



The Star Multi-Academy Trust

Attendance Policy Sherburn High School



Approved by the Trust's
Curriculum & Standards
Committee

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1. Guiding Principles in Student Attendance

[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#) (DfE): 'The barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school gates, and are often specific to individual pupils and families. The foundation of securing good attendance is that school is a calm, orderly, safe, and supportive environment where all pupils want to be and are keen and ready to learn.' Securing good attendance... cannot solely be the preserve of a single member of staff, or organisation, it must be a concerted effort across all teaching and non-teaching staff in school, the trust or governing body, the local authority, and other local partners.'

The Trustees of the STAR Multi-Academy Trust and Sherburn High School Local Governing Body are committed to:

- Meeting our statutory obligations with regard school attendance;
- Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence;
- Ensuring every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled;
- Ensuring every pupil on our school roll maximises their attendance and punctuality, including those of non-statutory school age;
- Acting early to address patterns of absence;
- Raising awareness of the effects of absence and lateness;
- Ensuring effective systems are in place to monitor absence and to address any underlying barriers that students face; and
- Establishing effective systems for incentives and rewards that acknowledge the efforts of young people to improve their attendance and timekeeping.

We will also support parents to perform their legal duty to ensure their children of compulsory school age attend regularly, and will promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

The guiding principles and detail under which our Student Attendance Policy has been developed and operated are as follows and have been agreed by the Trust Board and Local Governing Body:

Leadership and Management:

1. Offer a clear vision for attendance, underpinned by high expectations and core values, which are communicated to and understood by staff, pupils and families.
2. Develop and maintain a whole school culture that promotes the benefits of high attendance.
3. Make sure staff, pupils and families understand that absence from school is a potential safeguarding risk and understand their role in keeping children safe.
4. Expect good attendance and punctuality from all members of the school community and make sure that pupils understand its importance.
5. Convey clear messages about how absence affects attainment, wellbeing and wider outcomes.
6. Empower *all school staff* to take responsibility for attendance.
7. Recognise attendance as an important area of school improvement. Make sure it is resourced appropriately (including through effective use of pupil premium funding) to create, build and maintain systems and performance.
8. Have a designated attendance champion in the senior leadership team with clearly assigned responsibilities which are identified within the attendance policy, escalation of procedures and school development plan.
9. Make sure staff receive professional development and support to deploy attendance systems effectively.
10. Ensure Governors have an accurate view of school attendance and engage in escalation procedures where appropriate.
11. Fully collaborate with all aspects of the local authority Attendance Support arrangements to ensure best possible impact at school, local and regional level

Inclusion:

1. All schools must maintain the same ambition for attendance for all pupils including those with complex or specific needs and work with pupils and parents to maximise attendance.
2. Whilst every pupil has a right to a full-time education and high attendance expectations should be set for all pupils, this attendance policy should account for the specific needs of certain pupils and pupil cohorts.
3. The policy should be applied fairly and consistently but in doing so schools should always consider the individual needs of pupils and their families who have specific barriers to attendance.
4. In development and implementation of their policy, schools should always consider their obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Relationships and Communication:

1. Build respectful relationships with staff, pupils, families and other stakeholders in order to secure their trust and engagement. Make sure there is a welcoming and positive culture across the school.
2. Communicate openly and honestly with staff, pupils and families about their expectations of school life and performance so that they understand what to expect and what is expected of them.
3. Liaise with other agencies working with pupils and their families to support attendance, for example, where a young person has a social worker or is otherwise vulnerable.
4. Model respectful relationships and appropriate communication for staff and pupils. This will help relationships between pupils and staff to reflect a positive and respectful culture. All staff members should:
 - treat pupils with dignity, build relationships rooted in mutual respect and observe proper boundaries
 - take into consideration the vulnerability of some pupils and the ways in which this might contribute to absence, handling confidential information sensitively
 - understand the importance of school as a place of safety where pupils can enjoy trusted relationships with staff and pupils particularly for children with a social worker and those who have experienced adversity
 - communicate effectively with families regarding pupils' attendance and well-being
5. Parents and carers should:
 - treat staff with respect
 - actively support the work of the school
 - call on staff for help when they need it
 - communicate as early as possible circumstances which may affect absence or require support

