

Create Partnership Trust

Creating futures

Attendance Policy

A policy for all stakeholders

May 2019

Responsibility for this policy

Responsibility for monitoring/evaluation:

Date of next review:

Links to other policies and key documents:

Board of Directors (Trustees)

CEO/EHT and Headteachers

July 2021 or earlier if required

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Home School Agreement, Anti-bullying Policy, Exclusions Policy, Managing Children with Allergies Policy, Medication Policy.

Creating futures through our shared values of excellence, partnership and perseverance



In this policy:

- Create Partnership Trust is referred to as the Trust
- The Board of Directors (Trustees) is referred to as the Board
- Children refers to pupils in our Trust schools

The policy applies to all schools in the Trust.

Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) Article 28

“You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.”

1. RATIONALE

This Attendance Policy has been written to reflect the laws and guidance produced by the Department for Education (DfE) (appendix 1). Across the Trust, we are committed to providing a welcoming, inclusive environment where all children can thrive and fulfil their full potential. In order to do this, pupils need to achieve a high level of attendance as missing out on lessons may leave them vulnerable to falling behind. We consistently work towards a goal of 100% with a minimum expectation of 96% attendance for all pupils. We recognise our duty of care to all pupils and the strong links that this policy has to Safeguarding.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Overall aims

- Promote achievement for all
- Promote good attendance, reduce absence, including persistent absence.
- Ensure pupils have access to the full-time education to which they are entitled.
- Act early to address patterns of absence.
- Encourage parents to perform their legal duty, by ensuring that children of compulsory school age, who are registered at school, attend regularly.
- Instil good attendance in children of non-statutory school age to ensure this behaviour is embedded from an early age and consistent throughout their school life.

Across the Trust we analyse the attendance data and set targets for improvement. These reflect both national and local attendance targets. These targets are regularly shared with the school community through newsletters, the schools' websites and assemblies.

2.2 Our key objectives

Our Trust has four key objectives, all of which relate directly or indirectly to attendance:



GROW: a business growth model – which includes a range of schools so that all feel supported and challenged, can grow professionally and make outstanding progress

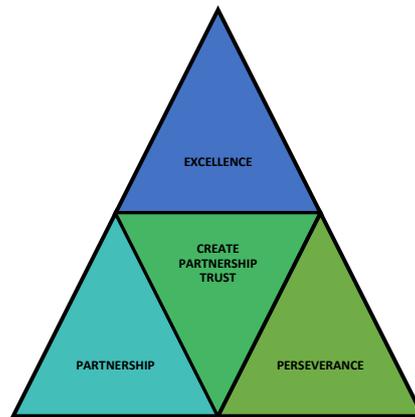
IMPROVE: school improvement – a model with clear accountability structures, using our collective strengths to demonstrate consistently high performance in terms of leadership, teaching, curriculum and assessment

SUPPORT: earlier intervention and improved transition – *meeting the needs of children so that barriers to learning are quickly identified and removed as soon as possible, especially for the most vulnerable children and their families*

LEAD: Staff recruitment, retention, leadership development and succession planning – *providing a strategic approach which invests in the staff, building their skills so that they, the schools and the Trust strengthen.*

2.3 Our Trust values

We have recently revisited our values in the light of our first year as a MAT: excellence, partnership and perseverance.



3. KEY PROCESSES

The register is taken at the start of the morning and afternoon session of each school day. On each occasion a record is made of whether a pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved educational activity
- Absent due to authorised or unauthorised reasons
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

The schools follow up any unexplained absence to:

- Ascertain the reason.
- Ensure appropriate safeguarding action is taken.
- Identify whether the absence is authorised or not.
- Identify the correct code to use before entering it on to the schools' electronic register, or management information system.

Only the Headteachers, Executive Headteacher or a member of staff acting on their behalf can authorise absences. If there is no known reason for the absence, then the absence must be recorded, in the first instance, as unauthorised.

A whole school attendance letter signed by the Headteacher is sent to all parents at the start of each school year to inform them about the Fast track process. ([appendix 6](#))

4. UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Unauthorised absence is where a school is not satisfied with the reasons given for the absence. Examples of unauthorised absence can be found in [appendix 2](#).

Occasionally if a pupil has a high level of absence (often recorded as illness) where internal monitoring and review meetings have not been effective at improving a pupil's rate of attendance, parents may be asked to provide medical proof of any absences in order for the school to authorise them. ([appendix 8](#))

5. AUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Authorised absences are permitted by the school and include:

- **Illness:** The Trust has a 48hr policy for Sickness and Diarrhoea when parents are expected to keep their child off school to prevent the spread of any infection. An NHS fact sheet is sent to parents giving advice about when to keep children at home. ([appendix 5](#))
- Hospital, doctors, dentists or optician's appointments. (Appointment time and travel time only). Although parents may offer a reason for a child's absence, it is the responsibility of the school to decide whether the absence is authorised.

Children must be in school before and return to school soon after their appointment. Evidence must be provided for each individual medical appointments in the form of an appointment letter, doctor's note, or prescription for any medications received. Proof of evidence must be one appointment per card. Doctors are not to be asked for appointment letters as proof.

