Attendance and Registers Policy

Hayward's Primary School

Written by:	School Based Policy drawing on the DCC suggested model policy August 2024 version	**Signed:**
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Attendance Policy

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Aims of this policy

Registered pupils of compulsory school age are required by law to be in school.

The aim of this Attendance Policy is to enable the school to provide a consistent practice that actively encourages and supports the regular attendance of all pupils (wherever possible).

We want your child to thrive in our school every day. We build strong and enduring relationships because we believe this is the foundation pupils need to fully engage in our community, to feel a sense of belonging and succeed.

Every child has a right to access education, and **everyone** is responsible for supporting and promoting excellent school attendance and punctuality. Hayward's Primary School is committed to providing the highest quality of education to our pupils and we recognise the clear link between attendance and the attainment of our pupils.

The aim of this Attendance Policy is to enable Hayward's Primary School to provide a consistent practice that actively encourages and supports the highest possible levels of attendance for all our pupils. Hayward's Primary School takes a whole-school approach to maintaining regular attendance and to achieve this, all members of our school community have an important contribution to make. It is vital that we work in partnership to ensure that any in-school or out-of-school barriers are removed at the earliest opportunity, this is achieved through early and meaningful support.

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

We are committed to taking positive action in the line with the Equality Act (2010) regarding the needs of people with protected characteristics. These are age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and marriage and civil partnership. We make reasonable adjustments to avoid anyone with a protected characteristic being placed at a disadvantage. Our

relentless approach to ensuring our pupils attend school and receive the education that they deserve, and are entitled to, is central to our school values.

This policy is supported by policies relating to child protection and safeguarding, anti-bullying, behaviour, inclusive learning, equality, special educational needs and teaching and learning.

It is our duty to strive for the best possible attendance for all pupils so that they can take full advantage of the opportunities offered. It is vital that your child is at school, on time, every day the school is open, unless the reason for absence is unavoidable. Therefore, this policy has been created to help support the school in effectively managing absences so that our pupils (your children) can make the most of the educational and life opportunities available to them.

In summary, Hayward's Primary School aims to meet its obligations relating to school attendance by:

- Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence by effectively removing the barriers to attendance
- Ensuring every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence
- Minimising the disruption caused by late arrivals or non-attendance to the quality of the education and provisions for all pupils

This policy is supported by policies on **safeguarding**, **bullying**, **behaviour**, and **inclusive learning**.
Research clearly shows that there is a strong link between regular attendance and good attainment. Regular attendance is important for your child because:

- Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and educationally.
- Regular attenders find school routines, schoolwork, and friendships easier to manage.
- Regular attenders find learning more satisfying.
- Regular attenders settle into school more easily.
- Regular attenders enjoy improved social, educational, and work opportunities later in life.

This policy has been created to help support the school in effectively managing pupil absence so that our pupils (your children) can make the most of the educational and life opportunities available to them. We want your child to thrive.

The Law

This policy meets the requirements of the working together to improve school attendance from the Department for Education (DfE) and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on school attendance parental responsibility measures.

These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

· The Education Act (1996)

· The Education Act (2002)

· The Education and Inspections Act (2006)

· The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations (2006)

· The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations (Amendment 2010)

· The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations (Amendment 2011)

· The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations (Amendment 2013)

· The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations (Amendment 2016)

· The Education (Penalty Notices) England) Regulations (Amendment 2013)

This policy also refers to the DfE's guidance on the school census, which explains the persistent absence threshold.

Roles and Responsibilities

Responsibilities

- All children aged 5 - 16 years must receive suitable education. (Section 7, *Education Act (1996)).* A pupil of compulsory school age who is registered at a school must, by law, attend regularly.
- By law, parents have the prime responsibility for ensuring that pupils of compulsory school age attend regularly. (Section 576, Education Act (1996)).
- The Local Authority (LA) must offer educational provision for all children of school age.
- By law, all schools (except those where all pupils are boarders) are required to keep an attendance register, and all pupils must be placed on this register from the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed or has been notified that the pupil will attend the school.
- Every entry in the attendance register will be preserved for 3 years after the date on which the entry was made.
- By law, all schools must keep an admissions' register, the contents of which includes all pupils, their personal details, (including at least two telephone numbers for different safe adults, to ensure that we can always contact someone in the event of an emergency), the date of admission (or re-admission), information regarding parents and details of the school last attended.
- Pupils will be removed from roll only when they complete their education stage, transfer to another school, move out of the area or emigrate or following a parental request for elective home education. We follow statutory guidance for removing pupils from roll and notifying the local authority. Further information can be found in Appendix 6.
- There is a clear link between attainment and attendance. Under **section 444** (**1**) of the **Education Act 1996** (EA 1996), a parent commits an offence if they fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at a school where the child is registered. We therefore enforce the use of statutory action to encourage and promote attendance, this is done to ensure that all pupils can benefit from their legal right to receive an education
- Hayward's School will communicate attendance concerns to the pupil's social worker, if they have one or The Virtual School Head, if the pupil is a looked after child.

This will be done as soon as there is an attendance concern and immediately upon becoming a persistent absentee. Unexplained absences will also be communicated to the social worker and Virtual School Head, where relevant.

Pupils

- Attend school every day and every timetabled lesson punctually
- Acknowledge positive behaviours needed both inside and outside of our school
- Adhere to our systems for late registration
- Adhere to attendance contracts if they are in place
- Aim for the highest possible attendance
- Discuss concerns about your attendance or punctuality with a trusted adult in our school, especially if you are experiencing difficulties at school or at home which may impact on your attendance and/or learning
- Attend all lessons ready to learn with the appropriate learning tools requested and on time for your class. Lesson times will be made clear through your school timetable

Families

Families are responsible for:

- Ensuring pupils attend regularly and punctually.
- Promoting the value of good education and the importance of regular school attendance at home
- Doing everything you can to prevent unnecessary school absences, such as by making medical and dental appointments outside of school hours.
- Working with the school and your child to address any in-school barriers to attendance and support their learning by taking an interest in what they have been doing at school.
- Enforcing a regular routine at home in terms of homework, bedtime, etc. so that you child is used to consistency and the school day becomes part of that routine. It is vital that your child receives the same message at home as they do at school about the importance of attendance.
- Providing the school with more than one emergency contact for your child.
- Providing proof of medical appointments that can only be attended during the school day.
- Making early contact with us when you become aware of problems with your child attending school.
- Attending meetings if concerns are identified.
- Participating in Early Help Meetings if required.
- Supporting attendance contracts where appropriate.
- Supporting us in actioning agreed interventions/action plans.

