



Martley CE Primary School

Attendance Policy

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Our Christian Values

Our Core Christian values are the 5 Cs - **Commitment, Creativity, Compassion, Co-operation and Courage**. They permeate our curriculum and are taught through our collective worship, within our curriculum and as part of our personal development programme.

Our vision is that everyone will know that they are loved by God. We nurture all children and adults so that they flourish as individuals and make the best of their God-given talents, through embracing our diverse world.

‘Every good action and every perfect gift is from God. These good gifts come down from the creator of the sun, moon and stars. God does not change like their shifting shadows’.

James 1:17

International Children’s Bible

We also support and follow the vision of the Diocese of Worcester Multi-Academy Trust (DoWMAT) of which we are a member school:

‘To Love, To Learn, To Serve’ sums up the DoWMAT’s vision for those who come together to create the MAT, enabling all to flourish both as individuals and in community with each other; living life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

Equality and Diversity Statement

At Martley CE Primary School and Pre-School we promote equality of opportunity. We promote positive attitudes and encourage active participation of all stakeholders regardless of race, gender, disability, age, religion, belief and sexuality. In so doing we strive to eliminate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of any group and where any such harassment is found appropriate action will be taken immediately.

Principles

At Martley CE Primary School we recognise that for pupils to achieve their full potential regular school attendance is vital. The key to improving and maintaining high levels of attendance is a consistently applied whole school policy where everyone accepts and plays their part.

Martley CE Primary School is committed to provide all its pupils with a full-time education which maximises opportunities for each individual to realise his/her true potential. We will also provide a welcoming, caring environment whereby each member of the school community feels valued and safe and wishes to attend to learn. We will consistently work towards a goal of 100% attendance for all students.

Regular and punctual attendance at school is an important life skill for all students. Every opportunity will be taken at school to convey and reinforce to pupils and their families that each pupil should attend school regularly and punctually and we will intervene at the earliest opportunity where attendance gives cause for concern.

Martley CE Primary has a system of incentives and rewards which acknowledges the efforts of pupils to improve their attendance and timekeeping. We are continuing to promote, encourage and support all pupils to achieve 100% attendance, and in an aim to reach the current school target of 97% attendance it is felt that rewarding good and improved attendance is as important as dealing with low attendance. We will, however, challenge the behaviour of those students and parents who give low priority to attendance and punctuality.

To meet these objectives, clear roles have been established that will provide an effective and efficient system of communication with students, parents and appropriate agencies to provide information, advice and support.

Regular and punctual attendance at school is a legal requirement for pupils. In recognition of this, the law under Section 444 Education Act 1996 makes it an offence for a parent or carer to fail to secure the regular attendance of their child, at the school at which the child is a registered pupil, without good reason or agreement of the school. Regular attendance is in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school and the school will expect pupils to attend every day that the school is open for instruction. Parents and children will be supported by school to overcome barriers to regular attendance, through a range of intervention strategies. However, continued unauthorised absence from school may lead to prosecution of parents under Section 444 and 444a of the Education Act 1996.

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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: July 2026](#) 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.

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: July 2026](#) and [Parental responsibility measures attendance census - GOV.UK](#). 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 \(and 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2016 amendments\)](#)
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/1751/contents> [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/757/regulation/2/made>

It also refers to:

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

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
- Sharing effective practice on attendance management and improvement across schools
- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy

3.2 The Head of School

The Head of School 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.
- 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

3.3 The designated senior leader responsible for attendance

The Head of School is the designated senior leader (also known as the 'senior attendance champion') 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 Michelle Gunston and can be contacted via telephone or email on 01886 888201 office@martley.dowmat.education or mgunston@martley.dowmat.education

3.4 The attendance officer

The school attendance officer (Michelle Gunston) is responsible for:

- Monitoring and analysing attendance data
- 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 WCC if a issue fixed-penalty notice needs to be issued.

