# Bedford High School

## A Specialist Business and Enterprise College
## To Care To Learn To Achieve



# Attendance Policy

| School Address | Manchester Road |
| --- | --- |
| | Leigh |
| | WN7 2LU |
| School Contact Number | 01942 909009 |

Document control

| Date created | September 2021 |
| --- | --- |
| Revision due | September 2022 |
| Current author | Rebecca Ramsden |
| Governing Committee | Standards |
| Electronic copies of this plan are available from | FROG VLN |
| Hard copies of this plan are available from | School Business and Finance Manager / HR Manager |
| Public sector equality duty guidance considered | Yes |
| Date approved by the Chair of the Governing Body | |
| Signature of the Chair of the Governing Body | |

Changes History

| Version | Date | Description | Changes |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | | | |

# Contents

---

# 1. Aims

We are committed to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance by:

> Promoting excellent attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence

> Ensuring every student has access to full-time education to which they are entitled

> Acting early to address patterns of absence

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

# 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the school attendance guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on school attendance parental responsibility measures. These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

> Part 6 of The Education Act 1996

> Part 3 of The Education Act 2002

> Part 7 of The Education and Inspections Act 2006

> The Education (Student Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (and 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016 amendments)

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

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

# 3. Roles and responsibilities

### 3.1 The governing board

The governing board is responsible for monitoring attendance figures for the whole school on at least a termly basis. It also holds the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

**Identified governor for attendance, safeguarding and inclusion: Mrs J Coop**

### 3.2 Senior Leadership Team

The headteacher has responsibility for ensuring there is named member of the senior leadership team overseeing the management of attendance.

The headteacher delegates the responsibility of whole school attendance to the assistant headteacher.

**Assistant Headteacher for Safeguarding, Attendance and Inclusion: Mrs R Ramsden**

The assistant headteacher is responsible for:

> Promoting the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality to all stakeholders

> Implementing the attendance policy, procedures and whole school attendance improvement strategy

> Contributing to the school development plan, with a focus on attendance and punctuality improvement

> Monitoring and analysing school-level absence data and reporting it to governors

> Ensuring attendance has a high profile within the school

> Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual students

> Ensuring appropriate levels of support are offered and impact of interventions is measured

> Alternative provision – attendance and safeguarding

> CME

> Ensuring safeguarding procedures are followed consistently and there is appropriate communication with external agencies where necessary

> Managing the school Early Help provision, ensuring adequate staff supervision and CPD

### 3.3 The Attendance Manager

**Attendance Manager: Mrs L Ainscough**

The attendance manager is responsible for:

> Promoting the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality to all stakeholders

> Monitoring attendance data across the school and at an individual student level

> Supporting the pastoral team in line with the school attendance strategy

> Collating and reporting attendance data to the assistant headteacher

> Managing attendance admin staff to ensure a consistent approach to attendance

> Leading individual Early Helps and communicating with external agencies where appropriate

> Leading parental engagement interventions

> Implementing escalation processes in line with local authority procedures

### 3.4 The Pastoral Team

The pastoral team are responsible for promoting the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality to all stakeholders and ensuring has a high profile within each year group.

**Pastoral Managers are responsible for**:

> Monitoring year group attendance, identifying trends / concerns and liaising with the attendance manager regularly

> Management and coordination of form teacher interventions in line with the attendance strategy

> Managing Individual and group intervention

> Implementing, monitoring and reviewing attendance action plans

> Communicating with parents and carers to overcome barriers to school attendance

> Communicating with staff and external agencies in relation to attendance strategies

> Facilitating weekly year group assemblies

> Form time education about the importance of attendance and punctuality

> Rewards and sanctions linked to attendance and punctuality

**Pastoral Guidance Officers are responsible for:**

> Leading Early Helps for students with emerging needs (Threshold of Need Level 2*)

> Contributing to Early Helps for students with complex needs (Threshold of Need Level 3)

> Communicating with parents and carers to overcome barriers to school attendance

> Communicating with staff and external agencies in relation to attendance strategies

> Implementing appropriate individual plans in order to help address barriers to school attendance

*Appendix 2: Thresholds of Need

**Form teachers are responsible for:**

> Recording registration attendance accurately and promptly, using the correct codes