Please follow this process if your child is going to be absent from school:

Support Staff

- Understand that promoting pupil attendance is the responsibility of all staff. Be curious, aware, vigilant, well-informed and listen to what children say about the barriers to accessing education
- Assist in ensuring attendance has a high profile within the school
- Build on a culture of challenge when addressing persistent illness absences with parents
- Challenge parents when no reason has been provided for an absence
- Escalate concerns where required as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Participate in training in relation to attendance

Teachers

- Understand that promoting pupil attendance is the responsibility of all staff. Be curious, aware, vigilant, well-informed and listen to what children say about the barriers to accessing education
- Ensure attendance has a high profile within the class
- Consider whether a pupil's known, or not yet identified, SEN could be impacting on attendance and whether provision and/or further reasonable adjustments should be made
- Take registers at the beginning of every lesson including when the lesson is also the legal registration session
- Build a culture of challenge when addressing absences with parents. Treat all pupils and parents with dignity and model respectful relationships to build a positive relationship between home and school
- Challenge parents when they do not provide a reason for absence
- Communicate with parents positively. Teachers should discuss the link between attendance and attainment and wider wellbeing. Teachers should challenge parents' views where they have misconceptions about what 'good' attendance looks like (this is outlined in more detail in figure 1 below).
- Complete return to school with pupils when required.
- Escalate concerns as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Analyse and report attendance figures for each pupil to parents regularly.
- Discuss attendance with parents at every opportunity (celebrate good attendance as well as concerning attendance).
- Participate in training relating to attendance as appropriate

Where a pupil or family need support with attendance, the best placed person in the school will support the family, this may or may not be the child's class teacher. This person should remain consistent, and the school will draw on positive relationships to listen to and understand the barriers to attendance the pupil or family is experiencing.

The Attendance Officer

- Take calls from parents about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system
- Offer support and guidance on attendance where needed
- Monitor and analyse attendance data and ensure these are sent regularly to class teachers
- Benchmark attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Provide regular attendance reports to school staff and report concerns about attendance to the Designated Senior Leader and Governor responsible for attendance
- Monitor pupils with attendance below 95% with regular communication with both the pupil and their parents, holding attendance meetings where required and agreeing individual action plans
- Attend welfare home visits where required
- Escalate concerns where required as per the Safeguarding and Pupil Protection Policy
- Work with Education Welfare Officers to tackle persistent absence
- Advise the Principal and Designated Senior Leader responsible for attendance when to issue fixed-penalty notices

School Attendance Champion

- Take a lead in promoting pupil attendance ensuring it is the responsibility of all staff. Be aware, vigilant, well-informed and listen to what children say about the barriers to accessing education
- Develop a clear strategy and vision for improving attendance
- Work with the SENCO, where relevant, to ensure any SEND needs are fully understood, including how these may impact on attendance, and to ensure that the provision in place meets needs and supports good attendance
- Monitor daily attendance for vulnerable pupils and track weekly attendance patterns and trends for all pupils, delivering intervention and support in a targeted way to pupils and families. This needs to include patterns of attendance for individual pupils, cohorts, and groups but particularly for pupils with attendance below 90%
- Support all staff to monitor attendance patterns and tackle attendance concerns effectively by providing regular attendance reports to class teachers or tutors / subject leaders so they are able to facilitate discussions with pupils (this also includes any special educational needs coordinators, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium leads).
- Conduct thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full year data to identify patterns and trends including 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.

- Work with the leadership team to benchmark the school's attendance data (at whole school, year group and cohort level) against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Monitor in the data the impact of school wide attendance efforts, including any specific strategies implemented ensuring there is regular and positive communication with parents
- Ensure attendance is a standing agenda item for every team meeting and use practice examples to explore safeguarding themes and review relevant policy, procedures and code of conduct on a regular basis
- Provide rewards for improving attendance, punctuality and overall high attendance while not penalising pupils with complex medical or additional needs which impacts on their ability to attend school regularly
- Set annual school attendance targets with the Headteacher
- Work on proactively on building strong relationships with families
- Follow the LA Fast-Track procedure and support staff to offer Early Help where necessary and work with Education Welfare Officers to tackle persistent absence.
- Work with the LA, agencies, and safeguarding partners to overcome barriers to attendance
- Advise the Headteacher when to issue fixed-penalty notices
- Attend welfare home visits where required
- Escalate concerns when deemed appropriate as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Lead attendance training for staff and governors
- Communicate attendance concerns to the pupil's social worker, if they have one or The Virtual School Head, if the pupil is a looked after child. This will be done as soon as there is an attendance concern and immediately upon becoming a persistent absentee. Unexplained absences will also be communicated to the social worker and Virtual School Head, if the pupil has one.

Senior Leadership Team and Family Support Worker

- Take a lead in promoting pupil attendance, ensuring it is the responsibility of all staff. Be curious, aware, vigilant, well-informed and listen to what children say about the barriers to accessing education
- Ensure attendance has a high profile across the school.
- Work proactively on building strong relationships with families.
- Build on a culture of challenge when addressing persistent illness absences with parents.
- Attend welfare home visits where required.
- Escalate concerns where required as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Liaise with Attendance Lead, DSL, Behaviour Lead and SENCo as appropriate to discuss attendance concerns for individual pupils.
- Participate in appropriate training in relation to attendance.
- Ensure there are designated staff with day-to-day responsibility for attendance matters and ensure that adequate, protected time is allocated to discharge these responsibilities.

- Take overall responsibility for ensuring our school conforms to all statutory requirements in respect of attendance e.g., deletion from school roll is adhered to for example.

Headteacher

- Take a lead in promoting pupil attendance, ensuring it is the responsibility of all staff. Be aware, vigilant, well-informed and listen to what children say about the barriers to accessing education
- Ensure the attendance policy is implemented consistently across the school
- Ensure attendance is a target in performance appraisals
- Ensure attendance has a high profile across the school in all communications
- Monitor school level absence data with the School Attendance Champion and report data to the Governing Body
- Support other staff in monitoring the attendance of individual pupils
- Agree with the Attendance Lead when to issue fixed-penalty notices
- Decide whether to grant leave during term time for exceptional circumstances
- Ensure attendance training is including provided to staff annually

Governing Body

- Recognise the importance of school attendance and promote it across the school's ethos and policies
- Review the implementation of the School Attendance Policy
- Ensure the school fulfils its statutory duties
- Ensure staff receive adequate training on attendance
- Discuss the targets for attendance with the Headteacher and review progress towards these at Board meetings.
- Regularly monitor attendance figures through data analysis at Board meetings. Ask questions about attendance trends and be curious about what is being done to challenge and prevent persistent poor absence

Definitions

- A pupil is classed as absent if they arrive after the register has closed or if they do not attend for any reason.
- An authorised absence is when approval has been given in advance for a pupil of compulsory school age to be absent for a specific (legal) purpose, or we have accepted an explanation offered afterwards as justification for absence from a parent or carer. This may include:

- An absence for illness for which we have granted leave

- Medical or dental appointments may be granted leave where every attempt has been made to arrange outside of school hours, has been unsuccessful and so cannot be avoided, or where the appointment is a genuine emergency

- Religious or cultural observances for which we have granted leave. The day must be exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the parents or pupil belong. Where necessary, we will seek advice from the parents' religious body about whether it has set the day apart for religious observance

- An absence due to a change to circumstance which is considered to be exceptional.