The attendance officer is Michelle Gunston and can be contacted via 01886 888201 or by email office@martley.dowmat.education or mgunston@martley.dowmat.education

3.5 Class Teachers

Class Teachers are responsible for recording daily attendance and **must** take it at the same time for both morning (8:50a.m) and afternoon sessions (1p.m.) using the correct codes on ARBOR (see Appendix 1). They **must** submit this information to the school office for both the morning and afternoons sessions.

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 Head of School 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 9:00am 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 one 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 WCC inclusion officer and utilising our Trauma Informed School pastoral lead (Trish Garness)

➤ 3.8 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Attend school every day, on time (soft start 8:40-8:50a.m.)

4. Recording attendance

4.1 Attendance register

We will keep an electronic attendance register on ARBOR and place all pupils onto this register.

We **will** take our attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day (**at 8:50a.m.**) and at the beginning of the second session (**at 1p.m.**). Staff will use the appropriate national attendance and absence codes from the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, recording 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 8:50a.m and ends at 3:20p.m.

Pupils must arrive in school by 8:50a.m on each school day for registration.

The register for the first session **will be taken at 8:50a.m** and will be kept open until 9:20a.m. If a pupil arrives after 8:50a.m, they will be recorded as late and the number of minutes they are late will also be recorded. The register for the second session **will be taken at 1:00p.m.** and will be kept open until 1:05p.m.

4.2 Unplanned absence

The parents/carers must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9:00am, or as soon as practically possible, by calling the school office staff, who can be contacted via telephone 01886 888201 or email office@martley.dowmat.education

We will mark absence due to illness as authorised. If there are legitimate reasons for requesting evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other form of evidence, we will do so. However, we remain committed to supporting pupils with health needs that are complex, long-term or frequently recurring. 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. Medical appointments during school hours require a note or verbal message to the school office. Children should be signed out when leaving the school site. A child sent home due to illness will be signed out and absence authorised for the remainder of the day.

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. To request a leave of absence, parents/carers should complete an absence request form that can be collected from the school office or requested via email.

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
- Parents will receive regular communication about their children's punctuality via letter or email.

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 by 9:30am. If the school cannot reach any of the pupil's emergency contacts, the school will send an email/undertake a home 'safe&well' visit and may call the 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/carer 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.
- Social services/the police/child missing in education team will be informed if the problem continues

4.6 Reporting to parents

The school will regularly inform parents about their child's attendance and absence levels if there is a concern. This will take place at least half termly. All parents, regardless of their child's absence levels, will receive an attendance print out with their child's report at the end of the year.

5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

5.1 Approval for term-time absence

The Head of School will only grant a leave of absence to a pupil during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. A leave of absence is granted at the Head of School's discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for.

We define 'exceptional circumstances' as significant and unavoidable. By 'unavoidable' we mean an event that could not reasonably be scheduled at another time.

The school considers each application for term-time absence on its individual merits, considering the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request.

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, at least six weeks before the absence, in writing to the Head of School. The Head of School may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

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 parent's 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.

5.2 Sanctions

Our school will make use of the full range of 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.

Penalty notices

The Head of School, 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

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).

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.

Notices 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.

Notices 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.

They 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 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

6. Strategies for promoting attendance

We will promote attendance by:

- Celebrating improved attendance termly in assemblies
- Promoting attendance and strategies around school
- Regular communication on the school newsletter
- Regularly highlighting the impact of good attendance and punctuality on attainment

7. Supporting pupils who are absent or returning to school

7.1 Pupils absent due to complex barriers to attendance

We will work closely with families and students who have been absent for a long period of time, in reintegrating the student back into school. A phased return to school will be offered, if necessary, for a maximum of 6 weeks. An Early Help Assessment (EHA) will be started and reviewed regularly with parents and any other professionals.

We will:

- Liaise with outside agencies as appropriate
- All relevant staff will be fully involved and updated
- Provide peer support and mentoring if appropriate
- Provide work and relevant school news to the pupil
- Agree a timescale to review the reintegration plan
- Include parent/guardian, pupil and any relevant staff in the reintegration plan.

7.2 Pupils absent due to mental or physical ill health or SEND

Remote education for an absent pupil will only be used **as a last resort**, once reasonable adjustments have been considered, and as part of a wider plan to support the pupil's return to school.