Systems and Data:

1. Use clear and consistently applied systems and processes to improve, reward and incentivise attendance and address absences. Make sure these systems are inclusive and appropriate for all pupils.
2. Make sure escalation procedures to address absence are initiated proactively, understood by pupils and families, implemented consistently and their impact reviewed regularly.
3. Every member of staff should know and understand their responsibilities for attendance.
4. Robust school systems provide useful data at cohort, group and individual pupil level to give an accurate view of attendance, reasons for absence and patterns amongst groups such as:
 - children who have a social worker including looked-after children young carers
 - children who are eligible for free school meals
 - children who speak English as a second language
 - children who have special educational needs and disabilities
5. Monitor and analyse attendance data regularly to allow early intervention to address issues. This includes raising concerns with other agencies such as children's social care and early help services which are working with families.
6. Attendance leaders may consider providing regular reports to staff across the school to enable them to track the attendance of pupils and to implement attendance procedures.
7. School attendance, safeguarding and pastoral support policies should clearly outline:
 - the key principles

- rules pupils need to follow
- routines
- consequence systems

8. The escalation of procedures to address absence needs to be:

- understood by pupils, parents and carers
- implemented consistently
- reviewed regularly

Intervention:

1. Deliver intervention in a targeted way, in response to data or intelligence.
2. Monitor and analyse attendance data regularly to ensure that intervention is delivered quickly to address absence (register inspections, code analysis, cohort and group monitoring, punctuality, lesson attendance across subjects and benchmarking).
3. Use attendance, pastoral and SEND staff who are skilled in supporting pupils and their families to identify and overcome barriers to attendance.
4. Recognise children missing education can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues including neglect, sexual abuse and child sexual and criminal exploitation.
5. Create action plans in partnership with families and other agencies that may be supporting families, for example, children’s social care and early help services. Commission or deliver interventions to improve attendance.
6. Monitor the impact of any intervention, making adjustments if necessary and using findings to inform future strategy.
7. Where interventions fail to address attendance issues, identify the reasons why and, where appropriate, change or adjust the intervention.
8. Follow local authority codes of conduct, policies and procedures and make referrals for statutory intervention when interventions have not resulted in improved attendance and relevant triggers / thresholds are met.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the current [school attendance guidance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE’s statutory guidance on [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). It is aligned to meet the revised guidance which comes into effect August 2024 and is planned to be statutory September 2024. These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- [Framework for Securing Full Attendance – actions for schools and local authorities](#)
- [Working Together to Improve Attendance](#)
- Part 6 of [The Education Act 1996](#)
- Part 3 of [The Education Act 2002](#)
- Part 7 of [The Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#) (and [2010](#), [2011](#), [2013](#), [2016](#) amendments)
- [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

This policy also refers to the DfE’s guidance on the [school census](#), which explains the persistent absence threshold.

3. Roles and responsibilities

The named responsible contact for parents with regard to student attendance is:

Year 7 - Mr Darnbrough, Head of Year

Year 8 - Mr Hickinson, Head of Year

Year 9 - Mrs Smith, Head of Year

Year 10 - Ms Wadsworth, Head of Year

Year 11 - Mrs Makin, Head of Year

The school designated Senior Attendance Champion is: Ms Ruth Marsh

The Senior Attendance Champion is expected to set a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance, establish and maintain effective systems for tackling absence and make sure they are followed by all staff and have a strong grasp of absence data to focus the collective efforts of the school. It is an ongoing responsibility, and the Senior Attendance Champion is also expected to regularly monitor and evaluate progress, including the efficacy of the school's strategies and processes.

