

GLEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL
UNITED LEARNING ACADEMY

Attendance Policy & Procedures
Autumn 2024-2025

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Signed by: Mr. James Dempster

United Learning – Attendance Policy and Procedures (Academies)

[Applies from August 19th 2024]

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Summary – Attendance at a Glance

Attendance Matters

Here at Glebe we have the highest expectations across all areas of school life including attendance. We value positive relationships between both staff and pupils, and want all pupils to feel they belong here and are valued. We work with our pupils to ensure that they have the highest possible attendance at school. We believe that this is the best way for them to succeed and to get the most out of all we have to offer.

There is a clear link between academic outcomes and school attendance. We want all pupils to achieve excellent outcomes to give themselves the very best chance in life.

There are 175 non-school days per year for holidays, shopping and appointments. There is no need, except in extreme circumstances to miss a day's education. If you miss one session in a week (remember, there are two sessions per day) your attendance is 90%. This means you miss 19 days of education in a year and risk not being ready for the next stage of education.

It is vital we work together to teach our pupils the value of attending school each and every day. However, we do appreciate that at times, pupils may not be able to attend school. We ask our parents and carers to follow the processes below. They support our safeguarding procedures.

Should you have a concern about your child's attendance, then we ask that you contact us to discuss this. We believe in strong partnerships across all parts of school life. This includes attending school.

It is also important to us that pupils arrive to school on time, and they must be at school by 8.30am.

Absence through illness or unforeseen circumstances

Parents must contact the school when their child is absent to explain that absence. This can be done by calling the school on 01273 592163, sending an In App message on Arbor or sending an email to the office before 8.30am. Give the following details:

- Full name of pupil;
- Pupil's class name and year group;
- Full name of person reporting absence and relation to child;
- Reason for absence.
- If pupils suffer any form of injury, then we ask that you contact the school to make us aware. This is so we can do a risk assessment with you. It will identify impacts of the injury and the support your child may need.

Where a reason for the absence is not received by 8.30am on the day of the absence, the school will within one hour contact the parents on the same day to understand the reason for the absence.

Where further unexplained absences occur, the school will make further contact with the parent (including foster parents and/ or social workers where appropriate). This should be with the aim of understanding **why** the absence has occurred, and **when** the pupil will return.

The correct absence code will be inputted into the Attendance Register as soon as the reason is ascertained.

Where no explanation is provided for a pupil's absence or lateness, it will be marked as O - unauthorised.

The school will keep ringing until we can get through to parents or carers to ensure the child is safe and well. This is our Safeguarding responsibility. See section 7.3 of the full policy for further information.

Attending an Appointment

Please schedule all no urgent medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. This is not always possible, so in the event that a pupil's medical/dental appointment falls in school hours, please bring the appointment letter to the Office, in advance of the appointment. The Office will photocopy the letter (we need it for our records) and add your child's appointment to the Office diary. Pupils must be picked up and returned to school if their appointment ends during the school day. For more details, check section 6.2 of full policy.

Planned and Known Absence

Granting a leave of absence can only be made in "Exceptional Circumstances". Each application will be considered individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request. If a leave of absence is granted for exceptional circumstances, it is for the Headteacher to determine the length of the time the pupil can be away from school. If such a request is made, the school expects it to be short. But even then, they may not be able to approve it.

Glebe must follow legal rules. Therefore, we cannot authorise holiday requests during term time.

Every effort should be made to avoid removing children from school during term time. If you do need to take your child out of school for any length of time you need to:

1. Complete a Leave of Absence Request Form, providing at least 1 months' notice to the leave of absence. Forms are available from the school Office, available on our website <https://www.glebeprimary.co.uk/about-us/glebe-policies> or you can email the Office on office@glebeprimary.co.uk to request a Leave of Absence Request Form attached below Appendices F.
2. Add a letter to explain the exceptional circumstances for your request, addressed to the Headteacher.
3. Return the form and letter at least one month before the proposed absence.
4. Await a response from the Headteacher, which will come via the Office team.

If your request is considered an Exceptional Circumstance, the school will contact you to confirm it will be authorised. If the Headteacher does not authorise it, then any absence is 'unauthorised' in line with Department for Education guidance and can incur a penalty notice from the Local Authority. For more details, please check the Attendance Policy and Procedures (section 6.1).

Support

We take absence very seriously. We are committed to supporting any child who is finding it difficult to attend school regularly. We will target support for any pupil whose attendance falls below 95%. Further information on support can be found in the full policy and in Appendix C.

Punctuality

The school day starts at 8.30am and we expect your child to be in school at that time. Registers close at 8.40am and arrival after that time will mean the child is late. Lateness means they miss out on important routines which help get their day off to a positive start. Late arriving pupils also disrupt lessons during the day for others.

How we manage lateness to school and lessons

Lateness to school

Classrooms are open at 8.30am. Registration is at 8.40 am and children will be marked as late if they are not present, sitting at their desks in their classrooms, by 8.40am. The register will be kept open until 9.00am and any late arrivals after 8.40am are recorded by the school office team on the register as L code up to 9am. Pupils arriving after 9am will be marked on the register as U code unauthorised. If children arrive after 8.40am then they must report to the office. They will be given a late slip and taken to class.

The attendance officer will call parents who are regularly late to discuss how the school can provide support to enable children to be on time and any concerns will be confirmed by email – Appendix E.

The rest of this document outlines our Attendance Policy and Procedures. We encourage all parents to review it. This ensures they understand how we handle attendance. If getting your child to school is hard, please contact us immediately on Tel: 01273 592163 and speak to the Attendance Officer.

Part A - Policy

1. Introduction

This Attendance Policy outlines the culture and approach to supporting good attendance at our academy. The second part of the document outlines the more detailed procedures, roles and responsibilities related to pupil attendance that operate at our academy. Through all that we do to manage attendance, we are committed to creating a positive learning environment, supporting pupil achievement, and complying with legal requirements.

This is a successful academy, and all pupils play their part in making it so. We aim for an environment which enables and encourages all members of the community to be proud to belong and to achieve their best. For our pupils to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. It is very important therefore that parents¹ make sure that children attends regularly, and this policy sets out how together we will achieve this.

Regular attendance at school is of critical importance to a child's education. Evidence tells us that the pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment. Any absence affects the pattern of a pupil's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. Any pupil's absence disrupts the learning of others in the same teaching groups by disrupting classroom routines.

Ensuring your child's regular attendance is your legal responsibility.

¹ The definition of a parent can be found in the Education Act 1996, and this applies to all the legislation to which this guidance relates. In addition to the child's birth parents, references to parents in this guidance include any person who has parental responsibility (which includes the local authority where it has a care order in respect of the child) and any person (for example, a foster carer) who has care of the child. To reflect this, this guidance uses 'parent' to refer to both parents and carers.

The principles of a 'support first approach' are adopted and we seek to:

Support first approach (as set out in DFE Guidance)	
Expect	Aspire to high standards of attendance from all pupils and parents and build a culture where all can, and want to, be in school and ready to learn by prioritising attendance improvement across the school.
Monitor	Rigorously use attendance data to identify patterns of poor attendance (at individual and cohort level) as soon as possible so all parties can work together to resolve them before they become entrenched.
Listen and understand	When a pattern is spotted, discuss with pupils and parents to listen to and understand barriers to attendance and agree how all partners can work together to resolve them.
Facilitate support	Remove barriers in school and help pupils and parents to access the support they need to overcome the barriers outside of school. This might include an early help or whole family plan where absence is a symptom of wider issues.
Formalise support	Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, partners should work together to explain the consequences clearly and ensure support is also in place to enable families to respond. Depending on the circumstances this may include formalising support through an attendance contract or education supervision order.
Enforce	Where all other avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or not being engaged with, enforce attendance through statutory intervention: a penalty notice in line with the National Framework or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education.