• An unauthorised absence is defined as one where we are not satisfied with the reasons given for the absence. Reasons may include:
- Parents keeping children from attending unnecessarily or without reason
- Missing sessions before or during the school day
- Absences which have never been properly explained
- Arrival after the register has closed
- Day trips and holidays in term time that have not been agreed
- Leaving our school without authorisation during the day

• Persistent Absence is defined as: 10% or more of sessions missed (based on each pupil's possible sessions). Absences may be authorised or unauthorised.
• Severe Absence is defined as: 50% or more of sessions missed (based on each pupil's possible sessions). Absences may be authorised or unauthorised.
• Persistent lateness is defined as pupils who have five or more late marks recorded in a single half-term.

Monitoring and Reviewing Attendance

• We recognise that early intervention can prevent poor attendance. We monitor attendance and punctuality throughout the year. We recognise that certain groups of pupils may be more at risk of poor attendance and will provide support and assistance wherever possible.
• We set challenging attendance targets for the whole school.
• Pupil-level absence data is collected regularly and published at national and local authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases. We compare our attendance data to the national average.
• Specific measures are taken to monitor attendance. These processes are embedded and regularly checked to ensure the effective safeguarding of all pupils through specific tailored interventions. Data on attendance is collected and analysed a minimum of once a half term. Key analysis is made of:
- *Patterns of absence*
- *Patterns of lateness*
- *Patterns of medical appointments*
- *Correct and consistent use of absence codes*
- *Trends in reasons for absence, for example, use of the C code, leave of absence and exclusions*
- *Trends in particular groups of children for example, pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).*

• Attendance data informs action planning and supports the identification of key priorities in our school development plan and future revisions of this policy. The attendance data will be reported to the Headteacher and all other relevant staff, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families. Data will also be used by the school to monitor the impact of any interventions put in place to modify them and inform future strategies.

Reviewing this Policy

- This policy will be reviewed every three years or in the following circumstances:

- *Changes in legislation and/or government guidance*
- *As a result of any other significant change or event*
- *If the policy is determined not to be effective*

OUR APPROACH AT HAYWARD'S
Maintaining an Attendance Register

- The attendance register will be taken at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the pm session. It will mark whether each 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 making the amendment*

- The school gates are open from: 8:45am. The school day starts at 8:55am. All pupils should be in their classroom at this time.
- The first (morning) registration session starts at 8:55am. Pupils will receive a late mark if they are not in their designated classroom by 9.05am. The register closes at 9.15am. Pupils will receive a mark of absence if they do not attend before this time. Attendance after the register closes will receive a mark to show that the pupil is on site, (U) but will count as an absent mark.
- Pupils arriving late should report to the main school office and sign in with a member of the office staff.
- The second (afternoon) registration session starts at 1:00pm for EYFS and 1:15pm for KS1 and KS2.
- If a pupil needs to leave school during the day, they must sign out at the main reception with a parent once authorisation has been given from the Headteacher.
- Pupils educated off-site are monitored daily for their attendance at the off-site/alternative provision. Staff work closely with the staff at the off-site provision, the pupil, and their parents to support the pupil to maintain good attendance.

Recording Attendance

The national absence and attendance codes enable schools to record and monitor attendance and absence in a consistent way which complies with the regulations. They are also used for collecting statistics through the Census. The data helps schools, local

authorities, and the Government to gain a greater understanding of the level of, and the reasons for absence. The following codes are used:

Attending the school	
/ \	Present at the school / = morning session \ = afternoon session
L	Late arrival – pupil arrives late before register has closed.
K	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority
V	Attending an educational visit or trip
P	Participating in a sporting activity
W	Attending work experience
B	Attending any other approved educational activity
D	Dual registered at another school
Absent – Leave of absence	
C1	Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad.
M	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending a medical or dental appointment
J1	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution
S	Leave of absence for the purpose of studying for a public examination
X	Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school
C2	Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable
C	Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance
Absent – other authorised reasons	
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes
R	Religious observance
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)
E	Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made
Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable causes	
Q	Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements
Y	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances
Y1	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available
Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel
Y3	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed

Y4	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed
Y5	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention
Y6	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law
Y7	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause
Absent – unauthorised absence	
G	Holiday not granted by the school
N	Reason for absence not yet established
O	Unauthorised - Absent in other or unknown circumstances
U	Arrived in school after registration closed
Administrative Codes	
Z	Prospective pupil not on admission register
#	Planned whole school closure

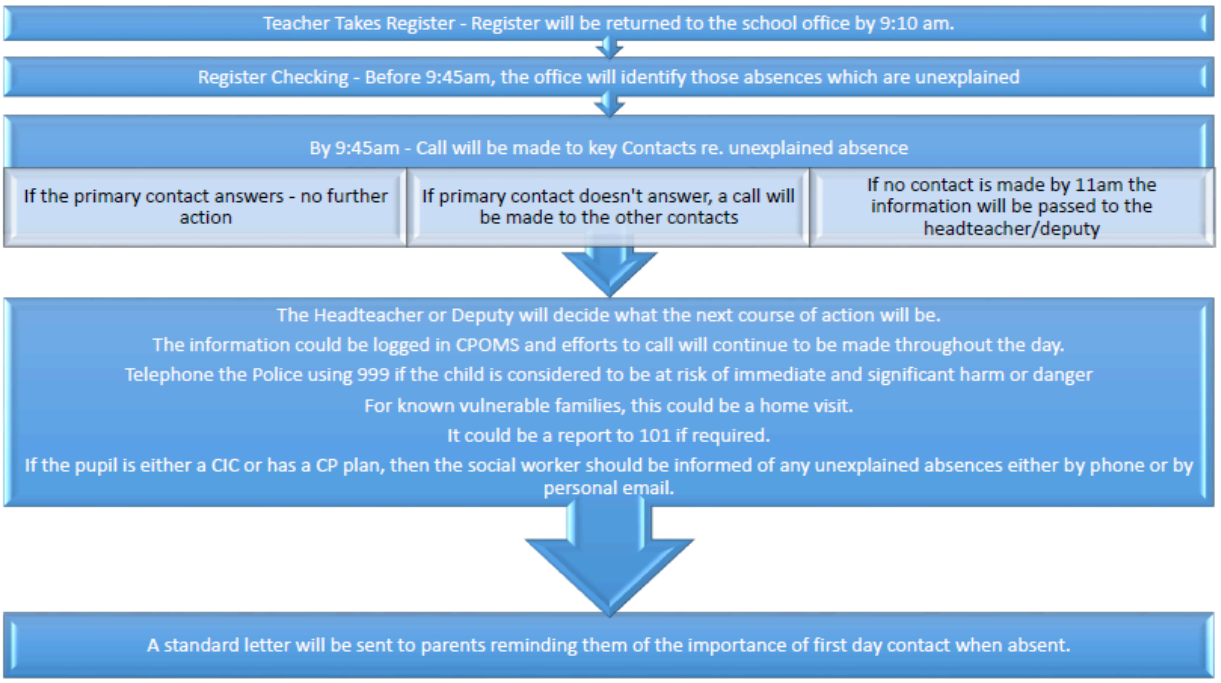
- There should be no pre-population of codes and individual school tracking systems which monitor the whereabouts of pupils educated off-site, must be robust and quality assured regularly.
- Where pupils are dual registered, are on voluntary service or are taking part in other approved educational activities, the register will be updated following regular discussion and information sharing with the other establishment.
- The Attendance Officer will check the missing register report throughout the day and report any registers that have not been completed.