3.1 The Governing Board

The governing body is responsible for monitoring attendance figures for the whole school on at least a termly basis. It also holds the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy. It reports on these figures to the Trust Board. The governing body is also responsible for ensuring all key roles indicated within this policy are in place, including the school senior leader designated as attendance champion, that they have effective training pathways and are facilitated in completing their roles.

Link governor for attendance is Mrs Alison Davey

The link governors role is to ensure that systems processes are followed to support improved attendance of pupils. The link governor will also meet with families as part of this process.

3.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- 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
- Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary

3.3 The Attendance Officer

The school Attendance Officer: Ms Hannah Watson

The main roles of the Attendance Officer is to:

- Take calls and messages from parents/ carers about absence and records this information on school systems.
- Monitors attendance data across the school and at an individual, groups and year group level.
- Reports concerns about attendance to key staff
- Advises senior leaders and Heads of Year on key changes to attendance policy and legislation
- Arranges calls and meetings with parents to discuss attendance issues.

3.4 Family Liaison Officer

The school Family Liaison officer: Ms Karen Fowler

The main roles of the Family Liaison Officer is to:

- Supports parents and carers to improve their child's attendance.
- Carry out home visits to encourage improved attendance and punctuality.
- Liaise with external services and families.

3.5 Class teachers/form tutors

Class teachers/form tutors are responsible for recording attendance on a daily basis, using the correct codes, and submitting this information to the school office.

3.6 Students

Students have a responsibility to themselves and others to play a positive role in the life of the school and to make the most of the education opportunities available.

We ask that students will:

- Ensure that they attend school and are on time.
- Be aware of their current attendance record and targets.
- Be aware of the consequences of poor attendance or truancy.
- Arrive for lessons punctually.
- Do not leave school without permission.
- Follow correct procedures for known absences.
- Inform a trusted adult if they feel that they are unable to attend school for any reason such as bullying.

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

Pupils must arrive in school by **8:30am** on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at **8:35am** and will be kept open until **9:00 am** The register for the second session will be taken at **13:05 pm** and will be kept open until **13:35 pm**

4.2 Unplanned absence

The pupil's parent/carer must notify the school on the first day of an unplanned absence by **9:00am** or as soon as practically possible (see also section 7). **It is vital that parents/carers share specific details of the nature of absence including detail of illness and any expected return dates.**

School will contact you from 9:00am to seek a reason for absence if this has not been received.

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

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

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

4.3 Planned absence

Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment. **However, we encourage parents/carers to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours wherever possible.** Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

Parents and carers need to email any planned absence to admin@shs.starmat.uk Or telephone the school to update the Attendance Officer or relevant Head of Year (see above).

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

The school's procedures for ongoing punctuality issue are:

- To issue a Back to Basics sanction which can lead to a detention or further school level sanction
- For Heads of Year to make contact with home
- To arrange a meeting to agree the terms of a punctuality report

If there are no improvements, parents and carers will be required to meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Any further concerns will require parents and carers to meet with the Chair of Governors

Parents and carers will be reminded that punctuality impacts on their child's overall attendance percentage. In line with DfE guidelines penalty notices will now be considered when there have been 10 days of absence (this will include where a student has arrived in school after the register has closed) in a rolling 10-school week period.

4.5 Following up absence

Where any child we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, the school will:

- Follow up on their absence with their parent/carer to ascertain the reason
- Pupils identified as vulnerable are prioritised as the first to be contacted
- Ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not
- Identify the correct attendance code to use

Schools are expected to follow up on all non-attendance, which may include home visits. This is part of our safeguarding duty of care.

4.6 Reporting to parents

The school will **regularly** report to parents/carers on their child's attendance record. This is actioned through the school's Progress Reports and face to face Progress meetings.

If there is a change in a pupil's attendance such as a decline this will be communicated **directly** to the parent/carer through a letter from the student's Head of Year.

In addition the Head's letters home will reinforce the schools **key messages** about the importance of attendance, this Policy and the correlation between good attendance and good outcomes.