Glebe follows the above principles of Support First Approach – summary table is provided in Appendix A and Supporting Child Absence below 95% is provided in Appendix B.

2. Aims

Our aim is to create a school environment where children feel they belong and want to come to school. We believe our school is a great place to learn, and that being in school day in, day out, is in the best interests of all our pupils. However, we recognise that there will be times when there may be barriers that prevent children from attending school. In these instances we will act early to understand the issue, provide support and work with the child and their family to get them back to regular attendance as quickly as possible.

We believe that one of the most important factors in promoting good attendance is the development of positive attitudes towards school and a sense of belonging. To this end, we strive to make our school a happy and rewarding experience for all children, and to foster positive and mutually respectful relationships with parents.

By promoting good attendance and punctuality we aim to:

- Make good attendance and punctuality a priority for all those involved in the school community.
- Raise our pupils' awareness of the importance of good attendance and punctuality.

- Provide support, advice and guidelines to parents, pupils and staff.
- Work in partnership with parents, including regularly informing them about their child's absence and attendance levels.
- Support pupils back into school following a lengthy or unavoidable period of absence and provide support to build confidence and bridge gaps.
- Celebrate and reward good attendance and punctuality.

This policy sets out our school's position on attendance and details the procedures that all parents² must follow to report their child's absence from school and to remind them of their legal duty, to ensure their child attends school regularly.

This policy will be applied fairly and consistently, considering the individual needs of our pupils and their families who have specific barriers to attendance. Therefore, in the development of our policy we have considered our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It is vital that children develop regular attendance habits at an early age. Therefore, the school will encourage parents of children who are not yet of compulsory school age, to send their children to every session that is available to them. If the child is unable to attend the school for any reason, the parent should inform the school of the reason on the first day of absence. If the school is concerned about a pupil's attendance for any reason, we will contact the parent to discuss the matter, in the first instance.

We will also support parents to perform their legal duty to ensure their children of compulsory³ school age attend regularly and will promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

We want our pupils to go to school every day unless they are not well enough to attend. We believe that children who attend school regularly are more likely to feel settled in school, maintain friendships, keep up with their learning and gain the greatest benefit from their education. We want all our pupils to enjoy school, grow up to become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who can realise their full potential. Regular attendance and punctuality are essential in the workplace and children who are used to attending school on time, and on every occasion unless they are too unwell to attend, will be better prepared for the attendance expectations in the workplace.

In April 2017 the Supreme Court clarified the definition of regular attendance to be attendance "in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school", therefore if an absence is not authorised by the school, the pupil's attendance is deemed to be irregular.

We will do all we can to encourage our pupils to attend. We will also make available the best provision we can for any pupil who needs additional support in school or who is prevented from attending school, due to a medical condition.

Please see DfE guidance documents 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions - December 2015', 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs- January 2013' and Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) – or ask the school for printed copies.

² Education law defines parents as: all natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person who has parental responsibility for a child or young person; and any person who has care of a child or young person i.e., lives with and looks after the child. In this policy the term 'parent' includes parents and carers.

³ A child becomes of 'compulsory school age' on the 1st January, 1st April or 1st September following their 5th birthday and ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of Year 11.

2.1. Effects of non-attendance

The table below indicates how what might seem like just a few days absence can result in children missing a significant number of lessons.

Attendance during school year	Days lost in a year	Which is approximately	Approximate number of lessons missed
95%	9.5 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons

3. Safeguarding and Attendance

Our school will monitor trends and patterns of absence for all pupils as a part of our standard procedures. However, we are aware that sudden or gradual changes in a pupil's attendance may indicate additional or more extreme safeguarding issues. In line with government guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education we will investigate and report any suspected safeguarding cases on to the relevant authorities. As part of our safeguarding duty and our standard procedures, we will inform the Local Authority and/or the Police of the details of any pupil who is absent from school when the school cannot establish their whereabouts and is concerned for the pupil's welfare.

4. Legislation and Guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the government guidance 2024 Working together to improve school attendance (applies from 19 August 2024) (publishing.service.gov.uk) from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's 2015 statutory guidance on School Attendance Parental Responsibility Measures. These documents are drawn from legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance including:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Children Act 1989
- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006
- The Sentencing Act 2020
- The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024
- The Education (Parenting Contracts and Parenting Orders) (England) Regulations 2007
- The Education (Information about Individual Pupils) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024
- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendments) Regulations 2024

5. Using data to support improvements in attendance

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence may seriously affect their learning. The Department for Education (DfE) defines a pupil as a 'persistent absentee' when they miss 10% or more schooling across the school year, for whatever reason. For pupils who miss more than 50% of possible sessions they are defined as 'severely absent'.

The school will ensure that data, including the DfE's View Your Education Data platform, is routinely monitored to identify emerging attendance issues and will seek to prevent any pupil becoming persistently or severely absent. This will include: identifying the individual needs of pupils; working closely with families and wider support services to remove barriers to attendance; and where a

formalised approach in conjunction with the local authority is required in line with the DfE guidance Working Together to Improve School Attendance.

6. Understanding Barriers to Attendance

In relation to understanding barriers to attendance, we will ensure all pupils and parents are treated with dignity and staff will model respectful relationships to build a positive understanding between home and school that can be the foundation of good attendance. In communicating with parents, we will highlight the link between attendance and attainment and wider wellbeing and enhance their understanding of what good attendance looks like. Where a pupil or family needs support with attendance we will identify who is best placed to work with them to address issues.

We will support pupils and parents by working together to address any in-school barriers to attendance. Where barriers are outside of the school's control, all partners should work together to support pupils and parents to access any support they may need voluntarily.

Where absence intensifies, so should the support provided, which will require the school to work in tandem with the local authority and other relevant partners.

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. In working with parents to improve attendance, we are mindful of the barriers these pupils face and will put additional support in place where necessary to help them access their full-time education.

Reduced timetables will only be used in exceptional circumstances, for a limited period and to support pupils to reintegrate back into education to access fulltime provision.

The school is committed to share information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, local authorities and other partners when absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe.

7. Staff Training on Attendance

Improving attendance requires knowledge of guidance and regulations but also expertise in working with families to remove barriers to attendance and safeguard pupils. Just as those barriers are regularly evolving, so too is the training that school staff require to address them. The school therefore will facilitate training for all staff to understand

- the importance of good attendance and that absence is almost always a symptom of wider circumstances,
- the law and requirements of schools including on the keeping of registers
- the school/trust strategies and procedures for tracking, following up and improving attendance,
- the processes for working with other partners to provide more intensive support to pupils who need it.

For staff with specialist attendance responsibilities, they will receive training to include

- the necessary skills to interpret and analyse attendance data,
- and any additional training that would be beneficial to support pupils and pupil cohorts overcome commonly seen barriers to attendance.

Part B - What the Law Says and Our Procedures

1. Roles and Responsibilities

This section outlines responsibilities of particular members of staff in relation to attendance.

- The name and contact details of the senior leader responsible for the strategic approach to attendance in school is Mrs Crutchfield, Headteacher office@glebeprimary.co.uk
- Responsibility for identifying unexplained absences on “day 1” will fall to Miss Konchal, Office Assistant office@glebeprimary.co.uk
- Responsibility for identifying further unexplained absences will fall to Mrs. Tarrant, Office Manager office@glebeprimary.co.uk
- Information and contact details of the school staff who pupils and parents should contact about attendance on a day-to-day basis is Mrs Tarrant, Attendance Officer in the office team office@glebeprimary.co.uk
- More detailed support on attendance can be requested from the Headteacher.