Reporting Absence

- It is the responsibility of the parent to inform us of a pupil absence and to inform us of any changes to contact details.
- Parents are expected to inform us of their pupil's absence before 8.55 a.m. on each day of absence providing the reason for absence and when their pupil will be returning to school. We will contact parents and/or other listed emergency contacts where no contact has been made. Where required, we may conduct reasonable enquiries with friends or neighbours and will carry out welfare home visits as necessary in line with our first day absence procedures (see below). If no contact is made, we may request a welfare check from the police.

Our Procedures for first day absence:

FLOWCHART FOR FIRST DAY ABSENCE



Reasons for Absence

Appointments

- As far as possible, medical, and dental appointments should be made outside of the school day. Where this is not possible, a note and appointment card should be sent to us prior to the appointment.
- Pupils must attend before and after the appointment wherever possible. If the appointment requires the pupil to leave during the day, they must be signed out by an adult listed on the pupil's record. Should a pupil arrive late following an appointment, they should report to the school office to be signed in by the Attendance Officer.
- Absences for medical appointments will be recorded with an M code.

Religious Observance

- Parents must inform us, in advance, if absences are required for days of religious observance. We will authorise absences where a reasonable request is made. The day must be exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the parents belong. Where necessary, we will seek advice from the parents' religious body about whether it has set the day apart for religious observance.
- Absences for religious observance will be recorded with the R code.

Illness

- In order to make informed decisions about their pupil's fitness for attending, parents are encouraged to refer to the NHS guidance 'Is My Child Too Ill for School?'. Any authorisation of absence through illness is done so at the discretion of the Headteacher / Principal or member of staff delegated to carry out this task.
- In the case of an illness which lasts for five days or more (or four days in the event of an INSET day or Bank Holiday), parents may be asked to provide additional medical evidence before authorising the absence, however this will only be requested if

there is any genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity of the illness. In this instance, if medical evidence is not provided, the absence may be recorded as unauthorised.

- Where attendance is of a serious concern, we may require medical evidence to authorise any further periods of absence through illness. This will be determined on an individual basis. Parents will be notified of this by letter. Telephone calls and handwritten notes from a parent will not be accepted as medical evidence when attendance is a serious concern. For the purpose of this policy, 'serious concern' may be defined as: repeated unexplained/unauthorised absences or 3 x separate illnesses within a half term where no medical condition or underlying health issues have been identified.
- Acceptable forms of medical evidence include:

- *Medical card with one appointment entered with the pupil's name and surgery stamp included, signed by the receptionist*
- *Letter from a professional such as a hospital consultant*
- *Evidence of consultation with NHS 111*
- *Medication prescribed by a GP*
- *Copy of prescription*
- *Print screen of medical notes / call log*
- *Letters detailing hospital appointments Doctor or GP 'sick notes' are not required, and we do not expect parents to request these from their GPs.*

- In some cases, a pupil may be absent long term due to an illness or injury. We will liaise with families to ensure children return to school quickly and that there are no safeguarding concerns. On occasions where this is not possible, and the section 19 threshold is met, we will make a referral to the Local Authority Medical Panel which provides educational opportunities for pupils who are unable to attend their regular school.

Traveller Pupils Travelling for Occupational Purposes

- Traveller pupils travelling for occupational purposes covers Roma, English and Welsh Travellers, Irish and Scottish Travellers, Circus workers, Bargees (occupational boat dwellers), Showman 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 us, but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision.
- The aim for the attendance of Traveller students, in common with all other students, is to attend school as regularly and as frequently as possible.
- To protect Traveller parents from unreasonable prosecution for non-attendance, the Education Act (1944), Section 86, states that a Traveller parent/carer is safe from prosecution if their child accrues 200 attendances (i.e., 200 half days) in a year. It is important to note that this is only relevant when the family is engaged in a trade or business that requires them to travel and when the child is regularly attending school when that trade/business permits following a request from parents (and the minimum 200 session criteria is met).
- It does not mean that part-time education for Traveller pupils is legally acceptable, nor does it relieve parents/carers of their duties to ensure that their child is receiving a suitable education when not at school.

- It is parent's responsibility to:
- *Ensure that your child's ethnicity has been registered with the school. You can ask the school to correct this or update it.*
- *Ensure you tell your child's school ahead of time. 2 weeks' notice is useful.*
- *Your children should attend as much school as possible.*
- *Ensure your child is accessing at least 100 days (200 sessions) of school in any 12-month period.*
- *Have regular contact with your child's school whilst travelling. Once a week is suggested.*
- *Support your child to complete the work set by schools whilst travelling.*
- *If staying in a new area for a week or more, the parent/guardian can register their child for a temporary place at any school – called 'dual registration'.*

- It is the school's responsibility to:
- *Allow Traveller pupils to travel with their parents for work purposes.*
- *Create work packs for their pupils to complete when away.*
- *Arrange times for at least a weekly 'check in' with the family. This can be through a call or email.*
- *Contact the Local Authority if they have concerns.*
- *Mark pupil's work and provide valuable feedback.*
- *Ensure missed opportunities such as parents evening, vaccinations and careers advice are supported on the pupil's return.*

Pupils with medical conditions or special educational needs and disabilities

- Some pupils face greater barriers to attendance than their peers. These can include pupils who suffer from long term medical 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 will:
- *Work with parents to improve attendance, be mindful of the barriers pupils face, make reasonable adjustments, and put additional support in place where necessary to help them access their full-time education. It is also expected that parents will engage with the support offered both internally and with external partners to ensure our children have all the support they need to thrive.*
- *Encourage positive conversations so that a good support plan can put in place including making reasonable adjustments.*
- *Consider possible explanations for absence including Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA).*
- *Work with parents to consider whether additional support from external partners (including the local authority or health services) would be appropriate, making referrals in a timely manner and working together with those services to deliver any subsequent support.*

- *Ensure relevant referrals are made for pupils who are too ill to attend school, which may include medical panel (under section 19) and or medical agency support such as CAMHS.*
- *Establish strategies for removing the in-school barriers this may include 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 and consider whether a time-limited, closely monitored and reviewed, phased return to school would be appropriate, for example for those affected by anxiety about school attendance.*

Ethnic Minority Pupils

• Pupil registration regulations state that absence should only be granted due to the exceptional circumstances relating to that application. It is important to note that Headteachers can determine the length of the authorised absence, as well as whether absence is authorised at all.