5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

5.1 Approval for term-time absence

The headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to pupils during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher's discretion and if a leave of absence is granted, it is for the headteacher to determine the length of the time the pupil can be away from school. *As head teachers should only grant leaves of absence in exceptional circumstances it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.*

The STAR MAT Termtime Leave of Absence Policy states that 'exceptional circumstances could include (evidence would be required in each case):

- Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced that the individual would not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
- Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.
- The death or terminal illness of a close family member.
- To attend the wedding or funeral of a close family member
- Other out of the ordinary, life changing or future career influencing events that affect the individual pupil in question or a close family member (such events to be decided upon at the discretion of the headteacher). It is expected that the Headteacher will require evidence to substantiate applications of this nature.

The definition of 'close family member' normally only encompasses parents/legal carers, siblings and grandparents only. Beyond this definition, the headteacher will be the arbiter of who qualifies as a 'close family member.' There is no appeal process related to this.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request. *As head teachers should only grant leaves of absence in exceptional circumstances it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.*

DfE guidance also states: 'Generally, the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance'.

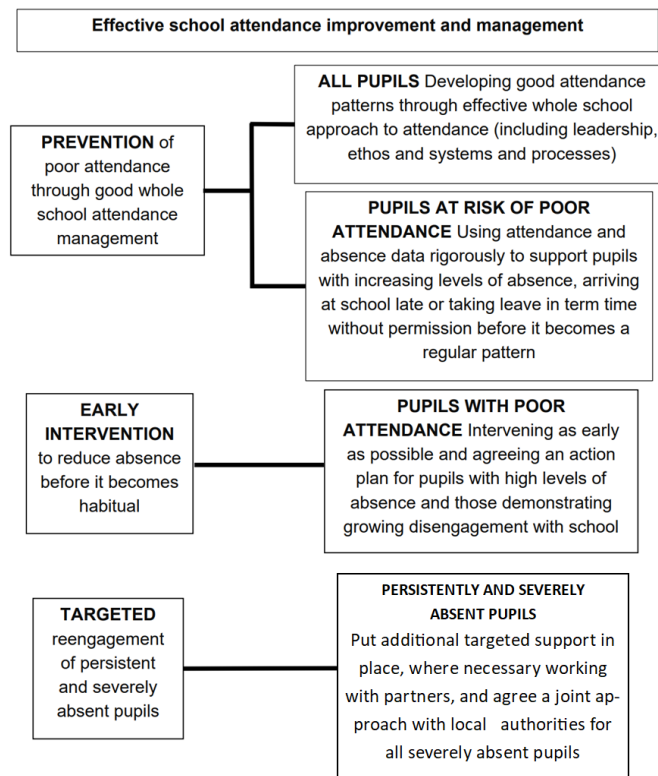
Leave of absence will not be granted for a pupil to take part in protest activity during school hours.

Valid reasons for **authorised absence** include:

- Illness and medical/dental appointments (see sections 4.2 and 4.3 for more detail)
- Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parents belong. If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parents' religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart
- Traveller pupils travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers, Showmen (fairground people) and Circus people, Bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and New Travellers. Absence may be authorised only when a Traveller family is known to be travelling for occupational purposes and has agreed this with the school but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision
- Taking part in a regulated performance or employment abroad: in line with a licence issued by a local authority or Justice of the Peace or a body of persons approval (BOPA).
- Attending an interview: for entry into another educational institution or for future employment where requested in advance by a parent the pupil normally lives with.
- Study leave: for public examinations, as agreed in advance with a parent the pupil normally lives with. Please note this does not include any internal examinations such as mocks as study leave should not be granted in such cases.
- A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable: where the pupil is of compulsory school age, both the parent who the pupil normally lives with and school agree the pupil should temporarily be educated on a part-time basis for exceptional reasons and have agreed the times and dates when the pupil will be expected to attend school as part of that timetable. (For full details please see part-time timetable)

5.2 Persistent and Severe Absence

Effective student attendance improvement and management is best facilitated through a proactive approach as laid out below:



- The persistent absence threshold is 10%. If a pupil's individual overall absence rate is greater than or equal to 10%, the pupil will be classified as a persistent absentee.
- The severe absence threshold is 50%. If a pupil's individual overall absence rate is greater than or equal to 50%, the pupil will be classified as a severe absentee.
- Where a student's attendance is considered to be an area of concern, we will always look to engage to provide effective and timely support and improve attendance.