The Local Governing Body

The Local Governing Body (LGB) is responsible for monitoring attendance figures for the whole school at least a termly basis (6 times a year). It also holds the Headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

The LGB recognises the importance of school attendance and will:

- Promote it across the school’s ethos and policies.
- Ensure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties.
- Regularly review attendance data, discuss, and challenge trends, and help school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Ensure school staff receive adequate training on attendance.

The LGB will also ensure:

- that the attendance policy and its contents are generally made known within the school and to parents of registered pupils at the school, and
- that steps are taken at least once in every school year to bring the attendance policy to the attention of all those parents and pupils and all persons who work at the school (whether or not for payment).

The Headteacher/Principal

The headteacher/principal is responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented consistently across the school, and for monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors.

The headteacher/principal also supports other staff in monitoring the attendance of individual pupils and requests fixed-penalty notices, where necessary.

The Attendance Champion

The Attendance team champions are Mrs Crutchfield - Headteacher, Casey Groves - DSL and Lisa Tarrant – Attendance Officer. The role of the team is to support and facilitate good attendance for all pupils at Glebe. This enables each pupil to access a full time education so that each child can

flourish, develop socially, emotionally and intellectually and be ready for the next stage of their learning as they move up through the key stages of education.

The Attendance team reviews the attendance of all pupils individually and attendance by groups, such as pupils entitled to Free School Meals, Pupil Premium pupils, pupils with SEND, Children in Care, attendance by Ethnicity and Language (English/EAL).

Attendance Officer

The Attendance Officer:

- Monitors attendance data at the school and individual pupil level.
- Reports concerns about attendance to the headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at the Attendance Weekly meetings and as appropriate.
- Arranges calls and meetings with parents to discuss attendance issues.
- Co-ordinates requests for Term-time Leave of Absence (this includes liaison with the SENCO, DSL and Safeguarding Team) and advises the headteacher as requested.

Head of Years

The Deputy Heads for each key stage are responsible for reviewing attendance for year groups, classes and within key stages, liaising with, and providing feedback to, class teachers and the attendance team regarding concerns or supporting strategies for pupils.

Class Teachers

Class teachers are responsible for recording attendance daily, using the correct codes, and submitting this information to the school office.

2. Contents of the Admissions Register

The admission register (sometimes referred to as the school roll) must contain specific personal details of every pupil in the school along with the date of admission or re-admission to the school, information regarding parents and carers, and details of the school last attended. The school will enter pupils on the admission register at the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed with, or been notified by the parent, that the pupil will attend.

A pupil's name can only lawfully be deleted from the admission register if a reason set out in regulation 9 of the **School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024**.

It is vital that the admission register is kept up to date, it is a legal document. Therefore, we encourage parents to inform the school of any changes whenever they occur and ensure the admission register is amended as soon as possible.

3. Contents of Attendance Register

The law makes it clear that schools must take the attendance register at the start of the morning session of each school day and once during the afternoon session. On each occasion the register is taken, the appropriate attendance and absence code must be entered for every pupil. Please refer to **Working Together To Improve School Attendance** for the code descriptors and also **Appendix 2** of this document. The school must record whether each pupil is:

- Attending, or
- Absent

Effective and timely use and sharing of register data is critical to safeguard children, improve attendance and is supported using our electronic Management Information System to record attendance information. Our registers will be preserved for 6 years from the date after the last entry was made.

4. Attending the School (and Lateness)

Pupils are marked present (/ \) if they are in school when the register is taken. If a pupil leaves the school premises after registration they are still counted as present for statistical purposes.

It is the duty of parents to ensure that children attend school on time. This encourages habits of good timekeeping and lessens any possible classroom disruption.

Our pupils must arrive by 8.30am on each school day.

Our morning register is taken at 8.40am and will be kept open until 9.00am

Our afternoon register is taken at 1.05pm and will be kept open until 1.10pm

A pupil who arrives late but before the register has closed will be marked as late (**L**) – which counts as present.

If a pupil arrives after the register has closed they will be marked with the unauthorised absence code “Late after registers close” (**U**) which is an unauthorised absence mark.

However, if the pupil is late arriving due to a valid reason such as an unavoidable medical appointment, the absence will be authorised and coded accordingly. See DfE guidance [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk))

5. Attending a place other than the school

Pupils are marked as attending a place other than the school if they are present for the assigned session. These codes include:

- Code K Attending education provision arranged by the local authority
- Code V: Attending an educational visit or trip
- Code P: Participating in a sporting activity
- Code W: Attending work experience
- Code B: Attending any other approved education activity
- Code D: Dual registered at another setting

Our school retains responsibilities for the safeguarding and welfare of pupils attending an approved educational activity. Our school must be satisfied that appropriate measures have been taken to safeguard the pupil. Our school should ensure that we have in place arrangements whereby providers notify the school of any absence. Our school must record the pupil’s absence using the relevant absence code.

If a pupil is attending an alternative education provider such as another school or Pupil Referral Unit for part or all of their education, our school will make arrangements for the pupil to be dual registered at the other setting and mark our registers accordingly.

If a pupil is attending an alternative education provider arranged by the school, which is not a school or Pupil Referral Unit, for part or all their education, we will mark the sessions which the pupil attends the alternative setting as code B (any other approved educational activity).

The school expects the alternative provision (AP) to notify us of any absences by individual pupils, to ensure we become aware of any attendance concerns as soon as possible and take follow up action as necessary. Attendance updates will be provided on a frequency basis, or more frequently if agreed with the alternative setting. Any attendance concerns will be followed up by us, in conjunction with the Alternative Provision (AP).

6. Absent – Leave of absence

A leave of absence means that the school has given approval in advance for a pupil of compulsory school age to be away from the school. These codes are classified for statistical purposes as 'authorised absence' which means the pupil's absence is with permission granted by the school. These codes include:

- Code C1: Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad
- Code M: Leave of absence for the purpose of attending a medical or dental appointment
- Code J1: Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution
- Code S: Leave of absence for the purpose of studying for a public examination
- Code X: Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school
- Code C2: Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable
- Code C: Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance

6.1. Leave of Absence Requests – 'Exceptional Circumstances'

The law does not grant parents the automatic right to take their child out of school during term time.

Only exceptional circumstances warrant an authorised leave of absence. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance. The school will consider each application individually, considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request. The request must be made by the parent with whom the child normally lives, and permission must be sought in advance. The school will not grant leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. The school must be satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances, based on the individual facts and circumstances of the case; following consultation with other staff as required, including the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days the pupil can be away from school. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion.

Circumstances which could be authorised include significant family emergencies or funerals. However, parents will also be aware that, wherever possible, it can be better for children to continue to attend school normally during difficult family times.

Every effort should be made to avoid removing children from school during term time. If you do need to take your child out of school for any length of time:

- Parents should complete a Leave of Absence Request form which is available from the School Office by requesting a hard copy form or email on office@glebeprimary.co.uk or on our website <https://www.glebeprimary.co.uk/about-us/glebe-policies> All requests for leave of absence must be completed and submitted to the Head Teacher via the school office.

Once reviewed, the Headteacher will forward the Leave of Absence Request Form to the school office, who will notify the parent of outcome.

- The request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated; and wherever possible, at least **four weeks** before the absence. **Although such absence may be unauthorised, it is better that we know your child is safe, rather than missing.** Please be aware that you may be required to provide us with additional evidence to support your request. If we have any concerns about possible safeguarding risks such as risk of FGM or Forced Marriage, we will follow the necessary protocols.
- If your child does not return school on the day stated, these absences will be unauthorised.
- Evidence (e.g. a doctor's letter, appointment card etc.) must be supplied for any illness either side of requested leave, otherwise this will also be marked as unauthorised.
- There can be fines issued to parents and carers for absence which is not authorised at the Headteacher's discretion.