• The following might be considered as exceptional circumstance for ethnic minority pupils:

- Religious festivals: the school should authorise any absence where the parent/carer's religious organisation sets the day as a religious festival.

For example: There are two key festivals in Islam, Eid-ul-Fitr (celebration that takes place at the end of Ramadan, the period of fasting) and Eid-ul-Adha (festival of sacrifice). The dates of these key events are set according to the Islamic calendar. Muslim families usually need to take one or two days to celebrate these important festivals. Absences may be recorded as R.

- Religious rites e.g. Bar Mitzvah, Holy Communion. The Headteacher will consider each request for leave of absence individually to determine the number of days approved.
- Close family wedding if dates cannot be during school holidays.
- Illness or death of an immediate family member; the head teacher should consider time needed for the length of journey when child needs to travel abroad.
- Child, parent/carer requires medical treatment overseas or elsewhere in the UK due to language barrier or requiring specialist treatment elsewhere.
- Length of journey from abroad; the Headteacher will consider length of journey or limited regional flights.
- Cultural celebrations such as Chinese New Year or Diwali. Cultural celebrations give children a feeling of belonging and make them feel part of their culture. This sense of identity is like a natural buoy for a child's emotional health.
- Children attending their annual exam in their home country. There are exams which are compulsory in some EU countries. They are normally during holidays but can occasionally be requested during term time.
- Child, parent/ carer's visa has been revoked and they need to return to their birth country whilst pursuing the renewal of a visa.

Requesting Leave in Term Time

• Absence for purposes of leave during term time can only be authorised by the Headteacher, within the boundaries set by the Education (Pupil Registrations) (England) Regulations (2006). "Head Teachers may not authorise leave during term

time except where the circumstances are exceptional." Under the Regulations, retrospective authorisation for leave in exceptional circumstances is not permitted.

- The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional circumstances' are that they are: 'rare; significant; unavoidable and short'. Holidays during term time will not usually be considered as exceptional circumstances. The following guiding principles apply:

- *Term-times are for education. This is the priority. Children and families have 175 days off a year including weekends and school holidays. We will rightly prioritise attendance.*
- *The decision to authorise a pupil's absence is wholly at the Headteacher's discretion based on their assessment and merits of each individual request.*
- *If an event can be reasonably scheduled outside of term-time, then it would be normal to authorise absence for such an event – holidays are therefore not considered 'exceptional circumstances'. It is acceptable for the Headteacher to take a pupil's record of attendance into account when making absence-related decisions.*
- *We will take the needs of the families of service personnel into account if this prevents them from being able to take family holidays during scheduled holiday time.*
- *We have a duty to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with special needs and/or disabilities.*

- Family emergencies need careful consideration before decisions about attendance are made. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the pupil to miss education for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Being at school with support from staff and peers can provide children with stability. The school routine can offer a safe and familiar background during times of uncertainty. Relevant members of staff will work with parents to decide what is in the best interest of the pupil.

Persistent and Severe Absence

- Pupils with 90% or less attendance are classified as Persistent Absence (PA). PA includes both authorised and unauthorised absences.
- Pupils with 50% or less attendance are classified as Severe Absence (SA). SA includes both authorised and unauthorised absences
- All PA pupils will have bespoke action plans to try to improve their attendance to above 97%. This will be monitored by Louise Raychell (attendance champion) with the support of Andy Smith (Attendance Champion). Pupils who are PA will be discussed as a potential concern at our school ARC (At Risk Children) meeting which takes place on a monthly basis. Where pupils have an identified special educational need, the schools SENCO will also provide support, so that the impact of needs are clearly understood and appropriate, supportive actions are taken.
- The school's strategy for tackling absence, can be found below with further details in the appendices.

Lateness

- If persistent lateness, Headteacher to send letter
- Discuss lateness with parents/ carers
- If no improvement is made, the situation will be escalated for further discussion with our Attendance Improvement Officer during our termly review.

Absence

The school have agreed the following trigger points where action will be taken

Stage		Assessment Expectations
1	97% or above	Excellent attendance. Well done!
2	Below 97%	School could ● Take no further action, as there is a clear reason for absences and no Concern is present. ● Discuss concerns with Parents/Carers. ● Send letters of concern. ● Offer appropriate support through the Early Help Process. ● Invite Parents to a meeting with our Family Support Worker. IF ABSENCES ARE BEING UNAUTHORISED THEN URGENT IMPROVEMENT IS REQUIRED.
3	<90% and no improvement	Considered by the Government to be a Persistent Absentee (PA). School will closely monitor attendance and refer to the Local Authority if no immediate and sustained improvement. Local Authority will investigate absences and consider if Legal Interventions are necessary and appropriate. School Could ● Arrange a meeting with the Headteacher to discuss attendance. ● Seek support from the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO).

Please note that there is an adjustment made in the Autumn Term as a single absence can have a big impact on the overall % due to the number of days attended.

Please see the 'School Attendance Processes' appendix for details of steps that may be taken when attendance drops below 97%.

Following Up Absence and Taking Statutory Action

- We will follow up any absences to ascertain the reason. Any pupils who fail to attend regularly or who are absent for more than one week will be referred to the Headteacher.
- Unexplained absences will be followed up on the morning of the first day of unexplained absence and the school will identify whether the absence is approved or not. The school will identify the correct code to use and will input it as soon as the reason for absence is ascertained. This will take no longer than 5 working days after the session.
- In the case where the reason for absence cannot be ascertained by the school and no reason has been issued for the pupil's absence, the school will initiate safeguarding procedures and the DSL will decide on the best course of action to ensure the safety of the pupil, following procedures for children missing in education as outlined in the document from the Department of Education.
- It may occasionally be necessary to inform parents that no further absences will be authorised for a particular pupil unless medical evidence is provided. This decision

can only be made by the Headteacher in consultation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and where relevant, the Inclusion Lead.

- It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their children receive appropriate education. Failing to send children to school regularly without good reason is a criminal offence. Schools can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their pupil, where the pupil is of compulsory school age. The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice ultimately rests with the Headteacher, in line with the local authority's code of conduct for issuing penalty notices. This may consider:

- A number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year
- Singular incidences of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission
- Where an excluded pupil is seen in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason

- Issuing Penalty Notices: each parent receives a penalty notice for each pupil who has unauthorised absence. If issued with a penalty notice, parents must pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority. If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute the parent or withdraw the notice.
- Taking Parents to Court for unauthorised absence: The Education Act (1996) Section 444 (1) states that courts can fine each parent up to £1000 per pupil, order payment of prosecution costs and/or impose a Parenting Order.
- Taking Parents to Court for Persistent Unauthorised Absence: The Education Act (1996) – Section 444 (1A) states that courts can fine each parent up to £2500 per pupil, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Parenting Order and/or sentence parents to a period of imprisonment of up to three months.