> Following the correct procedure when a student is unexpectedly absent

> Promoting excellent punctuality to school and ensuring appropriate follow up to persistent lateness

> Delivering form time attendance education

> Implementing individual intervention

> Liaising with parents and carers to overcome barriers to school attendance and improve punctuality

*Appendix 1: Attendance Codes

## 3.5 Teachers and Support Staff

Teachers are responsible for:

> Promoting excellent attendance and punctuality to all lessons

> Modeling expected behaviours around punctuality to lessons

> Recording attendance to lessons, accurately and promptly (within the first 10 minutes of each lesson), using the correct codes

> Following the correct procedure when a student is unexpectedly absent from lesson by emailing the attendance team (missing student group)

> Promoting excellent punctuality to lessons and ensuring appropriate follow up to persistent lateness, including liaising with parents and carers

### 3.6 Attendance Admin Staff

Attendance admin staff are responsible for:

> Monitoring student attendance on a daily basis
> Communicating with parents/carers of absent students on a daily basis and where appropriate, suggest/advise strategies that could reduce short term absence
> Being the first point of contact for students with attendance/illness issues and parents or carers with attendance queries
> Completing attendance admin tasks
> Recording / monitoring student attendance data to ensure accuracy
> Prepare students' timetables
> Recording all relevant information accurately on the student database (e.g. SIMS).

### 3.7 Students

Students are regularly educated on the importance of excellent attendance (see Appendix 3). Students are responsible for:

> The implementation and review of their SPIRIT action plan

> Ensuring they take reasonable steps to lead a healthy lifestyle

> Arriving promptly to school (before 8.25am) and being well prepared for learning

> Arriving promptly to all lessons

> Following their correct timetable at all times (unless directed otherwise by staff)

### 3.8 Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are regularly reminded of the importance of excellent attendance (see Appendix 4 for examples). Parents are responsible for:

> Promoting the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality to their child

> Ensuring their child has the means to travel safely to school and arrive on time, by 8.25am

> Ensuring their child leaves for school wearing their full school uniform correctly and is fully equipped for learning

> Contacting the school before 8.00am on the first day of absence and each subsequent day of absence

> Supplying medical evidence if their child is absent for more then 3 days (NB: If medical evidence is not supplied beyond 3 days, the absence will be deemed unauthorised)

> Working in partnership with the school to overcome barriers to school attendance. This may involve a multiagency approach

> Supplying at least 2 accurate and up to date named contacts (with accurate phone numbers) for school liaison

> Avoiding making medical (or other) appointments during the school day. If this is unavoidable, medical evidence will be required.

## 4. Recording attendance

### 4.1 Attendance register

We will keep an attendance register on SIMS, and place all students onto this register.

We will take our attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session. It will mark whether every student is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent (relevant absence code to be issued)
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

*Appendix 1: Attendance Codes.

We will keep every entry on the attendance register for 3 years after the date on which the entry was made.

Students must arrive in school before 8.25am on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 8.30am. The register for the second session will be taken at the start of period 4.

## 4.2 Unplanned absence

The student's parent/carer must notify the school on the first day of an unplanned absence by 8.00am or as soon as practically possible.

Parents and carers should notify the school of all unplanned absences by calling 01942 909009 (option 1). There is a facility to leave a voicemail 24hrs per day. Parents must state the full name and year group of their child and the reason for absence.

We will mark absence due to illness as authorised unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.

At times, the attendance team may need to contact home to clarify the reasons for absence. If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, we may ask the student's parent/carer to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily.

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

## 4.3 Planned absence

Parents and carers aim to schedule medical and dental appointments beyond the school day in order to minimise lost learning time.

If this is unavoidable, attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised as long as the student's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment and provide medical evidence of the appointment. Where this is not possible, the student should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

Parents and carers should notify the school of all planned absences by calling 01942 909009 (option 1). There is a facility to leave a voicemail 24hrs per day. Parents must state the full name and year group of their child and the reason for planned absence.

The student's parent/carer must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence.

