

St. Chad's Catholic Primary School



Grow in Love. Live in Peace

Title: Attendance Policy

To be read in conjunction with the following policies: Equal Opportunities, Inclusion and Supporting Children with Medical Needs

(Bi Annual)

Author: SLT

Committee: Learning and Teaching

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**Chair of Board of Directors Bernard Tomkins
St Chad's Catholic Primary School**

Safeguarding Statement

This school takes notice of and adheres to all the national and local policies and guidance in regard to Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Lead Safeguarding Persons: Mrs P Mitchener and Mrs J Mooney

Director Designated Safeguarding Officer: Abiola Boateng

St Chad's is a welcoming school based on our shared Gospel values where we give witness to God's love, knowing that every child is embraced with the love of Jesus as they pray, play and grow together as friends.

Every child is unique and we are proud of our inclusive and supportive learning environment, where we celebrate each other's achievements. Children have the opportunity to reach their full potential as we guide them to become lifelong learners.

We all aspire to do the best we can within God's family, living Christian values and sharing spiritual links with those in our home, parish and wider community.

OUR AIMS

- To ensure that all pupils have the maximum of learning opportunities as a result of outstanding attendance.
- To make attendance and punctuality a priority for all those associated with the school including pupils, parents.
- To provide support, advice and guidance to parents and pupils
- To monitor Safeguarding and wellbeing.
- To implement a system of rewards and sanctions.
- To promote effective partnerships with the borough's School Attendance Officers and with other services and agencies as appropriate

Regular attendance at school is essential to promote the education of all pupils.

The School's ethos demonstrates that children feel that their presence in school is important and that they are missed when they are absent or late. The School will take appropriate action when necessary in order to promote the aims of the policy.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

From pupils:

- they will attend school every day
- they will arrive on time and prepared for the day

From parents:

- they will ensure their children attend school every day
- they contact the office before 9.30am either in person or by phone whenever their child is unable to attend and send letter of explanation to the class teacher on return. If a parent is unsure of when the child will return to school, contact should be made with the school office on a daily basis.
- they ensure their child arrives in school well prepared for the school day with homework completed

Pupils and parents can expect the following from the school:

- regular, efficient and accurate recording of attendance and time keeping

- contact from the school when a pupil fails to attend and the parents have not contacted the school within the requested time frame.
- early contact with parents when a pupil fails to attend without good reason
- contact with parents where there is a pattern of absences or an excessive number of absences or lateness. This may be by the class teacher, Headteacher or other school Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- immediate action on any problem notified to us, in confidence if necessary
- positive measures to encourage good attendance
- a high quality education
- support and access to specialist agencies to address issues related to attendance

Whenever any scheduled meeting takes place with a parent, details of their child's attendance will always be made available to them. A registration certificate for the current school year will usually be appropriate for this purpose

- annual reporting of attendance in July for that current school year
- a letter to parents at the end of the Autumn and Spring terms informing them of their child's attendance in the case where it falls below the minimum expectation of 96%.
- any child's attendance falling below 93% is considered to be of concern and those falling below 90% or serious concern a meeting may be requested with the Headteacher.
- if poor attendance continues for any child, parents may be asked to provide medical evidence.

There may be times when persistent absenteeism continues or the child appears to be missing from education the school may feel that a referral to the LA Safeguarding team is required.

- Times when persistent absenteeism or their child appears to be missing from education, the school may feel that a referral to the local authority safeguarding team is required.

Parents Responsibilities

Parents are responsible by law, for making sure that your children come to school regularly and on time, together with other responsibilities such as supporting the school's policy on homework and discipline. (Education Act 2011)

Registration

The Register is taken immediately every morning. It is taken again immediately after lunchtime break. Absences require a letter to seek authorisation, otherwise the absence is recorded as unauthorised in line with Government requirements and will show on your child's report.

The school governors will monitor attendance of pupils termly.

Lateness

Pupils arriving after (8.45am) must report to the School Office so that their attendance can be recorded. This will be noted as late. If the register has already been taken the office staff will mark the child in accordingly.

If a child arrives after 9.15am, the child is classified as an unauthorised absence for that session in line with the revised Pupil Registration Regulations.

This will be considered an unauthorised absence unless a satisfactory reason is given, for example a doctor's appointment with notification.

Action to address lateness will be taken in line with the school's strategy to improve punctuality.

Illness

Parents/carers are asked to contact the school on the first day of absence to provide the reason for the absence. Parents/carers should also provide a written explanation on their child's return to school.

Parents should inform the school immediately if their child has an infectious disease and also if the absence is likely to be more than a few days.

If any member of staff is concerned about a reason for absence, named Designated Safeguarding Lead should be informed.

Medical or Dental Appointments

Absence from school due to a medical or dental appointment will be considered as an authorised absence. Parents/carers are requested to provide written confirmation of these appointments. If appropriate, the child should return to school after the appointment however *Parents/carers are encouraged to make all medical appointments out of school hours*

The School Day

1. Children are expected to be in the classroom ready for school to commence at 8.45am and are able to enter school from 8.35 to prepare for registration. The school gate will close at 8.45am.
2. Only under exceptional circumstances and with permission are children allowed on site before **8.35am**
3. Children should be collected promptly from school at the end of the school day unless a letter has been received from the parents requesting that they be released.

Term Time Absence

All absence approval in term time is at the discretion of the Headteacher and will only be approved in exceptional circumstances e.g. a day to attend a funeral of an immediate family member.

Holidays during term time are discouraged and **holidays should be taken during the school holiday periods.**

Requests for leave will only be granted in exceptional circumstances on a case by case basis. Application forms for leave of absence requests are available from the school office. A Fixed Penalty Notice of £60 may be issued for unauthorised term-time absence, rising to £120 if not paid within 28 days.

Extended absence

If a child is taken out of school for a period exceeding 10 days the school reserves the right to remove their name from the school roll. The resulting vacancy will be filled according to our normal admission procedures.

Schools are permitted to remove compulsory-school-aged children from roll on the limited grounds set out in regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016

AUTHORISED / UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES

It should be noted that only the Headteacher, not parents or any other members of staff, may authorise pupil absences.

RESPONSIBILITY

In order for this policy to be successful every member of the school community must make attendance a high priority. We must share our enthusiasm for education, communicating its importance to pupils and all other members of the school community.

REWARDS

Infant and junior trophies for the class with the best attendance are awarded weekly, during Celebration Assembly.

School Attendance Target

Each year the school's Directors sets its own target to minimise overall absence as set out in the Education (School Attendance Targets) (England) Regulations 2014. This is currently set at 97%.

School Attendance Service

Whilst the initial responsibility to monitor, investigate and improve individual pupil's poor attendance lies with the school, it must notify the LA Attendance Officer if a pupil attends irregularly or is absent continuously without authorisation for ten or more school days.