Children Missing from Education (CME)

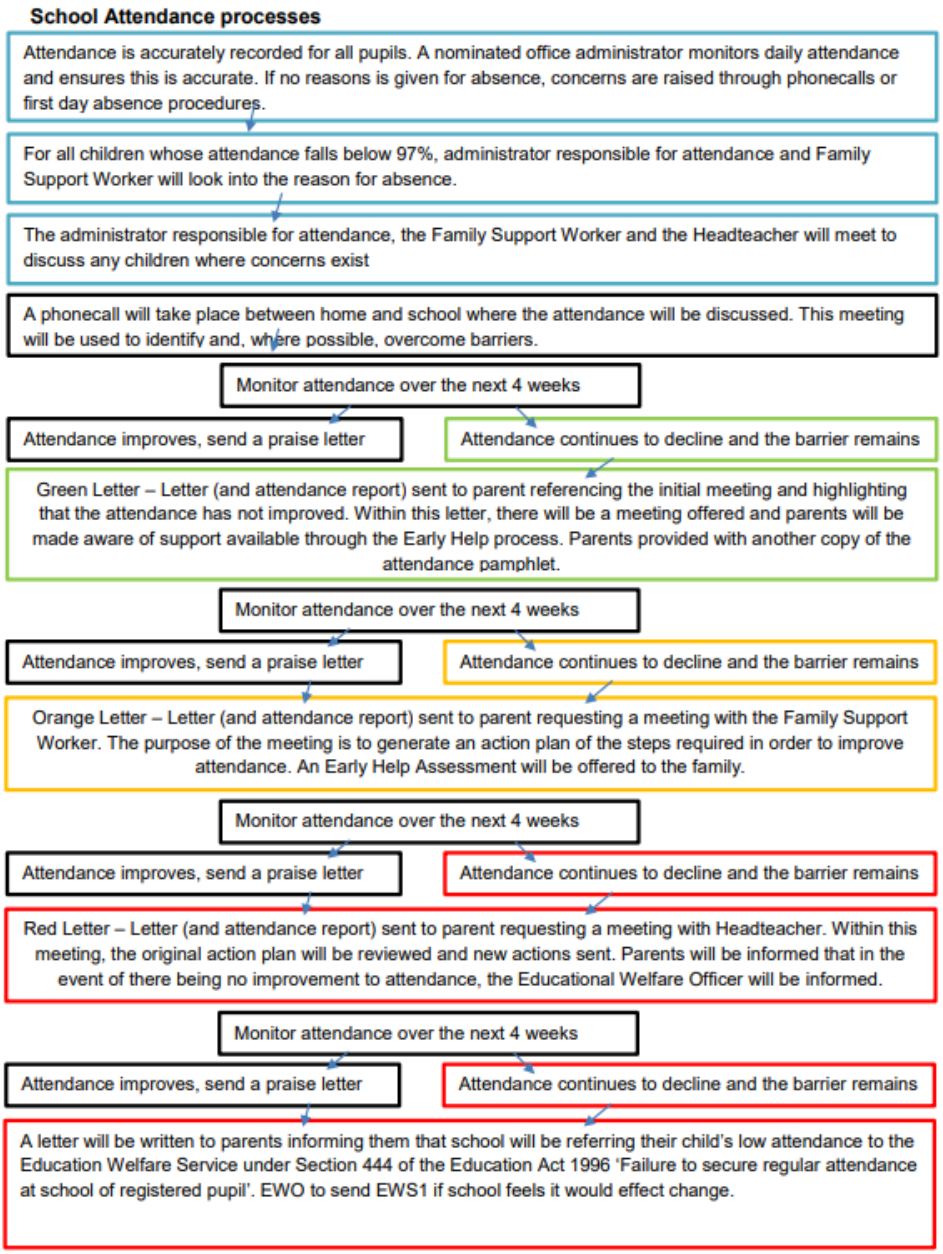
- We have due regard to our statutory duty to safeguard pupils who are CME. We follow the Local Authority's processes for reporting pupils missing from education. The DfE guide can be found here.
- If a pupil fails to return following a period of absence, investigations will be made by staff to their whereabouts. If our investigations fail to contact the parents/pupil the case will be referred to the Local Authority Children Missing Education (CME) Team within 20 days.

Attendance Causing Concern

- Specific measures to monitor attendance are embedded and regularly checked to ensure the safeguarding of all pupils through specific and tailored interventions.
- Hayward's Primary School records and collects attendance data using our Data Management System, SIMS. We recognise that there are particular groups who nationally, and within our local setting, are more vulnerable and susceptible to lower attendance patterns such as children who are defined as Pupil Premium, and pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities. We work with families to overcome any

specific barriers that children may be facing regardless of these needs to ensure that pupils access all their education.

- Where attendance is deemed to be a concern, we talk to pupils and parents. We will follow the steps in the table below:



- If at any stage serious safeguarding concerns arise, we will follow our safeguarding procedures as set out in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Supporting the Attendance of Every Pupil

- We use a variety of strategies to encourage attendance:

- Being available at the start of each school day to ensure that we can build positive relationships with parents and to support any trends which may be developing.
- Providing an exciting, engaging and nurturing school experience which ensures that children want to be in school and are only aware in exceptional circumstances.

- Equipping children with the life skills needed to take responsibility for good school attendance and punctuality appropriate to the child's age and development.
- Building strong and enduring relationships with our pupils so they feel a sense of belonging in our school community
- Verbal encouragement and praise
- Create personalised and achievable targets for pupils, based on their medical needs and/or additional needs that is realistic and appropriate for each individual
- Create safe spaces for pupils to thrive
- Make decisions on targets in consultation with families, while understanding that a medical condition can worsen suddenly and taking this into account.
- Create opportunities for dialogue with families about attendance, ensuring that we work in partnership with parents
- Use different methods to encourage attendance; for instance, explaining the links between attendance and outcomes
- Raise the profile of attendance with families, particularly when pupils start at the setting
- Teach and model a love of learning, helping families to see the value of the education that is offered to them
- Look at the effect on attendance of decisions made at school level, for instance ending terms on a Monday or Tuesday
- Be aware of the complexity of different contexts and the pressures that families might experience, which may in turn contribute to poor attendance; for instance, in areas where many parents perform seasonal work and are unable to take holidays over the summer break.