*Appendix 1: Attendance Codes

## 4.4 Lateness and punctuality

A student who arrives late:

> Before the register has closed will be marked as late, using the appropriate code. The minutes late will also be recorded. This is monitored by subject leads and pastoral managers and appropriate sanctions are issued

> After the register has closed will be marked as absent, using the appropriate code. This is monitored by the attendance team.

Students who are persistently late will be issued with an appropriate sanction and parents will be notified and expected to support the school.

## 4.5 Following up absence

Where any child we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, the school will follow up on their absence with their parent/carer to ascertain the reason. In addition to this, the school will:

> Send an automated text each morning to inform parents of unexpected absences

> Ensure appropriate safeguarding action is taken where necessary. This may include measures such as home visits and/or liaising with safeguarding partners (e.g. Children's Social Care and/or the Police)

> Identify whether the absence is approved or not

> Identify the correct attendance code to use

## 4.6 Reporting to parents and carers

Parents and carers will receive a termly letter regarding their child's attendance. Within this written communication, parents will also receive guidance on how to improve their child's attendance and useful information regarding links between attendance and student outcomes.

In addition to the termly communication, Parents and carers will also be contacted if:

- A pattern of absence is identified

- Student attendance is declining and becoming a concern

- Student punctuality is declining and becoming a concern

- A student has been absent without an appropriate reason

- An attendance issue needs further intervention from the local authority and/or an external agency

# 5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

## 5.1 Approval for term-time absence

The headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to students during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher's discretion following a discussion with the attendance team. If a parent or carer intends to request an authorised leave of absence, they should do so in writing, at least 7 days in advance and addressed to the headteacher.

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

Valid reasons for **authorised absence** include:

> Illness and unavoidable medical/dental appointments (see sections 4.2 and 4.3 for more detail)

> Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the student's parents belong.  If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parents' religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart

> Traveller students travelling for occupational purposes – Absence may be authorised only when a Traveller family is known to be travelling for occupational purposes and has agreed this with the school and other outside agencies.

## 5.2 Reducing persistent absence

Persistent absence is defined as:

> Any student who has 3 days absence or 6 sessions in a 30 day period

> Any student who has 19 days absence or 38 sessions in an academic school year

> Any student who has below 90% attendance

Working in partnership with students, parents/carers and external agencies, we aim for all students to have excellent attendance and avoid persistent absence.

To do this, a range of measures and interventions will be considered. These include:

> Universal offer of attendance education, advice guidance and support

> The delivery of clear messages about expectations, routines and consequences to new and existing students and families through admission/transition events and our regular channels of communication

> Rewards for attendance and punctuality and sanctions for absence and lateness

> Regular whole school data monitoring to identify reasons for absence, patterns, attendance of particular groups and the impact of interventions

> Robust arrangements to identify, report and support children missing education (CME)

> Effective support for children with medical conditions (including the use of individual healthcare plans), mental health problems and special educational needs (SEND)

Where attendance concerns have been identified and/or a student is at risk of persistent absence, escalation procedures will be initiated. These may include:

> Written communication with parents and carers

> Attendance review meetings with students and parents

> Attendance action plans and/or contracts

> Attendance panel meetings with senior leaders and the governing board

> Support under the Early Help Framework where appropriate

> Liaison with external agencies, including the local authority attendance teams, alternative provisions and/or safeguarding partners

> Use of fixed penalty notices

## 5.3 Legal sanctions

The school or local authority can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age.

If issued with a fine, or penalty notice, each parent must pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority.

Penalty notices can be issued by a headteacher, local authority officer or the police.

The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice may consider:

> The number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year

> One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission

> Where an excluded student is found in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason

If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice.

## 5.4 Children Missing in Education (CME)

**Responsibilities for Children Missing from Education (CME):**

The school will enter students on the admission register at the beginning of the first day on which the setting has agreed, or been notified, that the student will attend. If a student fails to attend on the agreed or notified date, the education setting should undertake reasonable enquiries to establish the child's whereabouts and consider notifying the local authority at the earliest opportunity

The school will monitor students' attendance through their daily register. We agree to inform local authorities of the details of students who fail to attend regularly, or have missed ten school days or more without permission. We will monitor attendance closely and address poor or irregular attendance.

