



Leyburn Primary School

Attendance Policy

Rationale

At Leyburn Primary School we believe regular attendance in school is crucial to a child's progress. Therefore Leyburn School will employ a range of strategies to encourage good attendance and punctuality and, liaising with parent/carers, will investigate all absenteeism. Staff will respond to all absenteeism firmly and consistently. Parent/carers are strongly encouraged to make medical and dental appointments for their child after school hours.

Registration

Registers open at 9.00am and close at 9.15am and will be marked in accordance with the list of symbols shown in the register. If a pupil fails to arrive before the registers are closed, they will be marked as "absent". "U" (unauthorised) from 9.16am onwards. Pupils who arrive after the registers have been closed will have their arrival logged by the school administrator. (The school administrator will amend the register entry to read "absent/late").

If a pupil is persistently late, the deputy headteacher will contact the parent/carers. In the afternoon the register is called at 1.00pm and closes at 1.10pm. Parent/carers are reminded that, if a child arrives in school after the registers have closed and an acceptable explanation is not given, the pupil must be recorded as "unauthorised absence" for that session. The deputy headteacher will inspect the registers at the end of each half-term to ensure that the correct procedures are being followed.

Authorised and Unauthorised Absence

It is vital that all staff adhere to the same strict criteria when deciding whether or not to authorise an absence. Absence is to be recorded according to 'School Attendance Policy and Practice on Categorisation of Absence' (DFE 1994).

Holidays

Parent/carers are strongly urged to avoid taking family holidays during term-time. Indeed, parent/carers do not have the right to take their child out of school for such a holiday.

Amendments to the Department for Education's 2006 regulations remove references to family holiday and extended leave, as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments

make clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Applications for leave of pupil absence during term-time by parent/carers will be considered by the headteacher and the Governing Body following the NYCC "Application for Pupil Leave of Absence in Exceptional Circumstances during Term-Time" Policy and Procedures (refer to guidance).

Procedures for Following Up Absence

Parent/carers will be encouraged to contact the school by telephone, email or letter with an explanation for the absenteeism on the first day of absence. If no note, email or telephone message is forthcoming, the school administrator will telephone the parent/carer/carer for an explanation. If there is no answer, the absence will be logged as 'unauthorised'.

- If a pupil is persistently absent or late, the deputy headteacher will write to the parent/carers/carers to highlight the absence percentage and offer support.
- If a pupil continues to be persistently absent or late, the deputy headteacher will write to the parent/carer/carers to ask them to attend a meeting in school.
- If a pupil is persistently absent or late, and the school's effort to effect an improvement have been unsuccessful, the situation will be referred to the Early Help Team. Notes from meetings and copies of letters sent to parent/carers will be kept in deputy headteacher's attendance file and dated.
- All telephone messages regarding lateness/absenteeism will be recorded in the Class Absent Book and kept with the register.
- Notes may be recorded on Scholarpack for pupils who are persistently absent or late.

Attendance data will be regularly collected and analysed by the deputy headteacher, supported by the school administrator, in order to identify patterns of absence and to help support and inform policy/practice. This data will be kept in the attendance file.

Strategies for Promoting Attendance

Leyburn Primary School will work to provide an environment where:

- Children feel valued and welcome
- Pupils feel their presence in school is important and necessary
- They will be missed when they are absent/late
- Follow up action regarding unauthorised absence will be taken.

Agreed - January 2020 to be reviewed January 2021