All term time absence for children in care should be discussed at the child's Personal Education Planning (PEP) meeting in advance where possible and agreed with the Social Care and Virtual School. This permission should be gained before school is approached for approval. The school will contact the Virtual School in relation to any requests for term time absence for a child in care.

6.2 Medical/Dental Appointments

Parents should try to make appointments outside school hours wherever possible. Where appointments during school time are unavoidable, the pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment. It is not acceptable for a child to miss a whole day's schooling for an appointment, unless necessary, in which case the school will need an explanation as to why this is.

No pupil will be allowed to leave the school site to attend a medical appointment during the school day without parental confirmation.

Advance notice is required for medical or dental appointments, unless it's an emergency appointment, and must be supported by providing the school with sight of, or a copy of, the appointment card or letter – only then will the absence be authorised. Please bring the appointment letters to the Office. The Office will photocopy your letter and we can add your child's appointment to the Office diary. All children are picked up from the Office during school hours.

6.3 Part-time timetables - Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable

Pupils are entitled to a full-time education, suitable to their age, ability and aptitude, and any special educational needs or disabilities that they may have.

If, for any reason, our school is unable to provide a pupil with a full-time education due to the pupil's needs, we will work with the pupil, parent and other agencies where appropriate, to come to a mutually convenient arrangement. Any reduced timetables will be for the shortest amount of time possible, whilst arrangements are made to support the pupil's return to full-time provision as soon as possible. Please refer to Appendix D.

7. Absent – other authorised reasons

Absent due to other authorised reasons means that the school has given approval in advance for a pupil of compulsory school age to be away from the school or has accepted an explanation offered afterwards as justification for absence. These codes are classified for statistical purposes as ‘authorised absence’. These codes include:

- Code T: Parent travelling for occupational purposes
- Code R: Religious observance
- Code I: Illness (not medical or dental appointment)
- Code E: Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made

7.1. Mobile pupil - Parent travelling for occupational purposes

The school will authorise the absence of a mobile pupil of no fixed abode who is unable to attend school because they are travelling with their parent who is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as to require them to travel from place to place. This is subject to certain limits, depending on the child’s age and number of sessions absent. The school will discuss cases individually with Traveller parents as necessary. Parents should let the school know of their plans as far in advance as possible. Authorised Traveller absence will be recorded appropriately in the register.

To help ensure continuity of education for Traveller children, wherever possible, the child should attend school elsewhere when their family is travelling for occupational purposes. In which case the child will be dual registered at that school and this school, which is their ‘main’ school.

Children from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities whose families do not travel for occupational purposes are expected to register at school and attend as normal. They are subject to the same rules as other children in terms of the requirement to attend school regularly.

7.2. Religious Observance

Our school acknowledges the multi-faith nature of the school community and recognises that on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside of school holidays or weekends.

In accordance with the law, the school will authorise **one day’s absence** for a day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the parent belongs. Should any additional days be necessary, they should be requested in advance using the leave of absence in term time process. Additional days taken without exceptional circumstances will be recorded in the register as unauthorised absence. If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parents’ religious body, to confirm whether the day is set apart.

7.3. Illness

In most cases, absences for illness which are reported by following the school’s absence reporting procedures will be authorised. That is unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.

The school follows Department for Education guidance ‘[Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101441/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk))’ 2024⁴ which states that if the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, the school may ask the parent to provide medical evidence, such as a prescription, appointment card, or other appropriate form of evidence.

⁴ Please ask the school for a printed copy of Working Together to Improve School Attendance if required

Where a parent cannot provide any written evidence, we will endeavour to have a conversation with the parent and pupil, if appropriate, which may itself serve as the necessary evidence to record the absence.

We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily. In some instances, the school may ask the parent to obtain a letter from a GP, or the school may seek parental permission to contact the pupil's GP directly to help support the needs of the individual pupil.

If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Where a pupil has a high level and/or frequency of absence, the school may require medical evidence of some description in order to authorise any future medical absences. If this is the case, the school will make the parent/s aware of this expectation in advance.

The reporting of absence due to illness remains the responsibility of the parent. Absences due to illness which have **not** been reported to the school by the parent on the first day of absence may not be authorised.

Parents must contact the school on the first day of absence to explain the reason for absence. This can be done by calling the school on 01273 592163, sending an In App message on Arbor or sending an email to the office before 8.30am. Give the following details:

- Full name of pupil;
- Pupil's class name and year group;
- Full name of person reporting absence and relation to child;
- Reason for absence.
- If pupils suffer any form of injury, then we ask that you contact the school to make us aware. This is so we can do a risk assessment with you. It will identify impacts of the injury and the support your child may need.

If a child is absent for more than one day, the parent should contact the school each day to provide an update on the child's condition, unless otherwise agreed by the school.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Parents who have concerns about their child's mental wellbeing can contact our school's Designated Safeguarding Lead for further information on the support available.

Parents should also contact their GP or the NHS Helpline by phoning telephone number 111 for advice if they are concerned. In case of emergency parents should dial 999.

Pupils taken ill during the school day

If a pupil needs to be sent home due to illness, this should be by agreement with an appropriately authorised member of school staff. In such circumstances, no pupil will be allowed to leave the school site without parental confirmation.

7.4. Suspensions (Exclusions)

In this policy, the word 'suspension' is used to refer to what legislation calls an exclusion for a fixed period. Suspensions and permanent exclusions are both types of exclusion, and where this policy uses the word 'exclusion' this includes both suspensions (fixed-period exclusions) and permanent exclusions.

If the school decides to send a pupil home due to their behaviour, this will be recorded as an exclusion. The school will follow the current DfE's statutory guidance on suspensions and permanent exclusions. The full behaviour and exclusions policy for our school can be found on the school website, <https://www.glebeprimary.co.uk/about-us/glebe-policies>

Any exclusion **must** be agreed by the Headteacher.

The school will notify the parent of the exclusion in writing. If the pupil is a Child in Care, the school will notify the pupil's carer, social worker and the Virtual School. In other instances, where a pupil is open to Children's Social Care for any reason, the school will also inform their allocated social worker.

No pupil will be allowed to leave the school site without parental confirmation.

8. Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause

In accordance with DfE school attendance guidance, our school will record pupils as 'Unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause' in the following circumstances (such circumstances are not recorded as absences and are not counted as possible attendances):

- Code Q: Unable to attend because of a lack of access arrangements
- Code Y1: Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available
- Code Y2: Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel
- Code Y3: Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed
- Code Y4: Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed
- Code Y5: Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention
- Code Y6: Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law
- Code Y7: Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause

9. Absent - unauthorised absence

Unauthorised absence is where a school is not satisfied with the reasons given for the absence or no reason for absence was provided.

Absence will be unauthorised if a pupil is absent from school without the permission of the school. Whilst parents can provide explanations for absences, it is the school's decision whether to authorise the absence or not.