The Local Authority must also arrange full-time education for excluded students from the sixth school day of a fixed period exclusion. This information can be found in the *Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and student referral units in England* statutory guidance.

As part of our duty, we will investigate any unexplained absences. Further information about schools' safeguarding responsibilities can be found in the Keeping Children Safe in Education.

The school will make reasonable enquiries for children missing in education. The term 'reasonable enquiries' grants schools and local authorities a degree of flexibility in decision-making, particularly as the steps that need to be taken in a given case will vary. The term 'reasonable' also makes clear that there is a limit to what the school and local authority is expected to do.

In line with the duty under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, the expectation is that the school and the local authority will have in place procedures designed to carry out reasonable enquiries. The type of procedures may include the appropriate person checking with relatives, neighbours, landlords – private or social housing providers – and other local stakeholders who are involved. We also record that we have completed these procedures. If there is reason to believe a young person is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, a referral will be made to children's social care (and the police if appropriate).

**Staff have a responsibility to report immediately to the DSL, if they know of any child who may be:**

- Missing – whereabouts unknown and unable to make contact (as a result of making reasonable enquiries)
- Missing education – (compulsory school age (5-16) with no school place and not electively home educated)

The Local Authority requires Education Settings to complete the **'Children Missing Education'** referral form. (Appendix 7) This form should be completed once the setting has completed reasonable enquires, but failed to locate the child following 10 days of absence. The first part should be completed by school and submitted to the Children in Need Duty Team CINdutyteam@wigan.gov.uk. Further check will be completed to ensure all lines of enquiry have been exhausted, before it is agreed the child is removed from roll.

Making these enquiries may not always lead to establishing the location of the child, but will provide a steer on what action should be taken next, for example, to contact the police, children's social care and, in cases where there may be concerns for the safety of a child who has travelled abroad, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Where a student has not returned to school for ten days after an authorised absence, or is absent from school without authorisation for twenty consecutive school days they can only be removed from the admission register under regulation 8(1), sub-paragraph (f)(iii) or (h)(iii) if the school and the local authority have failed to establish the student's whereabouts after **jointly** making reasonable enquiries. Local authorities and

education settings should agree roles and responsibilities locally in relation to making joint enquiries. This only applies if the setting does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the student is unable to attend because of sickness or unavoidable cause.

# 6. Strategies for promoting attendance

A range of strategies are employed to promote excellent attendance. These include:

> High expectations for excellent attendance – shared with students, families and staff

> Regular communication with students and families regarding the importance of excellent attendance, linked to student outcomes and career pathways

> Attendance education through form time activities and the assembly programme

> Personal action plans and regular reviews

> Attendance incentives and rewards

> Communication with external agencies, including the local authority and safeguarding partners

# 7. Attendance monitoring

The attendance team office monitor student absence on a daily basis and appropriate action is taken.

A student's parent/carer is expected to call the school before 8.00am if their child is going to be absent due to ill health (see section 4.2).

The parent/carer is expected to call the school each subsequent day their child is ill. This call should also be completed before 8.00am.

If a student's absence goes above 3 days, the school will contact the parent/carer of the student to discuss the reasons for this and support the student's return to school.

If a student's absence continues to rise after contacting their parent/carer, we will consider additional measures to support the student to return to school.

Student-level absence data will be collected each term and published at national and local authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases. The underlying school-level absence data is published alongside the national statistics. The school will compare attendance data to the national average, and share this with the governing board.

The school monitors and stores attendance data using SIMS. This data is used for internal purposes. For example, to:

> Track the attendance of individual students

> Identify whether or not there are particular groups of children whose absences may be a cause for concern

> Monitor and evaluate those children identified as needing intervention and support

> Monitor whole school trends over time

## 8. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority or DfE is updated, and as a minimum annually by **Rebecca Ramsden (AHT).** At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body.