Our school Strategy For Reducing Persistent and Severe Absence is detailed under appendix 2.

5.3 Legal sanctions

As absence is so often a symptom of wider issues a family is facing, our school will always work together with other local partners to understand the barriers to attendance and provide support. Where that is not successful, or is not engaged with, the law protects pupils' right to an education and provides a range of legal interventions to formalise attendance improvement efforts, and where all other avenues have been exhausted, enforce it through prosecuting parents. Attendance legal intervention can only be used for pupils of compulsory school age and decisions should be made on an individual case by case basis. Where they are used, it should be clear that it will change parental behaviour and in making the decision to use an intervention, headteachers and local authority officers should have regard to their safeguarding duties as set out in the statutory guidance on Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Schools, trusts and local authorities are expected to work together and make use of the full range of legal interventions rather than relying solely on fixed penalty notices or prosecution. It is for individual schools and local authorities to decide whether to use them in an individual case after considering the individual circumstances of a family. These are:

• Attendance contracts

An attendance contract is a formal written agreement between a parent/carer and either the school (with the exception of independent schools and non-maintained special schools) or local authority to address irregular attendance at school or alternative provision. An attendance contract is not legally binding but allows a more formal route to secure engagement with support where a voluntary Early Help plan has not worked or is not deemed appropriate. An attendance contract is not a punitive tool, it is intended to provide support and offer an alternative to prosecution. Parents/ Carers cannot be compelled to enter an attendance contract, and they cannot be agreed in a parent's absence.

• Education supervision orders

Where a voluntary Early Help plan, or formal attendance contract has not been successful, an Education Supervision Order (ESO) can be a useful alternative to provide formal legal intervention without criminal prosecution. In deciding whether to progress to an ESO, the school and local authority should have exhausted voluntary support and be clear that making the order would be beneficial for the pupil and parent. Where safeguarding concerns exist, the lead

practitioner should also discuss with the school's designated safeguarding lead and children's social care services and agree an ESO would be a more suitable option than a s.17 (Children in Need) or s.47 (Child Protection) plan. In all cases, local authorities must fully consider using an ESO before moving forward to prosecution.

• Attendance prosecution

If a child of compulsory school age fails to attend regularly at a school at which they are registered, or at a place where alternative provision is provided for them, their parents may be guilty of an offence and can be prosecuted by the local authority.

• Parenting orders

Parenting orders are an ancillary order that can be imposed by the Court following conviction for non-attendance alongside a fine and/or community order. Parents' agreement is not required before an order is made. They may be appropriate where the parent has not engaged in support to improve their child's attendance and where compulsion to do so would help change parental behaviour.

• Fixed penalty notices

Penalty notices are issued to parents as an alternative to prosecution where they have failed to ensure that their child of compulsory school age regularly attends the school where they are registered or, in certain cases, at a place where alternative provision is provided. Penalty notices can be used where the pupil's absence has been recorded with one or more of the unauthorised codes and that absence(s) constitutes an offence. A penalty notice can be issued to each parent liable for the offence or offences. They should usually only be issued to the parent or parents who have allowed the absence (regardless of which parent has applied for a leave of absence). The national threshold to consider a fixed penalty notice 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).

If repeated penalty notices are being issued and they are not working to change behaviour they are unlikely to be the most appropriate tool. From autumn term 2024, only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3 year rolling period and any second notice within that period is charged at a higher rate. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.

