone authorised by them), local authority or the police can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age, by issuing a penalty notice.

If the school issues a penalty notice, it will check with the local authority before doing so, and send it a copy of any penalty notice issued.

Before issuing a penalty notice, the school will consider the individual case, including:

- Whether the national threshold for considering a penalty notice has been met (10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks)
- Whether a penalty notice is the best available tool to improve attendance for that pupil

- Whether further support, a notice to improve or another legal intervention would be a more appropriate solution
- Whether any obligations that the school has under the Equality Act 2010 make issuing a penalty notice inappropriate

Each parent who is liable for the pupil's offence(s) can be issued with a penalty notice, but this will usually only be the parent/parents who allowed the absence.

The payment must be made directly to the local authority, regardless of who issues the notice. If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice.

If issued with a **first** penalty notice, the parent must pay £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days.

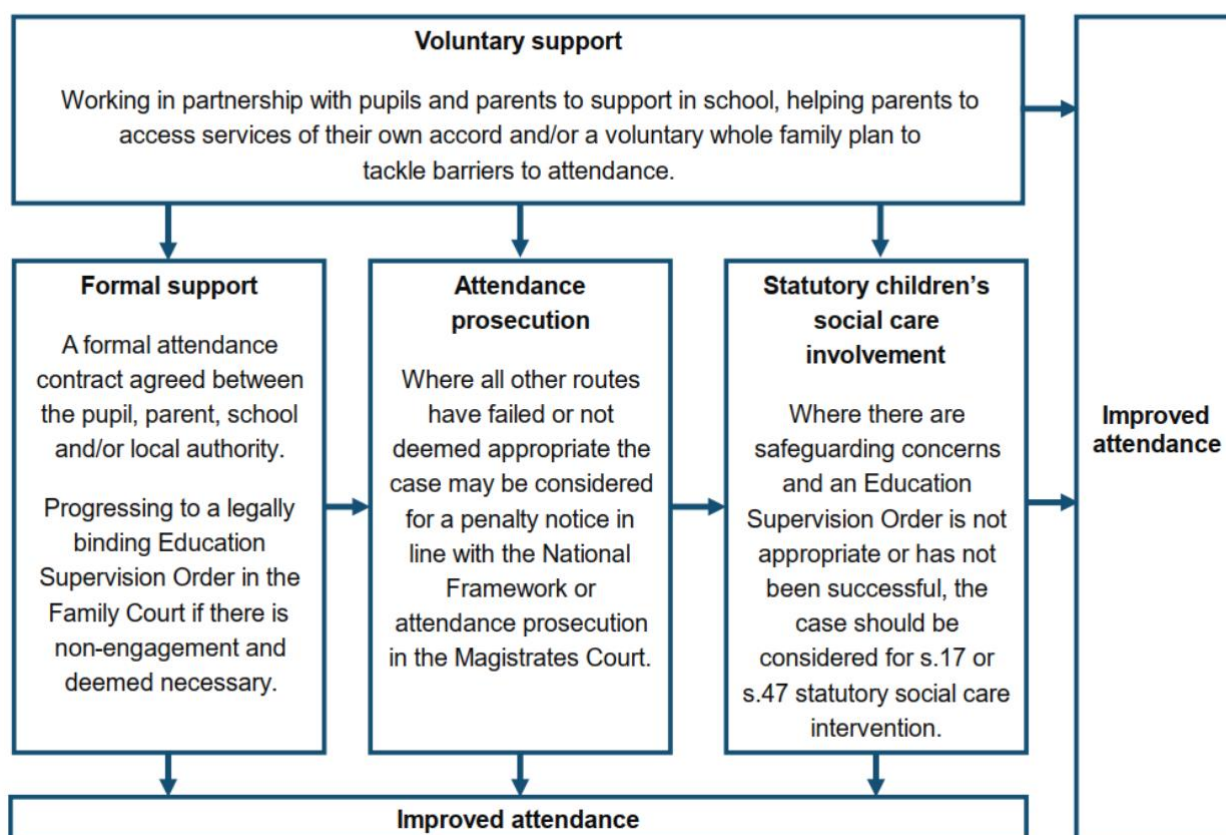
If a **second** penalty notice is issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil, the parent must pay £160 if paid within 28 days.

A **third** penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the issue of the first penalty notice. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead.

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 suspension or exclusion (where the school has notified the parents that the pupil must not be present in a public place on that day). These penalty notices are not included in the National Framework, not subject to the same considerations about support being provided, and do not count towards the limit as part of the escalation process.