Unauthorised absence includes:

- Absences which have never been properly explained
- Pupils who arrive at school too late to get a mark
- Shopping
- Birthdays
- Waiting at home for a washing machine to be mended, or a parcel to be delivered
- Day trips
- Long weekends and holidays in term time (unless very exceptional circumstances are agreed in writing, in advance by the school)
- In the case of term time leave - if a pupil is kept away from school longer than was agreed, the additional absence is unauthorised

Unauthorised absences may result in Legal Sanctions, usually Penalty Notices or Prosecutions. The unauthorised absence codes include:

- Code G – Holiday not granted by the school
- Code N – Reason for absence not yet established
- Code O – Absent in other or unknown circumstances
- Code U – Arrived in school after registration closed

10. Administrative codes

Where necessary and applicable, our school will use the defined administrative codes. These codes are not collected for statistical purposes and are:

- Code Z: Prospective pupil not on admissions register
- Code #: Planned whole school closure

11. First Day of Absence Response

The following steps are taken if the school does not receive a reason for pupil absence:

1. The Office Manager oversees day to day absences and the Office Team leads on first day calling if children do not arrive at school without a reason given by parents.
2. If we do not establish contact to find out why a child is not in school then we keep ringing. If a child is a child the office team know is vulnerable then they report the absence to the DSL.
3. The Office team keep on calling and messaging all day until they have a response.
4. If the Office do not receive a parent response, they will call the next emergency contact detailed on the pupil record and continue down the list as appropriate.
5. If there is no response and the absence is unusual or is a welfare concern, we may undertake our own "safe and well" welfare checks (two members of staff visit the home) and/or request a Welfare Check from the Police in emergency situations.
6. Consideration is given to Children in Care; children subject to Child Protection Plans; children open to Social Care as a Child in Need; children who have previously been reported missing; primary aged pupils who make their own way to school in Years 5 & 6.
7. If the family repeatedly do not respond to calls then we ask to meet them as soon as possible.
8. The Office Manager leads on making sure day to day punctuality issues are logged and reported on CPOMS if a pattern of lateness emerges.

Parents will be asked to supply details of **at least three** people who can be contacted in an emergency, and these details will be reviewed on a yearly basis through newsletter reminders and Arbor messages to all parents. Any changes in emergency details can be emailed to the Office on office@glebeprimary.co.uk at any time throughout the year.

12. Rewarding Good and Improved Attendance

Glebe promotes and rewards good attendance and belonging in the following ways:

- We treat all pupils and parents with dignity. Our staff will always seek to model respectful relationships to build a positive relationship between home and school that can be the foundation of good attendance and belonging.
- Regularly inform parents about their child's attendance and absence levels.
- The school sends polite reminders in the Weekly News reminding parents about school start times. We remind people of proper start times on the gate and in the office if they are late also.
- Teachers include attendance in termly written reports and will raise it at scheduled parent meetings if needed. Teachers note improvement and say thank you when that happens.
- The Attendance Team meet parents if lateness is impacting on children's learning. We note improvement and say thank you when that happens.
- We remind children about getting to school on time and add attendance figures to weekly messages to parents e.g. in the weekly news and in year group news.
- We celebrate good attendance in our weekly assemblies for each key stage

- We use PHSE time to help children to remember things which will help them learn e.g. going to bed on time, turning off screens well before bed time and not eating too late. In Y5/6 we talk about readiness for learning and an imaginary rucksack full of all the things you need to succeed in school. This imagery is used in assemblies frequently.
- Children with good attendance have the full entitlement to a fun and enriched curriculum.
- Children with good attendance have the support they need to achieve.
- We give certificates at the end of each year to celebrate those who have 100% attendance.
- We support attendance and belonging by holding regular meetings with the attendance team and the parents of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) consider to be vulnerable or are persistently or severely absent to discuss attendance and engagement at school.
- We agree Individual Action Plans with parents for each pupil to support and improve attendance, rewarding the pupil with appropriate incentives, which is reviewed and adapted as appropriate. School incentives for pupils are carefully considered and may include: time at The Haven, time with a friend doing a special activity, pupil attendance certificates for attendance improvements or special jobs or roles for pupils within the school day.

13. Support for Poor School Attendance (other than unauthorised term time leave)

Sometimes pupils can be reluctant to attend school. We encourage parents and pupils to be open and honest with us about the reason for the pupil's absence. If a child is reluctant to attend, it is never better to cover up their absence or for a parent to give in to pressure to let the child stay at home. This can give the impression to the child that attendance does not matter and can make things worse. As a school, we need to understand the reasons why a pupil is reluctant to attend to be able to support pupils and parents in the best way.

When we have concerns about the attendance of a pupil, we will do our best to make the parent/s aware of the concerns about their child's attendance and give them the opportunity to address this.

However, if parents do not make use of the support offered and improve their child's attendance to an acceptable level, this may result in legal sanctions. Where there are no genuine reasons for the absences, parents may be asked to meet with the Attendance Officer and Designated Safety Lead to discuss the matter. In some cases, this may result in a formal action plan being produced in the form of an Attendance Contract.

If our school refers a case of poor school attendance to the Local Authority for legal sanctions, we will show that we have warned the parent/s that they are at risk of receiving a Penalty Notice or other legal sanction. This will at least be evidenced via the sending of a Notice to Improve – attendance warning letter.

We will not usually request legal sanctions from the Local Authority in cases where poor attendance is symptomatic of complex family circumstances. In such circumstances our school will take a holistic approach to the issue and involve other agencies as necessary. The exception to this will be where parents fail to accept or engage with support offered by the school and/or other agencies or fail to implement the suggested changes. Again, when referring for legal sanctions, we will show that we have warned the parent/s that they are at risk of receiving a Penalty Notice or other legal sanction.

If our school has safeguarding concerns about a pupil who is absent, we will share information with other agencies as we deem necessary.

14. Penalty Notices and Prosecutions

Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school on a regular basis. It is a criminal offence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 to fail to secure regular attendance of a registered pupil at the school. This applies to both resident and non-resident parents who may

both be subject to legal sanctions if their child fails to attend school regularly. It also applies to others who may not be the parent but may have day to day care of the child.

Unauthorised absence from school can result in a number of different outcomes for parents and children. Each case is considered individually.

Under section 444 of the Education Act 1996, if a child of compulsory school age, who is a registered pupil at a school, fails to attend regularly at the school his/her parent(s) are guilty of an offence. Parents with more than one school aged child need to be aware that each child's irregular attendance is dealt with as a separate matter.

The school will refer cases of unauthorised absence that meet the threshold for a Penalty Notice to the Local Authority for legal action unless there are reasonable grounds for not doing so. The outcome of a referral to the Local Authority may be a Penalty Notice or Prosecution.

Penalty Notices are intended as a sanction for low level offences and a tool to support improved school attendance for example in circumstances associated with an unauthorised holiday taken during term time. They are an alternative to prosecution and may not be issued if prosecution is a more appropriate response to a pupil's irregular attendance.

A pupil's unauthorised absence from school could result in one of the following:

1. A Penalty Notice. The penalty is £80 per parent, per child payable within 21 days, rising to £160 per parent, per child if paid between 22 and 28 days. (Failure to pay will result in prosecution.) If a second Penalty Notice is issued within a rolling 3-year period the penalty is £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. There will be no option to pay a lower amount.
2. Prosecution. Prosecution could lead to fines up to £2500 and /or up to 3 months imprisonment. (See DfE's statutory guidance on [School attendance parental responsibility measures](#) for more information.

Penalty Notices and prosecution proceedings are issued to each parent with responsibility for the child and are issued for each child with irregular attendance. For example, in the case of Penalty Notices, if two siblings had irregular school attendance, and there were two parents with responsibility for the children, four Penalty Notices would be issued. Penalty Notices cannot be paid in instalments.

In addition to Penalty Notices, there is a range of other legal interventions open to schools

We will work together with local authority and make use of the full range of legal interventions rather than relying solely on fixed penalty notices or prosecution, and will work closely with the local authority to decide whether to use them in an individual case after considering the individual circumstances of a family. These are: Parenting contracts, Education supervision orders, Attendance prosecution, Parenting orders, Fixed penalty notices.