• We recognise that not all children, particularly those who are most vulnerable, are able to achieve 100% attendance through no fault of their own. We celebrate improvements in attendance and contextualised good attendance for individual pupils.
• Each pupil is supported and encouraged to achieve their individual highest possible attendance. Attendance effort awards will be awarded on a termly basis for pupils who have made a clear effort to improve or maintain their attendance and/or punctuality.
• Our Behaviour Policy (including rewards, sanctions and exclusions) sets out the details of how we reward pupils for attendance and punctuality, and what sanctions we apply for lateness.

Removing a children from the school roll

Hayward's Primary School will carry out the following duties when a pupil is removed from the school roll.

Elective Home Education (EHE):

• The Statutory Notification and the EHE form, together with the Safeguarding form must be submitted on the day of receiving the de-registration letter from the parent with a copy of the letter. The pupil should be taken off roll from the day the school receives the letter or in cases where the parent is giving advance notice of the date requested. Do not backdate it to an earlier date than receipt of the letter even if the parent requests this. The school should confirm that the pupil has been registered with the LA as EHE to ensure that they have assumed responsibility for the pupil. Do not just assume that because the school has submitted the paperwork it has all gone through.

Pupil Moves Out of Area - unreasonable distance to travel

- Submit the Statutory Notification as soon as the school finds this out. Continue to track destination and liaise with LA admissions team. They will advise the school when a pupil may be removed from roll if it has been established that the pupil/family have left the last known address and their new location is known. They may allow the school to backdate the leaving date if they or the school receives confirmation of the pupil starting at another school or within the care of a different LA. The school must have written confirmation from the LA to backdate the leaving date. If the school does not receive this and the school has no other confirmation of where the pupil is the school must keep them on roll for 20 days.

Pupil Emigrates

- The school must follow the procedure above for moving out of area but also need to have ascertained from the parent the forwarding address, details of destination school and moving date.

Pupil Transfers to a New School

- Confirm the pupil's start date at the new school and that the pupil has started there. Submit the Statutory Notification on the day the school has it confirmed that the pupil started at their new school. The school can take the pupil off roll from the confirmed start date or the last school day if it precedes it e.g., a Friday and they started on a Monday. If the start date is the first day of a school term the school can back date the leaving date for the school's pupil to the last day of the previous term. If the school must investigate in the new term to find out why the pupil is 'absent' keep them on roll until the school gets a confirmed start date at the new school. If there is a gap between the leaving date the school has been given by a parent and the start date for a pupil, the pupil should remain on the school's roll, marked absent, until the transfer school confirms the pupil has started there. If after ten days, the pupil has still not started, the school should submit a CME form. The school cannot remove a CME pupil from the school's roll for a further ten days from the initial notification or safeguarding referral (so 20 days in total from the first day of absence) unless the LA confirms where the pupil has gone.

APPENDIX ONE – 2024 Absence Request Form (available from the school office or the webpage)

S2 A request by a parent, that a future absence/period of absence be authorised by a school/college/academy

Devon County Council

Schools are only allowed by law, to authorise non-medical absences if requested in advance by a parent with whom the pupil normally resides. A school can only authorise such a request if they are satisfied that there are "exceptional circumstances" which apply. However, even if there are exceptional circumstances, schools can still consider any other relevant factors such as previous attendance rates; the ability of the pupil to catch-up on missed work; the wider impact of missing the specified period of time.

Devon County Council's advice is that schools must be extremely cautious about approving such requests if the pupil's education is likely to be significantly impacted upon.

Parents should ensure that they know whether the absence will be authorised or not before they go away as an unauthorised absence will likely result in a penalty notice or court summons being issued to each parent for each pupil affected. It is therefore recommended that this completed form is sent into the school **at least three school weeks** before the intended absence.

To be completed by a parent with whom the child(ren) lives.

Child's name: ..... Class/Year Group: .....

Child's name: ..... Class/Year Group: .....

Full name(s) of all parents going away with the child(ren) listed above:
Parent 1: .....

Parent 2: .....

Period Absent: **From** ..... **To**.....

Number of school days that will be missed: .....

Please explain the reason for the absence (consider that the school will use this to determine whether the "exceptional circumstances" criteria is met.

You are asked to sign this request to confirm that the information provided above is correct, and that you have read the warning contained in the Additional Information overleaf.

Name of parent completing this form: ..... Signed:.....

Date: .....

PRIVACY NOTICE:
The information provided on this form will be used for purposes relating to School Attendance Legal Proceedings and may be shared with relevant services and organisations. It will not be processed or shared for any unrelated purpose. For further information please see our full privacy notice at https://www.devon.gov.uk/privacy/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-school-attendance-legal-proceedings/

Revised October 2023

For school use. To be completed by a member of staff so authorised

Date form received in school: .....

Pupils current attendance rate: .....%

Number of unauthorised absences in last 6 months: .....

☐ **Absence authorised – the school authorises the above absence as requested, satisfied that exceptional circumstances apply to this specific request.**

☐ **Absence unauthorised – the school is unable to authorise the absences specified overleaf.**

If request is unauthorised, the main reason(s) are: (please tick all/any that apply)

☐ Circumstances not deemed to be exceptional	☐ Current attendance rate is low
☐ The period covered by this request (length)	☐ Number of unauthorised absences is high
☐ The time of the school year	☐ Other (please specify)

.....
.....
.....
.....

Signed (member of staff making determination): ..... **Designation:**.....

Date parent notified of school decision: .....

Additional information for parents.

If this request is unauthorised by the school, a penalty notice may be issued by Devon County Council. A penalty notice offers a parent the opportunity of dealing with a potential offence without going to court, by paying a penalty. If parents can't afford to pay, or for any other reason do not take the offer of paying the notice within a set time, then the case will proceed to a magistrates court. The provision of penalty notices is set by Regulations and the amount of the penalty, timeframe for payment or payment method are not able to be varied by Devon County Council.

Parents should note that a maximum of two penalty notices per parent per child will be issued within a three year period. The third and any further subsequent 'offence' within the three year period alternative action may be taken. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.

PRIVACY NOTICE:
The information provided on this form will be used for purposes relating to School Attendance Legal Proceedings and may be shared with relevant services and organisations. It will not be processed or shared for any unrelated purpose. For further information please see our full privacy notice at https://www.devon.gov.uk/privacy/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-school-attendance-legal-proceedings/

Revised October 2023

APPENDIX TWO – Letter to Parents to accompany Unauthorised Holiday Request

Hayward's Primary School

office@haywards.devon.sch.uk
www.haywards.org
East Street, Crediton,
Devon, EX17 3AX
(01363) 772970

Headteacher: Andy Smith

Dear

REFUSAL FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEAVE IN TERM TIME

I have considered carefully your request for leave in term time and on this occasion I will not be authorising your child(ren)s absence.