Where possible, parents are encouraged to make appointments after school or during the holidays.

6. ABSENCE NOTES

Notes received from parents explaining a pupil's absence are logged by the attendance manager and are kept for the academic year. If there are attendance issues concerning a particular pupil that may require further investigation, these notes may be retained for a longer period.

7. FIRST DAY ABSENCE CALL

On the first day of absence, parents/carers are asked to contact the school to provide a reason for their child's non-attendance. The school can be contacted by phone, written note, letter or email through ParentMail. Parents are expected to indicate the reason for absence and to give an indication of the amount of time to be taken off school. Once the school has been informed of the child's absence, a subsequent phone call is made on the third day of absence to establish when the child will return to school. If school has not been made aware of the reason for a child's absence, a first day absence call is made by a member of the Attendance Team to establish contact. School makes every effort to contact the parents calling relatives, neighbours, the schools of siblings etc. to establish the whereabouts of the absent pupil and to ensure their safety. If school has been unable to contact parents by the end of the first day, a home visit is made by members of the Attendance Team.

If school is unable to contact parents and there are concerns about safeguarding, the school contacts the Children Missing in Education (CME) which is part of the Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH) at any point in this process to ensure the safety of the child.

8. FIVE DAYS ABSENCE

School makes every effort to make contact with parents about the whereabouts of the child by telephone calls and/or home visits etc. to family members. Once school has exhausted their investigations it is a requirement by Birmingham City Council that any pupil who is absent from school, without an explanation, for 5 consecutive days is reported to the Children missing in Education Team (CME), although this is often sooner if school has concerns. Parents receive notification of this by letter.

9. FREQUENT ABSENCE

Frequent Absence often means a child's attendance is below the expected figure of 96% but above the Persistent Absence (PA) figure of 90%. It is the responsibility of all staff to bring to the attention of the attendance team, any emerging punctuality or attendance issues. Parents are notified by letter about the school's concerns and support is offered. In cases where no improvement is seen, a meeting takes place with a member of the attendance team. In cases where a pupil begins to develop a pattern of absence, the school attempts to resolve the problem through meetings with the parents and child. Children who are developing worrying trends in attendance may be placed on the vulnerable children list and the 'Signs of Safety and Well-being Three Houses form' completed which ensures that the voice of the child is heard. One of three actions is undertaken:

- initiate simple reasonable adjustments to address the child's unmet safeguarding needs
- develop a school focused action plan with the child, Parent /carer as appropriate
- initiate a multi-agency Early Help Assessment (EHA) & Our Family Plan (OFP)

Internal monitoring takes place which may include attendance report cards for the child alongside rewards for improvement and regular contact meetings with a member of staff.

If the problem appears to be a medical one, the school seeks advice from the school nurse. Absences which cannot be evidenced are registered as unauthorised.

If, after conversation with the child, a serious safeguarding concern is indicated, school follows the child protection procedures as indicated in 'Right Help, Right Time'.

10. PERSISTENT ABSENCE (PA)

Persistent Absence is a term used for children who have attendance of 90% and less. A member of the attendance team meets with the parents and a School Attendance Review Meeting (SARM) is held to agree an Attendance Agreement Plan (AAP) ([appendix 9](#)). The Three Houses activity is carried out with PA children as part of the SARM process to ensure parents know and understand their responsibilities and are working with the school to improve their child's attendance. PA children are discussed at Safeguarding Panel Meetings and The Early Help process followed.

Absences which cannot be evidenced are registered as unauthorised. If there is no improvement, then FastTrack is actioned.

11. FAST-TRACK ON ATTENDANCE

In extreme cases if a pupil has an attendance of less than 90% where 10 days or more have been unauthorised and the SARM has not had a positive impact, a process called 'FAST-track' may be started to address these persistent unauthorised absences. As part of safeguarding it is the duty of each school to investigate pupils' absences.

FAST-track is a process designed to raise individual and whole school attendance by the use of legal action which ensures parents/carers fulfil their legal responsibilities. It is a process whereby parents are given a time frame in which to improve their child's attendance or legal action is initiated by the school and undertaken by Birmingham City Council. FAST-track challenges the notion that unauthorised absence is acceptable. It raises the awareness of parents, pupils and the community of the importance of school attendance and the negative impact of absence. It also demonstrates the ability of the Local Authority to use statutory powers to bring about change. FAST-track utilises section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 and the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2007.

12. LEAVE DURING TERM TIME

Holidays during term time are actively discouraged. In accordance with the guidelines from Birmingham City Council, the Trust does not authorise any absence during term time for extra holiday and parents are reminded of the negative effect that absence during term time can have on a pupil's potential achievement. If parents choose to take their child out of school for an extended period they must make a request for the leave of absence informing the school of the dates of travel, providing proof of booking date, date of departure and return flight details and an address and telephone number covering the period of absence from school. Parents are encouraged to minimise the disruption to their child's education by not bridging the school terms. Parents meet with a member of the attendance team to discuss the detrimental effects term time absence has on both a child's learning and social interaction within the classroom and with peers and they sign a home school agreement on when the child will return to school.