15. Children Missing Education (CME)

Our school will add and delete pupils from roll in line with the law. A pupil's name can only lawfully be deleted from the admission register if a reason set out in regulation 9 of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. The school will make CME and Pupil Tracking referrals as appropriate. The school will seek advice from the local authority representative responsible for children missing education if unsure about any individual cases:

16. Following up Unexplained Absences

Where no contact has been made with the school, the school will contact parents by telephone, leaving voicemails and then by email or letter to try and establish the reason for a child's absence. When we establish the reason for the absence, we will mark it as authorised or unauthorised depending on the reason for the absence. If we are unable to establish the reason for absence within 2 school days, we will mark the absence as unauthorised, using the **O** code. If we are concerned about a pupil's absence and are unable to contact the parent/s, we may contact the pupil's emergency contacts and/or other professionals or contacts of the family who we reasonably expect may be able to advise us of the pupil's whereabouts. If there is still no response and the absence remains a concern or unusual, a welfare check may be carried out which involves 2 members of staff visiting the home.

17. Reporting to Parents – Attendance 2024/2025 shown on Arbor App for each child

It is good practice to share pupil attendance information with parents throughout the school calendar year. Sharing pupil attendance information gives parents the opportunity to look at their child's attendance, request a certificate if necessary, and come back to the school with any queries or request support from the school as appropriate.

At Glebe, attendance information is provided on the Arbor App for each child and this can be viewed on a daily basis. Attendance information is also provided termly on the pupil's school report in the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

Where a child's attendance drops below 90%, for whatever reason, our school will write to the parents to highlight this, unless there is a good reason not to. Please read Appendix X for full Attendance Monitoring Process for Pupils Absence below 95%.

18. Recording Information on Attendance and Reasons for Absence

The school records attendance information on Arbor on a daily basis through the register process and uses attendance data from Arbor to target attendance improvements for the school. CPOMS is also used for recording attendance information and reasons for absence to ensure consistent information is known by all relevant staff for individual pupils.

The Head teacher, senior leaders, the attendance team and teachers analyse school data on attendance regularly using Arbor. The data is used for the following purposes:

- To view overall figures and outcomes for groups.
- To monitor attendance for year groups, cases and individual children.
- To look for any patterns in poor attendance e.g. regular Mondays off or times in the year.
- To note improvement.
- To give parents clear information in meetings about attendance issues.
- To report school attendance figures to the Governing body and outside agencies.

Data Strategy

The School understands that as poor attendance is habitual, prevention and early detection is crucial. We will therefore undertake regular data analysis using information recorded on Arbor to:

- both identify and provide immediate additional support to pupils and/ or pupil cohorts that need it;
- look at historic and emerging patterns across the school and develop strategies to address them.

The School will typically carry out the following analysis:

- a) Monitoring and analysing weekly attendance (including punctuality) patterns and trends, including whether there are particular issues for some children on certain days;
- b) Half-termly, termly and full-year data analysis of patterns and trends, including analysis of pupils and cohorts, identifying patterns in use of certain codes, days where attendance is typically poor and (where appropriate) subjects with low lesson attendance
- c) Benchmarking attendance data (at whole school, year group, pupil premium and cohort level) against Trust-level, local, regional and national data.

We will use this analysis to identify pupils who need support so that we can focus staff efforts on developing targeted actions for those pupils and to identify any common themes to support improvement planning. We will use the data to inform us regarding the impact of school-wide attendance efforts, including any specific strategies implemented, to evaluate approaches or inform action. We will also provide regular attendance reports to class teachers or tutors to facilitate discussions with pupils and to school leaders (including any special educational needs coordinators, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium leads).

Absence reduction strategy

- We will devise specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data.
- Data and reports will be shared with the Local Governing Body.
- As part of promoting regular attendance the school will consider the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices.

19. Policy Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher, or more frequently if there are changes to legislation and guidance. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing body.

20. Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Behaviour Policy, Inclusion Anti-Bullying Policy, Behaviour Policy, Inclusion Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Guidance Documents (include but are not limited to):

Working Together to Improve School Attendance (DfE 2024)

[Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#)
([publishing.service.gov.uk](#))

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (DfE December 2015)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions-3>

Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school (DfE January 2013)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

Mental Health issues affecting a pupil's attendance (DfE February 2023)

[Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Arranging education for children with who cannot attend school because of health needs (DfE December 2023)

[Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Keeping children safe in education (DfE September 2024)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d7301b9084b18b95709f75/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2024.pdf

School attendance parental responsibility measures (DfE January 2015)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/parental-responsibility-measures-for-behaviour-and-attendance>

School census guidance and regulation

<https://www.gov.uk/education/school-censuses-and-slasc>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>

Home to school travel and transport guidance (DfE July 2014)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-to-school-travel-and-transport-guidance>

Appendix A – 5 Foundations of Effective Practice

- **Foundation 1:** *The school has a fully embedded ethos in which excellent school attendance is expected, developed and nurtured. The escalated approach to supporting attendance is built on foundations of belonging and connectedness.*
- **Foundation 2:** *The approach to improving attendance is built on clear policies, systems and processes. This ensures continuous and sustainable improvement drives attendance practice. The attendance policy is understood by all stakeholders and allows the school to set, and maintain, high expectations to improve the culture of attendance.*
- **Foundation 3:** *The school prioritises developing a team of attendance experts, with a shared vision and core purpose. The Attendance Leader delivers bespoke training to support all staff to fully understand their role in improving attendance. External partnerships support attendance improvements through a multi-disciplinary approach for identified children and families.*
- **Foundation 4:** *Data information and analysis direct resources proactively towards key demographic groups and identified individuals. The expert use of data analysis informs decision making at all levels. The attendance process ensures the Attendance Leader understands the reason for attendance concerns, these barriers can then be successfully supported and removed.*
- **Foundation 5:** *Connecting and belonging drives the school approach to supporting attendance. All staff are supported to understand 'deeper roots' regarding poor attendance concerns. The school has developed, and embedded, an effective rewards system to further drive attendance improvements and celebrate success*

Appendix B – Supporting Child Absence & Belonging Below 95%

Glebe is working within the **Department for Education: Working Together to Improve School Attendance** guidance framework on school attendance and the following guidance will be followed. **The Government states “Your child should attend school at least 95% of school sessions.”**

The members of the Attendance Team at Glebe are Mrs Crutchfield, Head, Mrs Grove, DSL and Mrs Tarrant, Attendance Officer. The role of the team is to support and facilitate good attendance for all children at Glebe to enable them to access education, flourish and develop socially and emotionally.