The school will work closely with families and pupil who have been absent for a long period of time, in reintegrating the pupil back into school.

- Liaise with health professionals in supporting the pupil back into school
- Refer to external agencies including School Health, GP, Paediatrics, Mental Health Services for additional support
- Liaise with SEND and review SEND provision and adjust if appropriate
- Keep teaching staff fully updated on situation and share any reintegration plans
- Consider a phased return to school for a maximum of 6 weeks.
- If an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is in place, arrange an emergency review and liaise with SEND services
- The school will submit regular notifications to the Local Authority for students absent for 10 or more days.
- Where a pupil has an EHCP 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 SEND services.

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

When pupils have been absent for a long period of time the school will:

- Liaise with parents and pupil in identifying a reintegration package to school.
- Notify teachers of any reasonable adjustments made to support a return to school
- Liaise with any external agencies
- Ensure work is provided where possible
- Consider an Early Help Assessment to support return to school

7.3 Young carers

Young carers will be recorded in the school census. Wherever a pupil is impacted, our school will work in partnership with the pupil and family to understand caring-related barriers to attendance. If necessary, we will support the pupil and family through our local early help arrangements and, where appropriate, a local authority young carer's needs assessment will be carried out under section 17ZA of the Children Act 1989.

8. Attendance monitoring

DoWMAT provides our school with fortnightly attendance updates; this information is analysed by our Attendance Champion/Head of School (Michelle Gunston).

8.1 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.

Pupil-level absence 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 compare attendance data to the national average and share this with the Local Academy Board.

8.2 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
- Benchmark school attendance regularly against local, regional and national levels

8.3 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 8.4 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-ordinator, designated safeguarding lead and pupil premium lead)
- 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

The local authority will:

- Act as “strategic leaders across a geographical area,” working in close partnership with our school and others locally. Their universal practice and individual casework will sit within a single system-wide approach, with the overarching aim to improve school attendance.

8.4 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 (see section 5.2, above)

9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority and/or DfE is updated, and as a minimum annually by Michelle Gunston, Head of School. At every review, the policy will be approved by the full Local Academy Board.

10. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour 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
Attending a place other than the school		
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
Absent – leave of absence		
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

S	Study leave	Pupil has been granted leave of absence to study for a public examination
X	Not required to be in school	Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend
C2	Part-time timetable	Pupil is not in school due to having a part-time timetable
C	Exceptional circumstances	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
Absent – other authorised reasons		
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	Pupil is defined as having 'no fixed abode', a child who is travelling with their parent(s) who are travelling for occupational purposes
R	Religious observance	Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	Pupil is unable to attend due to illness (either related to physical or mental health)
E	Suspended or excluded	Pupil has been suspended or excluded from school and no alternative provision has been made
Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause		
Q	Lack of access arrangements	Pupil is unable to attend school because the local authorities are in the process of arranging home-to-school travel but haven't yet completed it, alongside those that have failed to arrange it at all
Y1	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
Y2	Widespread disruption to travel	Pupil is unable to attend because of widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national or international emergency
Y3	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

Y4	Whole school site unexpectedly closed	Every pupil absent as the school is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to adverse weather)
Y5	Criminal justice detention	Pupil is unable to attend as they are: • In police detention • Remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or • Detained under a sentence of detention
Y6	Public health guidance or law	Pupil's travel to or attendance at the school would be prohibited under public health guidance or law
Y7	Any other unavoidable cause	To be used where an unavoidable cause is not covered by the other codes
Absent – unauthorised absence		
G	Holiday not granted by the school	Pupil is absent for the purpose of a holiday, not approved by the school
N	Reason for absence not yet established	Reason for absence has not been established before the register closes
O	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
U	Arrived in school after registration closed	Pupil has arrived late, after the register has closed but before the end of session
Administrative codes		
Z	Prospective pupil not on admission register	Pupil has not joined school yet but has been registered
#	Planned whole-school closure	Whole-school closures that are known and planned in advance, including school holidays

Appendix 2: Attendance Action Flowchart

