

Attendance at Uphall Primary School

Introduction

Attendance is everyone's responsibility! We ensure that every member of staff takes responsibility for every child's attendance.



Prevent

An attendance charter is given to parents and signed when they join the school. This charter is then updated each year. The first assembly of the year has a focus on promoting good attendance and class Attendance Ambassadors are appointed. The importance of high attendance is then discussed at 'Meet the Teacher' meetings in September each year. The value of high whole school attendance is promoted in the weekly newsletter and 100% attendance awards are given to children (as well as wildcard children who have made every possible effort to attend every day) at end of term assemblies. A list of unauthorised absences is updated each week and given to teachers to discuss with parents at the end of each day. A class attendance log is updated weekly outside each classroom. There is a dedicated board prominently displayed to illustrate weekly attendance figures in each year group. There is a central list of vulnerable children and the Principal Learning Leader is updated each morning on the attendance of these children – in a Virtual School Model. There are posters placed around the school building specifically promoting good attendance.



Intervene

Members of the Attendance Team regularly make home visits to support families. Children of targeted families are offered additional access to clubs to support attendance. Catch up lessons e.g., Phonics interventions and maths support are provided for children who miss chunks of learning. Formal letters are sent and phone calls home are made to set targets for individual children to improve attendance. Our Attendance Officer makes first day absence welfare calls, as well as requests for medical evidence if necessary.



Target

Home visits are made in partnership with the Education Welfare Officer to support attendance to improve. Parents who cause prolonged unauthorised absences receive fines. Legal interventions are a final resort for families.

Further home visits are then made in partnership with the Education Welfare Officer to support attendance to improve.



An Improving Picture

The context of our school means that we have high levels of absence, particularly in relation to term time travel abroad. The predominant reason given is for family emergencies or events. We do not authorise these. However, our aspirations are high and Attendance, despite being below National Figures, represent an improving picture. Our aim is at least 96%, and Attendance is included on our School Learning Plan. In 2023/24, there was no difference in Attendance by gender or Pupil Premium/Non-PP. Target groups to improve Attendance include our White European (particularly Romanian Roma Traveller) and Asian Pakistani families. Raw whole school Attendance for 2023/24 (inc Nursery, EID and Religious Observance) = 92.41%. This figure including Term Time Travel Abroad = 93.64%. For years 1 to 6 = 94.14%. Currently, this academic year the figures are 93.70%/95.11% (Y1-Y6) and 93.28%/94.58 (YR – Y6).



Attendance Team

The Attendance Team meet weekly to discuss attendance led by Dr Atwal, Principal Learning Leader. The team includes our Attendance Officer, Designated Safeguarding Lead, Parental Support Leader and includes a Local Authority appointed Educational Welfare Officer, fortnightly. Patterns of absence are analysed and evaluated.