Everyone	4 days of absence	7 days of absence	10 days of absence	13 days of absence	16 days of absence	19+ days of absence
<p>Glebe is a place where every child belongs.</p> <p>We create welcoming environments to allow all children to gain a sense of belonging and ultimately achieve academically through regular school attendance.</p>	<p>Concerning levels of child absence.</p> <p>Internal Monitoring.</p> <p>Stage 1 phone call to parents with Attendance Officer.</p> <p>Early intervention considered as a supportive measure.</p> <p>Possible early help support offered.</p>	<p>Serious concerns regarding attendance.</p> <p>Stage 2 phone call to parents by Attendance Officer and follow up letter.</p> <p>Explore barriers and implement a programme to remove barriers.</p> <p>Early help support reviewed or offered.</p>	<p>The child is a high risk of Persistent Absence.</p> <p>Stage 3 letter sent to parents.</p> <p>Meeting with Attendance Officer and DSL.</p> <p>Review of early help and support strategies.</p> <p>Consider the support of external agencies.</p>	<p>The child is at serious risk of Persistent Absence.</p> <p>Stage 4 formal warning notice sent to parents.</p> <p>Meeting with Head, DSL and Attendance Officer.</p> <p>Parenting contract or supervision order considered at this stage.</p>	<p>Fast track referral</p> <p>All avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or not being engaged with. The school will now enforce attendance through statutory interventions or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education.</p>	<p>The child is now considered a Persistently Absent child.</p> <p>Persistent absence is when a pupil's overall enrolment drops below 85% or equates to 10% or more of their possible sessions.</p> <p>Safeguarding referrals at this stage can be made. The child and family will continue to be supported.</p>
<p>EXPECT</p> <p>A culture where children can and want to be in school.</p>	<p>MONITOR</p> <p>Use attendance data to identify patterns of poor attendance.</p>	<p>LISTEN & UNDERSTAND</p> <p>Understand barriers to attendance, work together to remove them.</p>	<p>FACILITATE SUPPORT</p> <p>Access support to overcome barriers outside of school.</p>	<p>FORMALISE SUPPORT</p>	<p>Review of all support offered and continue to support the child and family.</p>	<p>ENFORCE</p> <p>Statutory interventions or prosecution to protect pupil's right to an education, if no other option.</p>

Appendix C – Supporting Child Absence & Belonging Below 95%

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have concerns with regards to attendance or if you experience problems getting your child to school.

How Frequent Absence Affects Your Child

- Children who are often absent miss vital information
- So they don't know or understand the work
- They begin to feel left out
- They get left behind in their learning
- They miss out on social time with their friends in the playground
- They may have to rebuild friendship groups
- They begin to lose confidence for learning
- They begin to lose confidence in themselves

Tips and Suggestions for parents - Experiencing problems getting to school on time?

- Ensure children go to bed at a reasonable time. Primary school aged children should have more than ten hours of sleep per night. They need to be in bed by about 8.30pm at the latest.
- Turn all devices off and remove an hour before bed time e.g. tablets, mobile phones and other screens. The brain needs time to switch off.
- Do not eat for at least two hours before bedtime to give the body time to digest fully.
- Establish a calming and settling bed time routine, with a warm shower or bath, gentle music or a story or reading time.
- Make sure everything is ready the night before e.g. uniform laid out, packed lunches made, bags packed, school shoes and coat by the door.
- Make sure there is time for a good breakfast in the morning. Food is needed to nourish children and give them energy for the morning.
- Set off early enough to miss the traffic. Gates to school open at 8.20am, at least ten minutes before the classroom doors open at around 8.30am. This will give them time to chat to friends before school too, which can be settling.

What to do if your child is not happy about going to school?

- Listen to your child's concerns. Tell them that you will talk to school and try to help them. Do keep bringing them in though and reassure them that the problem will be sorted.
- Coming to school is essential for children and they do need to come. If you allow days off when they are not in the mood then this could lead to further problems of resistance. Reassure them that you will work it out and help them but it is best to keep the routine and to keep going to school. Focus on the positives as much as possible and try to distract them by reinforcing what is going well and all their skills and talents as much as you can.
- Talk to the class teacher about how your child is feeling. Most issues can be sorted out quite quickly.
- If your child continues to talk about not being happy then ask for a sit down meeting with the attendance team and the Thrive team (pastoral team). The school will listen and establish a support plan, which will be reviewed with you regularly.
- There may be external support we can seek also, depending on the child's needs.
- We can involve other professionals in the school where required e.g. the Special Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCO).

Appendix D – Pupils with Medical Conditions or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The School recognises that 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 is the same as they are for any other pupil.

- a) That said, in working with their parents to improve attendance, we will be mindful of the barriers these pupils face and put additional support in place where necessary to help them access their full-time education.
- b) Having sensitive conversations and developing good support for pupils with physical or mental health conditions. For example, making reasonable adjustments where a pupil has a disability or putting in place an individual healthcare plan where needed.
- c) Considering 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.
- d) Working with parents to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, including where applicable ensuring the provision outlined in the pupil's education, health and care plan is accessed. In addition, the school will work with families to help support routines where school transport is regularly being missed and work with other partners to encourage the scheduling of additional support interventions or medical appointments outside of the main school day. Please see the School's SEN policy for further details on SEN support.
- e) Establishing strategies for removing the in-school barriers pupils may face, including considering support or reasonable adjustments for transport, routines, access to support in school and lunchtime arrangements.
- f) Ensuring joined up pastoral care is in place where needed and consider whether a time-limited phased return to school would be appropriate, for example for those affected by anxiety about school attendance, recognising that such arrangements can be for a limited time only.
- g) Ensuring data is regularly monitored for these groups including at board and governing body meetings and in Targeting Support Meetings with the local authority so that additional support from other partners is accessed where necessary.

Pupils with long term illnesses or other health needs may need additional support to continue their education, such as alternative provision provided by the local authority. Local authorities are responsible for arranging suitable education for children of compulsory school age who, because of health reasons, would otherwise not receive suitable education. Please see the School's policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions at school for further information. In all cases, the school will be sensitive and avoid stigmatising pupils and parents; and talk to pupils and parents and understand how they feel and what they think would help improve their attendance to develop individual approaches that meet an individual pupil's specific needs.

Part-time timetables

All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs. For example, where a medical condition prevents a pupil from attending full-time education and a part-time timetable is considered as part of a re-integration package. Please note that a part-time cannot be used as a reasonable adjustment for SEND, unless this is on a temporary basis and as advised by an external agency e.g., Educational Psychologist.

A part-time timetable must only be in place for the shortest time necessary and not be treated as a long-term solution. Any pastoral support programme or other agreement should have a time limit by which point the pupil is expected to attend fulltime, either at school or alternative provision. Formal arrangements will also be put in place for regularly reviewing it (minimum monthly) with the pupil and their parents. In agreeing to a part-time timetable, a school has agreed to a pupil being absent from school for part of the week or day and therefore will treat such absence as authorised. We will of course consider how best to support learning when a child is working on a part time timetable. SENDCO draws up Re-Integration Plans with parents regarding flexible part time timetables.

Appendix E – Attendance Monitoring Process Persistent Lateness Email Communication to Parents

The school aims to be supportive and understanding of parents when managing attendance issues and parents are always fully consulted.

Our process for monitoring and addressing attendance issues as follows:

1. The Office Manager oversees day to day absences and the Office Team leads on first day calling if children do not arrive without a reason given by parents.
2. If we do not establish contact to find out why a child is not in school then we keep ringing. If a child is a child the office team know is vulnerable then they report the absence to the DSL.
3. The Office team keep on calling and messaging all day until they have a response.
4. If there is no response and the absence is unusual then we might carry out a welfare check (two members of staff visit the home).
5. If the family repeatedly do not respond to calls then we ask to meet them as soon as possible.
6. The Office Manager leads on making sure day to day punctuality issues are logged and reported on CPOMS if a pattern of lateness emerges.
7. When children arrive late they report at the office and should sign in using the iPad by the office window. They also take a slip to class to give to their teacher which shows that they have reported to the office.
8. The Office Manager sends the Headteacher monthly attendance print outs, which show all attendance which falls under 95%. This usually begins in October or November each academic year once children have been at school for a period of time. Some cases demand swifter action sometimes however.
9. The Headteacher will analyse attendance data and looks for any concerns. Concerns are shared with SLT and attendance team. The attendance team, consisting of the Attendance Officer and DSL, take any stage one meeting requests.
10. Any member of teaching staff can raise an attendance concern and ask the Office Manager for a print out of a child's attendance.
11. The attendance team will support pupils and families where attendance falls below 95% in line with DoE:
Working Together to Improve School Attendance guidance and framework as follows:
 - a. Stage 1: Phone call from attendance officer and letter sent to parents outlining current attendance levels
 - b. Stage 2: Phone call from attendance officer, letter to parents outlining current attendance levels and agree supportive action plan to improve attendance
 - c. Stage 3: Parents Meeting with attendance officer and DSL to agree supportive measures and action plan to improve attendance
 - d. Stage 4: Parents Meeting with Head, DSL and attendance officer to agree supportive measures and action plan to improve attendance
 - e. Stage 5: Home visits will be conducted by attendance officer and DSL. Fast track referral to external agencies, statutory interventions or prosecution enforced to protect pupil's right to an education. A review of all supportive measures and continued support to families
 - f. Stage 6: Home visits, external agencies and safeguarding referrals enforced and continued support given to families