In these cases, the parent must pay £60 within 21 days, or £120.

## Providing support first before attendance legal intervention



## 8. Supporting pupils who are absent or returning to school

### 8.1 Pupils absent due to complex barriers to attendance

We support all pupils by working closely with pupil and parents to create a bespoke plan that will suit each child. This may include having key adults within the school to check in with the child / meet and greet with the child as well as working closely with the Local Authority and other outreach support to follow and use strategies from reports to break down the barriers to attendance.

### 8.2 Pupils absent due to mental or physical ill health or SEND

Our approach to supporting children who are absent due to mental or physical ill health or SEND is similar to the approach in 8.1; we will work closely with the family and the child to identify the barriers. We will use their IPP to support provision that meets their needs as well as finding the ways to support them best. We will use our team of highly skilled professionals within school as well as our network of outreach to seek the right support for the individual child, continually working with both the parent and child to break down the attendance barriers gradually in a way that supports them in the long term in accessing full time education.

Where a pupil has an education health and care (EHC) plan and their attendance falls, or the school becomes aware of barriers to attendance that related to the pupil's needs, the school will inform the local authority.

Parents/Carers should inform the school of any medical conditions that could impact on Attendance and Wellbeing. A Healthcare Plan should be agreed with Health Services on how to ensure the pupil is able to access their full potential and attend school. In some cases, a child can be educated at home whereby the school environment is detrimental to either condition or causes a risk (of infection etc.) to said pupil.

Pupils should not be penalised if their absence from school is related to their medical condition, such as attending hospital appointments. To avoid being fined for non-attendance, parents must obtain permission from the school in advance of the appointment, so that the absence can be treated as authorised. An absence can also be authorised if the child is too ill to attend school and the school is notified of that as soon as possible.

A school should not encourage non-attendance, such as sending a pupil with medical conditions home frequently or preventing a pupil from staying for normal school activities, including lunch. This will only be justified if it is in accordance with the pupil's individual healthcare plan and is necessary. If a child is regularly sent home at lunch or placed on a part-time timetable which has not been fully agreed to, these absences may amount to unofficial exclusions.

The Equality Act 2010 states that the school's governing bodies or proprietors must make reasonable adjustments to ensure that children and young people with disability are not put at a substantial disadvantage compared to other students. Therefore, some pupils may be exempt from the consequences of poor attendance due to their medical conditions, but only if their poor attendance is supported with medical evidence from medical practitioners.

The Children and Families Act 2014 includes a duty on schools to support children with medical conditions. This is inclusive of children with conditions such as diabetes. Schools must make arrangements for supporting pupils at schools with medical conditions and in meeting that duty they must have regard to the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

### 8.3 Pupils returning to school after a lengthy or unavoidable period of absence

As a school, we would work closely with the parent, child and any other medical professionals to support the child in reintegrating back into school that will be based on the guidance from professionals as well as what the parent and child feels is manageable.

In cases of prolonged absence, or when a child is absent without notification, we will attempt to contact the child's parents and alternative emergency contacts.

When deciding whether a child's absence should be considered prolonged, we will consider the:

- Patterns and trends in the child's absences and their personal circumstances
- Vulnerability of the child and their parents, as well as the circumstances of their home life

We will also implement our safeguarding procedures (see our child protection/safeguarding policy available on our website) and refer any concerns to local children's social care and/or request a police welfare check.

#### **8.4 Prolonged absence for children in the EYFS**

In cases of prolonged absence, or when a child is absent without notification, we will attempt to contact the child's parents and alternative emergency contacts.

When deciding whether a child's absence should be considered prolonged, we will consider the:

- Patterns and trends in the child's absences and their personal circumstances
- Vulnerability of the child and their parents, as well as the circumstances of their home life

We will also implement our safeguarding procedures (see our child protection/safeguarding policy (available on our website) and refer any concerns to local children's social care and/or request a police welfare check.

### **9. Attendance monitoring**

The school will monitor the attendance of all pupils on a daily basis and review attendance data at least half termly.

#### **9.1 Monitoring attendance**

The school will monitor attendance and absence data (including punctuality) half-termly, termly and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil, year group and cohort level.

Specific pupil information will be shared with the DfE on request.

The school has granted the DfE access to its management information system so the data can be accessed regularly and securely.

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.

The school will benchmark its attendance data at whole school, year group and cohort level against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement, and share this with the governing board.