# 9. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

› Safeguarding, Child Protection and Early Help Policy

› Behaviour policy

## Appendix 1: attendance codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's guidance on school attendance.

| Code | Definition | Scenario |
|---|---|---|
| **/** | Present (am) | Student is present at morning registration |
| **\\** | Present (pm) | Student is present at afternoon registration |
| **L** | Late arrival | Student arrives late before register has closed |
| **B** | Off-site educational activity | Student is at a supervised off-site educational activity approved by the school |
| **D** | Dual registered | Student is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered |
| **J** | Interview | Student has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment |
| **P** | Sporting activity | Student is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school |
| **V** | Educational trip or visit | Student is on an educational visit/trip organised, or approved, by the school |
| **W** | Work experience | Student is on a work experience placement |

| Code | Definition | Scenario |
|---|---|---|
| **Authorised absence** | | |
| **C** | Authorised leave of absence | Student has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances |
| **E** | Excluded | Student has been excluded but no alternative provision has been made |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **H** | Authorised holiday | Student has been allowed to go on holiday due to exceptional circumstances |
| **I** | Illness | School has been notified that a student will be absent due to illness |
| **M** | Medical/dental appointment | Student is at a medical or dental appointment |
| **R** | Religious observance | Student is taking part in a day of religious observance |
| **S** | Study leave | Year 11 student is on study leave during their public examinations |
| **T** | Gypsy, Roma and Traveller absence | Student from a Traveller community is travelling, as agreed with the school |
| **Unauthorised absence** | | |
| **G** | Unauthorised holiday | Student is on a holiday that was not approved by the school |
| **N** | Reason not provided | Student is absent for an unknown reason (this code should be amended when the reason emerges, or replaced with code O if no reason for absence has been provided after a reasonable amount of time) |
| **O** | Unauthorised absence | School is not satisfied with reason for student's absence |
| **U** | Arrival after registration | Student arrived at school after the register closed |

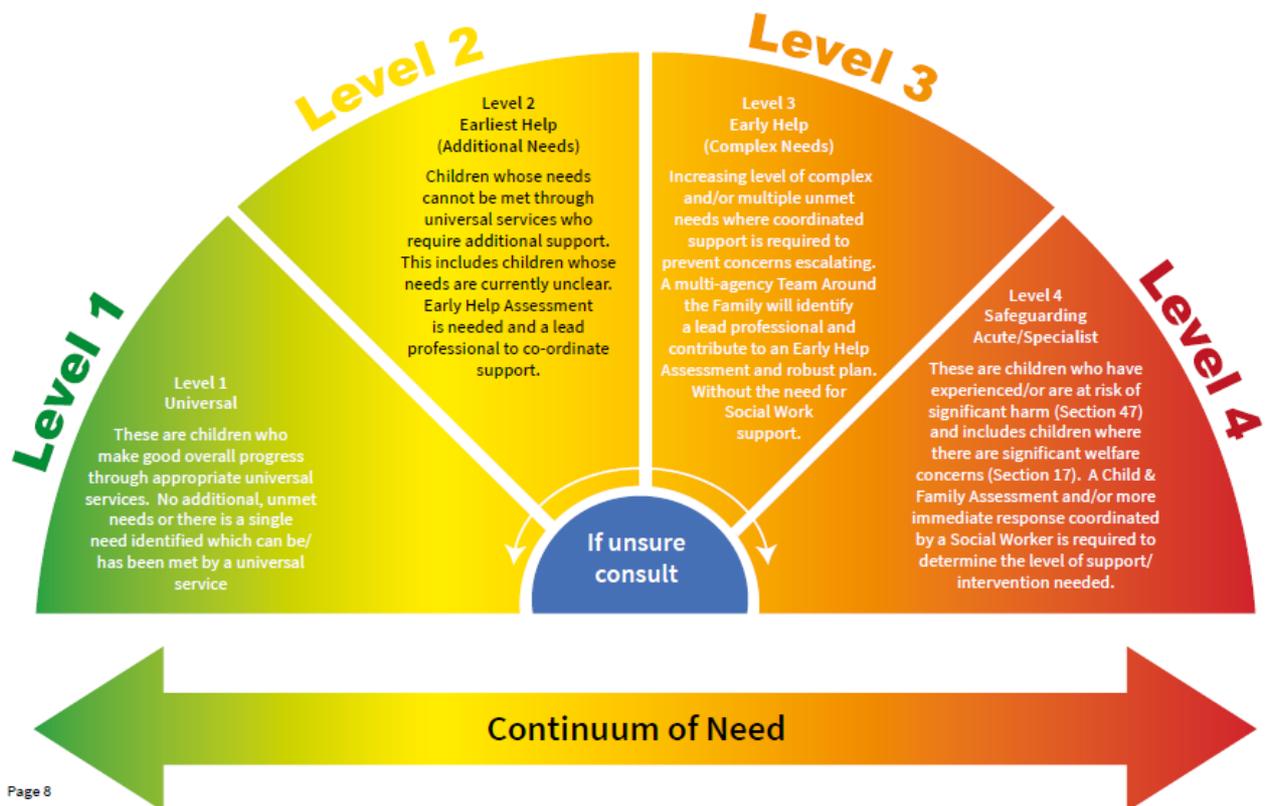| Code | Definition | Scenario |
|---|---|---|
| **X** | Not required to be in school | Student of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend |
| **Y** | Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances | School site is closed, there is disruption to travel as a result of a local/national emergency, or student is in custody |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Z** | Student not on admission register | Register set up but student has not yet joined the school |
| **#** | Planned school closure | Whole or partial school closure due to half-term/bank holiday/INSET day |