In all parent meetings, the attendance team ask to meet parents to discuss attendance or punctuality concerns, give them a copy of the attendance report for their child and this includes arrival times. In this meeting the attendance team go through the issues with attendance and ask questions about the reasons for absence. The attendance team explores what support is in place for the family and asks if there are any factors the school needs to know about. The attendance team talks about the impact on learning, social and emotional developments and supports positive, healthy attendance routines. Sharing class books and assessment results can help at this stage. At the end of the

meetings, a target for improved attendance is agreed, along with a date and time to meet again to review. The action plan is shared with parents and notes added to CPOMS. The meeting notes also needs to be sent to the Headteacher for her attendance file.

12. A review meeting is held at an appropriate future date. If attendance is improving then no more meetings are necessary. If attendance is not improving then the review can be extended for one month if circumstances are reasonable or else the matter is referred to the Headteacher.
13. The Headteacher, DSL and/or Attendance Officer will then meet the parents.
14. When attendance becomes a serious issue, the Attendance Officer takes the appropriate formal action following WSCC guidance.

Meeting and Letter proformas (copy to HT and send to CPOMS after meeting): see end of document

Appendix F – Persistent Lateness Email Communication to Parents

Persistent Lateness:

Address

Child's name:

Child's class:

School Attendance Concern.

Dear

..... (name) has arrived late for school times since September 2024. They have arrived after 8.45am on each occasion so the total number of hours missed of school is..... Arriving late for school is disruptive for your child's learning and is very unsettling for them. Arriving late repeatedly means that learning and learning support opportunities are lost and over time this has impact on learning progress. Can I please remind you that getting your child to school on time is your parental responsibility. **The school gates open at 8.25am and children need to be in class at 8.30am prompt.**

Thank you for your support with school attendance.

Mrs. Crutchfield

Headteacher

Appendix G – Persistent Attendance & Improvement Letter to Parents

Letter Proforma – Stage 2

Name and Address

Date

Dear

Attendance and Punctuality at Glebe – September 2024

The DFE: Working Together to Improve School Attendance document has now replaced all guidance on school attendance. Under the new guidance educational settings are encouraged to share attendance information with parents. The aim of this letter is to share the attendance of your child from September 2023 to January 2024, the letter also refers to bespoke terminology used within the DFE paper that parents should be aware of.

Persistent Absence - attendance of 90% or below is recognised as Persistent Absence (PA) and equates to 19 days missed over a school year. Once a child has been absent for 19 days, or more, they will remain Persistently Absent for the remainder of the academic year.

Risk of Persistent Absence – a child will be identified as Risk of Persistent Absence if their attendance falls between 10 to 18 days missed education during any period of the school year.

Severe Absence – any child who has an attendance of 50% or below will be classified as Severe Absence.

Child's Name:

Class:

Percentage Attendance September 2024 to _____ 2024	%
Days lost to education – September 2024 to _____ 2024	days: unauthorised & illnesses
Number of Late Marks accumulated – September 2024 to _____ 2024.	

Going to school regularly is important for your child's future. Parents are responsible for making sure their children receive full-time education. At Glebe, we strive to achieve the national expectations for attendance of 97% and to reduce the number of pupils who are persistently absent.

The school is the first place to discuss any attendance problems so that we are able to support families and children further. Mrs Groves and I would now like to meet with you in school to discuss the next steps and agree an attendance plan with you to improve your children's attendance, attendance certificate is attached.

We look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Tarrant
Attendance Officer

Appendix H – Action Plan for Parents and Pupil

Attendance Improvement Action Plan for Child's name

Meeting Date:

Attendee: – Parent, Casey Groves – DSL, Lisa Tarrant – Attendance Officer

Class: **Teacher:**

Details of Absence:

Percentage Attendance September 2024 to date	%
Days lost to education – September 2024 to date	days: unauthorised & illnesses,
Number of Late Marks accumulated – September 2024 to date.	

Reasons for Absence: Illness / medical / parents / other

Discussion Points:

Agreed Action Plan: Parent, DSL and Attendance Office have agreed the following action points:

1. to come to school by 8.30am each day, 5 days a week during school time.
2. Parent to call the Office on 01273 592163 by 8.30am on any morning that pupil is not coming into school to notify school reason for illness.
- 3.

Review Date: 8.40am at Office: Parent, DSL and Attendance Officer to meet and review Action Plan and discussion for continued support to be agreed. Any further support the school can provide prior to review date, please let us know.

Appendix I – Request for Leave of Absence from Glebe Guidance & Form

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM GLEBE

Please read the following guidance before completing the

Request for Leave of Absence form on the reverse.

At Glebe, we have the highest expectations for your child's attendance and believe it is vital that we work together to teach our pupils the value of attending school each and every day. Any absence from learning disrupts your child's learning and leaves them unprepared for lessons when they return.

There are 175 non-school days per year for holidays, shopping and appointments. There is no need, except in exceptional circumstances to miss a days' education. If your child misses 1 session in a week (there are 2 sessions per day) your attendance is 90%. This means your child misses 19 days of education in a year and risk not being ready for the next stage of education.

We do, however, also appreciate that there are times when a pupil is unable to attend school. The Department for Education (DfE) allows the Head Teacher to consider authorising an absence during term time, only in "Exceptional Circumstances" at the discretion of the Head Teacher, Mrs Crutchfield.

All requests must be completed on the form overleaf and should be returned to the Office at least 14 days before the absence is due to commence.

If your request is considered an Exceptional Circumstance, the school will contact you to confirm it will be authorised. All other requests are automatically unauthorised in line with the Department for Education guidance.

Parents have the legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly. In the case of unauthorised absences of 5 days or more, within a 10 week rolling period, the Local Education Authority will be notified of the absence and a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued.

The penalty notice is a fine of £80 per parent per child, which increases to £160, if not paid within the first 21 days. Thereafter, if the penalty remains unpaid, this may result in legal action by the Local Authority.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST FORM

Request for Leave of Absence guidance is provided on the reverse of this form. Please complete and return this form to the School Office at least 14 days prior to the absence is due to commence.

Child's Name:	
Class Name:	
Start Date of Absence:	
End date of Absence:	
Date of Return to School:	
Total Number of School Days Missed:	
Reason for Absence Request: Attach supporting evidence for exceptional circumstances of absence	
Name of Parent/Carer:	
Parent/Carer Signature:	
Date:	

School Office to Complete	Pupil Overall Attendance %
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Head Teacher Comment/Code: C – Authorised exceptional circumstances M – Medical/dental appointment P – Approved sporting activity V – Attend an educational visit/trip R – Religious observance G – Unauthorised holiday not granted O – Unauthorised absence	
Head Teacher Signature:	
Date:	
Referral to LA Needed: Y / N	Referral to LA made Date:

Appendix J – Department for Education (DfE) Attendance & Absence Codes

Attending	
/ \	Present at the school / = morning session \ = afternoon session
L	Late arrival before the register is 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
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	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