#### **9.2 Analysing attendance**

The school will:

- Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify pupils, groups or cohorts that need additional support with their attendance, and
- Identify pupils whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence
- Conduct thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full-year data to identify patterns and trends
- Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns

### 9.3 Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

- Develop targeted actions to address patterns of absence (of all severities) of individual pupils, groups or cohorts that it has identified via data analysis
- Provide targeted support to the pupils it has identified whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence, and their families (see section 9.4 below)
- Provide regular attendance reports to class teachers to facilitate discussions with pupils and families, and to the governing board and school leaders (including special educational needs co-ordinators, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium leads)
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies
- Share information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, local authorities and other partners where a pupil's absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe, including keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate

### 9.4 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. Reducing persistent and severe absence is central to the school's strategy for improving attendance.

The school will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence
- Consider potential safeguarding issues and, where suspected or present, address them in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Hold regular meetings with the parents of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable or at risk of persistent or severe absence, or who are persistently or severely absent, to:
  - Discuss attendance and engagement at school
  - Listen, and understand barriers to attendance
  - Explain the help that is available
  - Explain the potential consequences of, and sanctions for, persistent and severe absence
  - Review any existing actions or interventions
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance, in conjunction with the local authority, where relevant
- Consider alternative support that could be put in place to remove any barriers to attendance and re-engage these pupils. In doing so, the school will sensitively consider some of the reasons for absence
- Implement sanctions, where necessary

## 9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority and/or DfE is updated, and as a minimum every two years by the Headteacher. At every review, the policy will be approved by the full governing board.

## 10. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- EYFS Policy

## Appendix 1: attendance codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's [guidance on school attendance](#).

| Code                                           | Definition                                                                          | Scenario                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| /                                              | Present (am)                                                                        | Pupil is present at morning registration                                                                                               |
| \                                              | Present (pm)                                                                        | Pupil is present at afternoon registration                                                                                             |
| L                                              | Late arrival                                                                        | Pupil arrives late before register has closed                                                                                          |
| <b>Attending a place other than the school</b> |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                        |
| K                                              | Attending education provision arranged by the local authority                       | Pupil is attending a place other than a school at which they are registered, for educational provision arranged by the local authority |
| V                                              | Attending an educational visit or trip                                              | Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised or approved by the school                                                              |
| P                                              | Participating in a sporting activity                                                | Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school                                                        |
| W                                              | Attending work experience                                                           | Pupil is on an approved work experience placement                                                                                      |
| B                                              | Attending any other approved educational activity                                   | Pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is not a sporting activity or work experience                     |
| D                                              | Dual registered                                                                     | Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered                                                         |
| <b>Absent – leave of absence</b>               |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                        |
| C1                                             | Participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad | Pupil is undertaking employment (paid or unpaid) during school hours, approved by the school                                           |
| M                                              | Medical/dental appointment                                                          | Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment                                                                                            |
| J1                                             | Interview                                                                           | Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment                                                           |

|                                                                      |                                             |                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>S</b>                                                             | Study leave                                 | Pupil has been granted leave of absence to study for a public examination                                                                  |
| <b>X</b>                                                             | Not required to be in school                | Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend                                                                               |
| <b>C2</b>                                                            | Part-time timetable                         | Pupil is not in school due to having a part-time timetable                                                                                 |
| <b>C</b>                                                             | Exceptional circumstances                   | Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances                                                                 |
| <b>Absent – other authorised reasons</b>                             |                                             |                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>T</b>                                                             | Parent travelling for occupational purposes | Pupil is a ‘mobile child’ who is travelling with their parent(s) who are travelling for occupational purposes                              |
| <b>R</b>                                                             | Religious observance                        | Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance                                                                                      |
| <b>I</b>                                                             | Illness (not medical or dental appointment) | Pupil is unable to attend due to illness (either related to physical or mental health)                                                     |
| <b>E</b>                                                             | Suspended or excluded                       | Pupil has been suspended or excluded from school and no alternative provision has been made                                                |
| <b>Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause</b> |                                             |                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Q</b>                                                             | Lack of access arrangements                 | Pupil is unable to attend school because the local authority has failed to make access arrangements to enable attendance at school         |
| <b>Y1</b>                                                            | Transport not available                     | Pupil is unable to attend because school is not within walking distance of their home and the transport normally provided is not available |
| <b>Y2</b>                                                            | Widespread disruption to travel             | Pupil is unable to attend because of widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national or international emergency                |
| <b>Y3</b>                                                            | Part of school premises closed              | Pupil is unable to attend because they cannot practicably be accommodated in the part of the premises that remains open                    |