## Appendix 2: Threshold of Need



Please note that Universal Services are available to families at any stage on the Continuum of Need Framework and that successful partnership working is facilitated by effective information sharing and transparent communication.

The model on this page is known as the 'windscreen' and provides a visual explanation of the Continuum of Need.

**Level 2**

**Level 2**
**Earliest Help**
**(Additional Needs)**

Children whose needs cannot be met through universal services who require additional support. This includes children whose needs are currently unclear. Early Help Assessment is needed and a lead professional to co-ordinate support.

**Level 3**

**Level 3**
**Early Help**
**(Complex Needs)**

Increasing level of complex and/or multiple unmet needs where coordinated support is required to prevent concerns escalating. A multi-agency Team Around the Family will identify a lead professional and contribute to an Early Help Assessment and robust plan. Without the need for Social Work support.

**Level 1**

**Level 1**
**Universal**

These are children who make good overall progress through appropriate universal services. No additional, unmet needs or there is a single need identified which can be/ has been met by a universal service

**Level 4**

**Level 4**
**Safeguarding**
**Acute/Specialist**

These are children who have experienced/or are at risk of significant harm (Section 47) and includes children where there are significant welfare concerns (Section 17). A Child & Family Assessment and/or more immediate response coordinated by a Social Worker is required to determine the level of support/ intervention needed.

**If unsure consult**

**Continuum of Need**

Page 8

## Appendix 3: Student Responsibilities & Attendance Action Planning

Add Spirit action plan

## Appendix 4: Parent Communication Example (not exhaustive)

13

Dear Parent/Carer

Bedford High School re-opened to all students on Monday 8th March 2021. Government guidance to schools and Local Authorities was that all children and young people should resume full time attendance at school.

The information we are providing relates to your child's school attendance since the school re-opened on 8th March. Please refer to the guidance table below. If your child's attendance falls into the Amber or Red category, this would be highlighted as a cause for concern.

Your child's attendance percentage from the 8th March is _____, we would like to discuss this with your child and if you feel this is a cause for concern please contact your child's Pastoral Manager to arrange a telephone conversation or meeting at school.

**Please be aware that any absence related to <u>positive cases</u> will be recorded as illness and will affect your child's overall attendance record, this is in line with DfE guidance but this will not prevent your child from receiving any attendance rewards they may otherwise be eligible for. All other absences related to Covid isolation does not affect your child's overall attendance record, this absence is marked as X in the registers which means 'no requirement to attend'.**

| Category | Attendance | Explanation |
|---|---|---|
| **RED** | 92.9% or less | <ul><li>Your child's attendance is of grave concern.</li><li>Your child will have missed valuable time in school and may not be reaching their potential.</li><li>Where medical intervention/reason explains an absence, attendance will be monitored closely post recovery.</li><li>You will be contacted by your child's Pastoral Manager or the Attendance manager to discuss an action plan to improve attendance.</li><li>The Local Authority Attendance Officer may be involved and in the case of no engagement this will be escalated to the Attendance Enforcement Team</li></ul> |
| **AMBER** | 93-95.99 % | <ul><li>Your child's attendance is being closely monitored.</li><li>You should consider contacting us to discuss your child's attendance.</li><li>You should take steps to reduce any further absence which could put your child into the Red category</li></ul> |
| | | <ul><li>Your child's attendance is not a cause for concern - we aim for all</li></ul> |

| GREEN | 96% or above | pupils' attendance to fall in to this category. |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | | • Your child should be making good progress |
| | | • Your child's good attendance should be celebrated and rewarded. |
| | | • Pupils with 100% attendance, for a given half term, will be rewarded for their achievement. |