6. Strategies for promoting attendance

The schools strategies for promoting attendance are:

- Rigorous analysis of attendance and punctuality data to identify trends, key groups and issues impacting up on attendance
- Employment of a team of people who can work alongside parents, carers and students to improve attendance and remove barriers to learning;
- A Senior Leader who oversees the Attendance Strategy, reporting regularly to all stakeholders
- Early and regular communication with parents/carers about good attendance and their child's attendance and punctuality
- Regular assemblies to promote and recognise good attendance and punctuality
- Regular communication with pupils about their attendance and punctuality with form tutors and teachers
- Regular rewards for good and improved attendance and punctuality

7. Students With Medical Conditions, Mental or Physical Ill Health or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Many children will experience normal but difficult emotions that make them nervous about attending school, such as worries about friendships, schoolwork, examinations or variable moods. It is important to note that these pupils are still expected to attend school regularly - in many instances, attendance at school may serve to help with the underlying issues such as being away from school might exacerbate it, and a prolonged period of absence may heighten anxious feelings about attending in future.

Some pupils face more complex barriers to attendance than their peers. These can include pupils who suffer from long term medical conditions, physical or mental health conditions, or who have special educational needs and disabilities. Their right to an education is the same as any other pupil and therefore the attendance ambition for these pupils should

be the same as they are for any other pupil. School staff are not expected to diagnose or treat physical or mental health conditions, but they are expected to work together with families and other agencies with the aim of ensuring regular attendance for every pupil. In working with their parents to improve attendance, our school will be mindful of the barriers these pupils face and put additional support in place where necessary to help them access their full-time education. This will include:

- Having sensitive conversations and developing good support for pupils with physical or mental health conditions;
- Making reasonable adjustments where a pupil has a disability or putting in place an individual healthcare plan where needed;
- Considering whether additional support from external partners (including the local authority or health services) would be appropriate for example via [NYCC Medical Education Service](#);
- Working with parents to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities;
- We will work with families to help support routines where school transport is regularly being missed and work with other partners to encourage the scheduling of additional support interventions or medical appointments outside of the main school day;
- Establish strategies for removing the in-school barriers these pupils face, including considering support or reasonable adjustments for uniform, transport, routines, access to support in school and lunchtime arrangements;
- Ensure joined up pastoral care is in place where needed and consider whether a time-limited phased return to school would be appropriate, for example for those affected by anxiety about school attendance;
- Ensure data is regularly monitored for these groups including at board and governing body meetings and in Targeting Support Meetings with the local authority so that additional support from other partners is accessed where necessary;

Specifically, pupils with long term illnesses or other health needs may need additional support to continue their education, such as alternative provision provided by the local authority through the [NYCC Medical Education Service](#) and parallel services through other related home authorities.

1. 8. Attendance monitoring and Information Sharing

The SLT Attendance Lead, Attendance Officer, along with Heads of Year monitors pupil absence on a daily, weekly, monthly and half-term basis.

A pupil's parent/carer is expected to call the school in the morning if their child is going to be absent due to ill health (see section 4.2). If there is no communication, the school will contact the parent/carer to establish why their child is absent.

If a pupil's absence goes above 5 days, the school will contact the parent/carer of the pupil to discuss the reasons for this and arrange a meeting in school if this is appropriate.

If a pupil's absence continues to rise after contacting their parent/carer, we will consider involving the support of North Yorkshire Early Help service.

Pupil-level absence data is dynamically shared with the Department for Education under [the Education \(information about individual pupils\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024](#) to allow for ongoing data analysis. The underlying school-level absence data is published alongside the national statistics.

The school will work collaboratively and share individual data with other schools, local authorities and other partners when absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe. This includes:

New Pupil and Deletion returns: notifying the local authority when a pupil's name is added to or deleted from the school admission register outside of standard transition times.