|                                      |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Y4</b>                            | Whole school site unexpectedly closed       | Every pupil absent as the school is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to adverse weather)                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Y5</b>                            | Criminal justice detention                  | <p>Pupil is unable to attend as they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In police detention</li> <li>• Remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or</li> <li>• Detained under a sentence of detention</li> </ul> |
| <b>Y6</b>                            | Public health guidance or law               | Pupil's travel to or attendance at the school would be prohibited under public health guidance or law                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Y7</b>                            | Any other unavoidable cause                 | To be used where an unavoidable cause is not covered by the other codes                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Absent – unauthorised absence</b> |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>G</b>                             | Holiday not granted by the school           | Pupil is absent for the purpose of a holiday, not approved by the school                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>N</b>                             | Reason for absence not yet established      | Reason for absence has not been established before the register closes                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>O</b>                             | Absent in other or unknown circumstances    | No reason for absence has been established, or the school isn't satisfied that the reason given would be recorded using one of the codes for authorised absence                                                                                  |
| <b>U</b>                             | Arrived in school after registration closed | Pupil has arrived late, after the register has closed but before the end of session                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Administrative codes</b>          |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Z</b>                             | Prospective pupil not on admission register | Pupil has not joined school yet but has been registered                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>#</b>                             | Planned whole-school closure                | Whole-school closures that are known and planned in advance, including school holidays                                                                                                                                                           |

## REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

### NOTICE TO PARENTS /CARERS

The law does not grant parents an automatic right to take their child out of school during term time. Any absence from school will disrupt your child's learning. You may consider that a holiday will be educational, but your child will miss out on the teaching that their classmates will receive during your holiday. Attendance is vital to academic success and lost education poses a potential risk of underachievement. This is something we all have a responsibility to avoid.

The Department for Education no longer allows Headteachers to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you consider that your request for absence is exceptional you will need to complete the form attached to this notification. A response will be sent to you as soon as possible. If leave is not authorised and you nevertheless withdraw your child from school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days. If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days. Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs. Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

'Parent' as set out in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, defines parent to include: natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person or body who has parental responsibility for a child (as defined by the Children Act 1989) and; any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child. Having care of a child means a person with whom a child lives and who looks after a child, irrespective of what their relationship is with said child.

All requests must be completed on this form; letters will not be accepted. This form should be returned to the Reception Office at least 15 school days before the start of the absence.

I hope you will support our efforts in raising attendance and attainment at Devoran School.

## Exceptional Circumstance Leave Request

Devoran School

### APPLICATION BY PARENT/CARER

If you consider an absence during term time to be an exceptional circumstance, please complete this form and return it to the Reception Office at least 20 school days before the date you wish to remove your child from school.

Pupil Name: .....

DOB: ..... Year group: .....

Home Address: .....

Post Code: .....

Name of Parent/Carer completing this form: .....

First day of absence: .....

Date of return to school: .....

If leaving your home address before the first day of absence, please provide the date on which you will leave: .....

Total number of days missed: ..... days

Reason for absence:

I understand that if the absence request is unauthorised the school may request that Cornwall Council issue a Penalty Notice. I understand that a Penalty Notice is issued to each liable parent/carer of each child taken out of school and that this carries a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160 if paid within 28 days. I also understand that if my child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, I will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996 which may result in a further request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days. I understand that fines are per parent and will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, I understand that other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

I understand that if I do not pay the fine, it may result in legal action being taken against me. I understand that parents have a duty to ensure their child's regular attendance at school and failure to do so is an offence under Section 444(1) and Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996.

Signed ..... Dated .....

(Please ensure you give at least 20 school days' notice of the proposed absence)

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY*****Below to be completed by the school:***

FAO – Headteacher

| %<br>Current | % Last<br>Year | Comments |
|--------------|----------------|----------|
|              |                |          |

Student Name: ..... Tutor: ..... Year: .....

☐ **AUTHORISED:**Request has been authorised for the following dates **only:**

\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

☐ **UNAUTHORISED:**Request has been unauthorised for the following dates **only:**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Total days authorised   |  |
| Total days unauthorised |  |

**Signed .....** Headteacher**Date** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

|                                     |         |       |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Letter sent / Phone Call /<br>other | Signed: | Date: |
| Action: PN Request                  | Signed: | Date: |

**Decision:****Authorised / Unauthorised****EWO Yes/No**

.....