**Appendix 5**

Wigan Council

## CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION REFERRAL & CHECKLIST
## April 2020 v3

As outlined in the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Children Missing from Education' are children of compulsory school age who are not a registered pupil at a school or are not receiving suitable education other if they are not registered at a school.

Where a pupil has not returned to school for ten days without authorisation the school and the local authority have a responsibility to jointly make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child. The appropriate completion of this checklist ensures that the Local Authority and school have fulfilled this responsibility.

It is school's responsibility to follow up all unexplained and unexpected absences in a timely manner and every effort should be made to establish the reason for a pupil's absence. If you require advice and guidance please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Team on 01942 828300.

It is important that one checklist is completed for each child within the family, please do not include all children on one.

During the first 10 days of absence (reason unknown), school must complete this referral form and checklist. Once completed if the child's whereabouts remains unknown, please make a referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Team CINdutyteam@wigan.gov.uk within 5 days or earlier if all checks have been completed.

**At any point if you feel a child is at risk of significant harm, FGM, human trafficking or sexual exploitation refer immediately to social care please contact 01942 828300**

Please note that if the child is residing or located in the Wigan Borough, they are not a CME and should not be removed from school roll. Policies in relation to school attendance should be followed in these cases.

## CHILD'S INFORMATION:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Child's Name: | | DOB: |
| Child's Address: | | |
| Previous Address: (if known) | | |
| School: | | |
| Parent/carer's names: | | |
| Parent/carer's address: | | |
| Contact names & numbers: (include emergency) | | |
| Any known siblings & school: | | |
| Reason for CME checks: | | |
| Any other agencies involved: | | |
| Known vulnerability/risk factors<br>Do you feel this child is at risk of harm or neglect **Y/N** please provide detail: | | |
| Is this child Gypsy Roma Traveller? **Y/N** | | |
| Is this child parents service personnel? **Y/N** | | |
| Has this child had any Missing from home episodes? **Y/N** | | |
| Is this child known to the Youth Justice System? **Y/N** | | |
| Does this child have any SEN/learning needs? **Y/N** | | |
| Are there any other vulnerabilities you are aware of? Please provide detail; | | |
| Date: | | |

**All boxes must be completed, of not relevant please enter N/A**

## CHECKLIST:

| School checklist | Dates/ Times | Outcomes | Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| School to attempt to contact parent on first day of absence.<br><br>This includes Truancy Call, First Day calling, Text, Email, all emergency contacts. Please detail all contact methods - whether a message was left, if the phone is working, is there an international dialling tone. | | | |
| School to check possible whereabouts with staff and pupils?<br><br>This should include checking with family friends, all staff members, the child's friends, social media Contact all emergency contact numbers you hold in school. | | | |
| Visit to address(es) by school.<br><br>Leave card if no answer Does the property look empty? Is someone at home but not answering the door? NB if school policy does not permit home visit a police welfare check to be requested | | | |
| Contact made with involved agencies within 5 working days (Social Care, EMAS team, School Nurse etc) | | | |
| Contact made with agencies to understand when they last had contact/saw the child (no consent needed) - Social care - school nurse (when did health have any contact with the child) | | | |
| School to contact the new school or Local Authority the child is believed to have moved to? What were the outcomes? https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council | | | |
| NB – Has the child been seen? State when & by whom If not seen, what further action has been taken? (Refer to CME Policy Doc for advice) | | | |

**ALL BOXES MUST BE COMPLETED, IF NOT RELEVANT PLEASE ENTER N/A**

Please submit this referral to
[CINdutyteam@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:CINdutyteam@wigan.gov.uk)

Contact the MAST team on 01942 828300 for any further advice.