Attendance returns: providing the local authority with the names and addresses of all pupils of compulsory school age who fail to attend school regularly or have been absent for a continuous period of ten school days where their absence has been recorded with one or more of the codes statistically classified as unauthorised

Sickness returns: providing the local authority with the full name and address of all pupils of compulsory school age who have been recorded with illness and who the school has reasonable grounds to believe will miss 15 days consecutively

or cumulatively because of sickness. This is to help the school and local authority to agree to any provision needed to ensure continuity of education for pupils who cannot attend because of health needs, in line with the statutory guidance on education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The school will closely scrutinise attendance data to:

- Track the attendance of individual pupils, cohorts and groups (including their punctuality);
- Identify whether or not there are particular groups of children whose absences may be a cause for concern;
- Monitor and evaluate those children identified as being in need of intervention and support;
- Help the school achieve its responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty;
- Consider patterns and trends including within sessions in secondary schools;
- Conduct thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full year data to identify patterns and trends. This should include analysis of pupils and cohorts and identifying patterns in uses of certain codes, days of poor attendance and where appropriate, subjects which have low lesson attendance;
- Use this data analysis to provide regular attendance reports to class teachers or tutors to facilitate discussions with pupils and to leaders (including special educational needs coordinators, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium leads).

Data will be benchmarked (at whole school, year group and cohort level) against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement.

It will be regularly reviewed at Local Governing Body meetings as defined through the Trust Scheme of Delegation and Annual Agenda Planner. This will include thorough examination of recent and historic trends at a school level as well as benchmarking comparator schools within the trust, local authority area, region and nationwide.

It is required that where any school in the Trust is struggling with their attendance, the Trust board and Governing Body would work with school leaders to develop a comprehensive attendance action plan to improve attendance. This should be evaluated and reviewed regularly. This may form part of a wider school improvement plan, including where appropriate school-to-school support from system leaders within the Trust or from the wider educational community.

9. Children Missing in Education

All children of compulsory school age, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to an efficient, full time education which is suitable to their age, aptitude and any Special Educational Needs they may have. The Local Authority has a duty to meet the requirements and responsibilities from within the Children missing education – Statutory Guidance for local authorities (DfE Sept 2016) and comply with it's duties under Section 436A of the Education Act 1996 by having in place arrangements to identify Children Missing Education.

To assist in it's duties, North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) has developed a [Children Missing Education Protocol](#), which is shared with all partners and stakeholders. All STAR Multi-Academy Trust schools follow the NYCC CME Protocol.

10. Elective Home Education

Any parent has the right to remove their child from school and home educate them.

If any parent is considering this as an option, they must contact the school immediately to discuss the reasons and options for this choice.

Early Help will be informed and will make contact with the family to offer guidance and support. [NYCC Early Help](#)

Further information can be found at:- [Parents considering EHE](#)

11. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the STAR Multi-Academy Trust, North Yorkshire County Council or the DfE is updated, and as a minimum 3 yearly by the Local Governing Body. The LGB will additionally consider that as the barriers to attendance evolve quickly, this policy should be reviewed and updated as necessary. At every review, the policy will be approved by the full Governing Body.

12. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- STAR MAT Safeguarding Policy

- Behaviour policy
- STAR MAT Leave in Term-Time Policy

Appendix 1: attendance codes

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

Code	Meaning	Type
/ \	Present at the school / morning \ afternoon	Present Mark
B	Attending any other approved educational activity - Alternative Provision not arranged through the approved framework	Present Mark
C	Authorised Circumstance (see next page for breakdown)	Authorised Absence
D	Dual registered at another school - Attending Alternative Provision at another school site - Hospital education - Education at a secure / residential site - Off-site direction / managed move	Present Mark
E	Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made	Authorised Absence
G	Holiday not granted by the school or Term Time Leave not granted by the school	Unauthorised Absence
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	Authorised Absence
J1	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution	Authorised Absence
K	Attending education provision arranged by the Local Authority - Home Tutoring - Approved Framework for Alternative Provision - Blended Learning	Present Mark
L	Late arrival before the registers have closed	Present Mark
M	Attended a medical appointment	Authorised Absence
N	Reason for absence not yet established	Unauthorised Mark
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	Unauthorised Absence
P	Participating in a sporting activity	Present Mark
Q	Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements	Not expected to attend
R	Religious Observance	Authorised Absence
S	Leave of absence for the purpose of studying for a public examination. Must be used sparingly with revision opportunities in school.	Authorised Absence