If child(ren) do(es) not attend school during the dates you requested (insert dates) the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Please note: any unauthorised absence may result in a request being made to the Local Authority for a penalty notice of £60 per parent, per child, to be issued. If the Local Authority action this request, the fine is payable within the first 21 days and rises to £120 per parent, per child, thereafter. The Local Authority will take legal action if the penalty notice is not paid within 28 days of date of issue. Legal action may result in a fine of up to £1000 and a criminal record for each parent/carer. Please see the attached information sheet for further clarification of the law.

A copy of this letter will be placed on your child(ren)'s school file.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

Hayward's Primary School

office@haywards.devon.sch.uk
www.haywards.org
East Street, Crediton,
Devon, EX17 3AX
(01363) 772970

Headteacher: Andy Smith

AVOIDABLE ABSENCE IN TERM-TIME

IMPORTANT: Please read carefully the information below.

WARNING: If you take your child on holiday in term time without the prior approval of the school, you may be liable for a Penalty Notice* per parent per child.

As a parent/carer, you can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by, whenever possible, taking your holidays during school holidays.

THE FACTS	THE LAW
We recognise that it is often expensive to take a holiday during school breaks and that is why some parents may ask for term-time leave for their child. However, it is important that parents carefully consider the implications of taking their child out of school during term time. Research suggests that children who are taken out of school may never catch up on the learning they have missed. This may affect test results and can be particularly harmful if the child is studying for final year examinations. Children who struggle with English or Mathematics may also find it even harder to cope when they return to school, while younger children may find it difficult to renew friendships with their classmates. **WHAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER** There are times during a school year when a child may experience particular problems because of term-time leave such as:- • Closeness to exams or tests. • During GCSE, and other examination courses. • During the first year at a new school. • At the beginning of a new school term. If the school refuses a request for term-time leave and the child is still taken out of school, this will be recorded as **unauthorised absence** and you may receive a £60* fine per parent for each child.	The law does not say that parents have an automatic right to take their child out of school for holidays during term-time. However, in exceptional circumstances school may authorise, in advance, requests for periods of leave. The request for leave must come from a parent with whom the child normally resides If a child then stays away from school for more than the authorised period this must be recorded as unauthorised absence and could be quoted in a prosecution for poor attendance. If the child is away from school for a total of four weeks or more, the school may have the option to take the child off roll subject to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. In the case of unexpected extended absence, it is advisable that the parent fully informs the school as to the reasons. If a child is removed from roll, there is no guarantee that the child will regain a place at the school.

Other absence from school will be authorised if it is for the following reasons:	**Other examples of absence from school that will not be authorised:**
• Genuine illness • Unavoidable medical / dental appointments (but try to make these after school if at all possible) • Days of religious observance • Exceptional circumstances, such as bereavement • Seeing a parent who is on leave from the armed forces • External examinations • When Traveller children go on the road with their parents	• Any type of shopping • Looking after siblings or unwell parents • Minding the house • Birthdays • Resting after a late night • Relatives visiting or visiting relatives

Please contact your child's head teacher if you wish to discuss this issue.

The law requires parents to ensure their children receive an efficient full time education, and every minute of every day is important. Please help them not to miss any of this valuable time.

We hope that when you have read this leaflet you will consider that your child's education is too important to take holidays during term time.

*Penalty Notice £60 if paid within 21 days, increasing to £120 if paid after 21days and before 28 days

APPENDIX THREE – Monitoring Attendance (Green)

«salutation»
«address_block»

«date_of_printing»

Dear «salutation»

«chosen_forename» «chosen_surname» «reg»

At Hayward's we routinely monitor the attendance of all our students in line with Government and Local Authority expectations. We spoke four weeks ago regarding (chosen name) attendance. We have noticed that «chosen_name»'s attendance has declined further in spite of our initial conversation. A copy of their Attendance Report is attached together with a copy of our Attendance pamphlet.

We are writing to you now to offer our support in bringing about an improvement in your child's attendance. We want to do everything we can to support you with any challenges that you or your child may be facing with attending school regularly and on time. If there are genuine medical reasons for absence, please let us know so that we can discuss how we can support you and «chosen_name».

I would therefore like to offer you the opportunity of a meeting with myself to discuss our concerns. If you consider that there are other issues which impact on your child's ability to attend school regularly, then it may be possible for the school to access some additional support through Early Help. Early Help can provide extra support for your family on a range of issues or concerns that you may have. This is achieved by bringing together people from a range of services and teams who will support your family in order to improve the situation for everyone. I have also enclosed a leaflet from the Devon Children and Families Partnership about the Early Help Provision.

We will be looking to review the attendance for «chosen_name» in four weeks time and hope that together we can bring about an improvement.

Please feel free to make contact if you wish to discuss this further or if there are circumstances you would like to make us aware of. My email address is lraychell@haywards.devon.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Louise Raychell
Family Support Worker

APPENDIX FOUR – Monitoring Attendance (Orange)

«salutation»
«address_block»

«date_of_printing»

Dear «salutation»

Attendance Concern
«chosen_forename» «chosen_surname» «reg»

This letter is to inform you that school is now becoming increasingly concerned regarding the number of absences your child has had from school. Currently «chosen_forename»'s attendance is recorded as «percentage_attendance»%. This attendance percentage will be having an effect on your child's overall education and it is important that we address this as a matter of urgency.

Our Family Support Worker wrote to you some weeks ago offering support. We are now requesting a meeting with yourself and our Family Support Worker here at Haywards on (date and time). The purpose of this meeting will be to generate an action plan of the steps required in order to improve attendance. I would like to remind you of the information about the Early Help process that was sent out with the previous letter. It may be that, following our meeting, we decided that this may well be an appropriate avenue of additional support that we can provide in relation to any issues which impact on your child's ability to attend school regularly.

Yours sincerely

Andy Smith

Headteacher

APPENDIX FIVE – Monitoring Attendance (Red)

«addressee»
«address_block»

«date_of_printing»

Dear «salutation»,

«forename» «surname» «year_reg»
Date of birth: «date_of_birth»
Percentage attendance: «percentage_attendance»%

Following your meeting with our Family Support Worker on …… regarding our concerns about «forename»'s continuing low attendance; our records show that there has been no significant and lasting improvement and «forename» is now considered to be in or at risk of falling into the category of a Persistent Absentee, as designated by the criteria laid down by the Department of Education.

I would therefore request a meeting with you on (date and time) to review progress on the action plan drawn up in the previous meeting with our Family Support Worker and agree new actions which support an increase in attendance.

In the event of no improvement to attendance following this meeting or no engagement with this meeting, this matter will be referred to the Education Welfare Service; who will monitor attendance and will be looking for immediate and significant improvement to prevent the possibility of legal escalation.

If you feel that there are genuine reasons for «forename»'s continued absence or you have significant medical evidence that you would like the school or the Education Welfare Service to consider then you must provide the school with this immediately.

Please find attached a copy of your child's attendance record.

Yours sincerely

Andy Smith

Headteacher