T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes, and the pupil has attended for at least 200 sessions in preceding 12 months.	Authorised Absence
U	Arrived in school after registration closed	Unauthorised Absence
V	Attending an Educational Trip or Visit	Present Mark
W	Attending Work Experience	Present Mark
X	Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school	Not expected to attend
Y	Unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause (see next page for breakdown)	Not expected to attend
Z	Prospective or previous pupil not on admission register	Not expected to attend

Code	Meaning	Type
The Y code: Unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause, is broken down into the following sub codes to provide better differentiation of the reason:		
Y1	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available	Not expected to attend
Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel	Not expected to attend
Y3	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed. For example, this may be due to damage or teacher strikes.	Not expected to attend
Y4	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed. For example, extreme weather, damage, no hot water, or heating.	Not expected to attend
Y5	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention. For example, in police detention, remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or detained under a sentence of detention.	Not expected to attend
Y6	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law. contrary to or prohibited by any guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of infection or disease.	Not expected to attend
Y7	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause. For example, an emergency has prevented the pupil from attending. The unavoidable cause must be something that affects the pupil, not just the parent.	Not expected to attend
The C code: Authorised Absence is broken down into the following sub codes to provide better differentiation of the reason:		
C	Leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion.	Authorised Absence
C1	Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad.	Authorised Absence
C2	Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable.	Authorised Absence

Appendix 2: strategy for reducing persistent and severe absence

Where a pattern of absence is at risk of becoming, or becomes, problematic, our schools will draw on or hope to build positive relationships and listen to and understand the barriers to attendance the pupil or family is experiencing.

Schools will take into consideration the sensitivity of some of the reasons for absence and understand the importance of school as a place of safety and support.

Schools will:

- Support pupils and parents by working together to address any in-school barriers to attendance
- Where barriers are outside of the school's control, all partners should work together to support pupils and parents to access any support they may need voluntarily. As a minimum, this should include meeting with pupils and parents at risk of persistent or severe absence to understand barriers to being in school and agreeing actions or interventions to address them. This may include referrals to services and organisations that can provide support. These actions should be regularly discussed and reviewed together with pupils and families.'

At Sherburn High School we take a proactive approach to ensuring all pupils attend, on time, with the correct uniform and equipment ready for the start of each session. Strategies deployed at Sherburn High School for pupils whose attendance may cause concern (these are at 90%):

- The school makes prompt contact with parents and carers in the first instance. This communication can be a phone call or an email letter in the first instance.
- Further communication with home will occur where poor punctuality persists and pupils may be pleased on Punctuality Report.
- As with punctuality if poor attendance persists further communication with parents/carers will continue along with a meeting in school with the pupils Head of Year, to establish the barriers to attendance. The pupils' attendance will be closely monitored informally and the Head of Year will communicate regularly with families regarding any progress made.
- To ensure pupils with SEND, mental health issues and LAC or young people working with a social worker have access to the relevant services, so that there is a joint approach.
- The school's Family Liaison Officer may work with a pupil and family to encourage engagement and attendance.
- A referral may be made to an external service that can support families and pupils to improve their attendance.
- Formal monitoring of attendance will take place if there are no improvements in a pupils attendance, in line with the schools statutory duties. This will include regular meetings to support pupils back into school, with the purpose of building confidence and to bridge any gaps.
- Families of pupils with continued poor attendance will be required to attend a meeting with the school governor.

Fixed Penalty Notices for absence and other sanctions will be sought if support is not appropriate (e.g. for an unauthorised holiday in term time), not successful, or not engaged with.

Where a pupils absence continued to cause concern and especially should it fall below 50% or be in danger of reaching this level (severe absence), the school will:

- As appropriate, deploy strategies from the above as listed for persistently absent pupils.

At all points the school will involve appropriate school staff who can work with families, conduct home visits and work in partnership including with any Local Authority School Attendance Support and other partners to achieve a positive outcome for our pupils and their families.