Where a child disappears on holiday without informing the Headteacher, the school carries out necessary investigations into their whereabouts. If this cannot be ascertained, letters are sent to parents regarding the leave denied process ([appendix 12/13](#)) and a referral is made to the CME. If a child has been taken out of school on holiday, parents may be prosecuted. ([appendix 1](#))

Absence is only authorised in the most exceptional circumstances. If parents request permission to take their child out of school during term time, where there are exceptional circumstances, a meeting is held with a member of the attendance team and an application form completed at least two weeks before they are due to depart. Parents must contact the school and allow the school time to consider an application before booking flights or leaving the country, even when unforeseen events occur (e.g. family bereavement).

Headteachers may, on rare occasions, judge that there are genuine and exceptional circumstances pertaining to an application to take a pupil out of school during term. A meeting is held with the Headteacher to discuss the application and the reason for the request for absence from school. Headteachers consider each application on its merit.

Examples of exceptional circumstances could include:

- death of child's parent/carer or sibling of the pupil
- life threatening or critical illness of parent or sibling of the pupil
- parent/carer recuperation and convalescence from critical illness or surgery (leave request to be made within 6 months of recovery and medical evidence required)
- leave for armed forces personnel who are prevented by operational duties to take their leave at any other time
- leave of absence already granted by a previous school or local authority (granted within the last six months and supported by documentation from the previous school)

If absence is authorised during term time, the Headteacher determines the number of school days a child can be away from school up to 5 school days. Headteachers are within their rights to turn down such applications and refuse authorisation for parents/carers to take their child out of school during term time.

Family emergencies need careful consideration. It is not always in the best interests of the pupil nor appropriate for them to miss school for family emergencies that are being dealt with by adult family members. School and school relationships can provide pupils with stability and care during difficult times.

All procedures to do with term time holidays are formalised with standard letters. ([appendix 12/13](#)). The local authority reserves the right, in line with the Birmingham Code of Conduct, to consider issuing a penalty notice where parents remove their children from school during term time without the authorisation of the Headteacher. Any child not returning from absence is referred to the CME before removal from the school roll.

If a school is concerned that a child may be being taken out of school for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) procedures, the school follows the guidelines set out in the Safeguarding policy. The Headteacher may use the information to seek advice from CASS about a referral to children's services.

13. PUNCTUALITY

Pupils are encouraged to be on the school site 10 minutes before the start of the session ready for morning and afternoon registration. Any pupils arriving after the register has been taken are recorded as late and are registered with a late slip. Morning and afternoon registers close up to 30 minutes after the start of each session. Pupils arriving after this time are recorded as having an unauthorised absence and are recorded in the register with a code U ([appendix 3](#)).

In cases where a pupil arrives after registers have closed but with a valid reason e.g. an appointment with the doctor, dentist or hospital then the school enters the appropriate authorised code. Parents are required to provide written proof of such appointments.

Late pupils report to the school office to be registered and to receive a late slip which is passed to the class teacher on arrival in class. They are recorded as late.

If a child is late to school more than 7 times, a letter ([appendix 14](#)) is sent to parents informing them about their child's poor punctuality and the need to improve. Further lateness is monitored and if no improvement is seen, a member of the attendance team meets with the parents to offer help to improve punctuality and to make it clear about the negative impact on their child's education.

14. PROMOTING ATTENDANCE

The school uses opportunities to remind parents/carers, that it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their child receives an education ([appendix 4](#)). This also forms part of the Home School Agreement. Classes with the best attendance and punctuality are rewarded in weekly school assemblies. Pupils with good attendance and those whose attendance and punctuality has improved receive certificates and rewards. Attendance figures are shared regularly with staff, pupils, parents and the Trust through newsletters and reports.

APPENDIX 1: The Law

The Education Act 1996 Part 1, Section 7 states that:

The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full time education suitable-

- a) to his age, ability and aptitude and
- b) to any special needs he may have either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

For educational purposes the term parent is used to include those that have parental responsibility and/or those that have the day to day care of the child.

The legislation that appertains to children who are of compulsory school age and are registered at school is contained within this Act.

Part VI Section 444 contains details of when an offence is committed if a child fails to attend school.

Register and Admission Roll keeping

The legal requirements are found in:

The Education [Pupil Registration] (England) Regulations 2006

APPENDIX 2: Categorisation of absence

Any pupil who is on roll, but not present in the school must be recorded within one of the following categories:

1. Unauthorised Absence
2. Authorised Absence
3. Approved Educational Activity

1. Unauthorised Absence

This is for those pupils where no reason has been provided, or whose absence is deemed to be without valid reason. Examples of unauthorised absences include:

- going shopping
- looking after other family members
- visiting relatives
- the weather
- children or parents getting up late
- children do not feel like coming to school
- another sibling is unwell
- collecting relatives from the airport
- holidays during term time

2. Authorised Absence

This is for those pupils who are absent from school for a reason that is deemed to be valid under the Education Act of 1996

3. Persistent Absence

Persistent Absence is a term used for children who have attendance of 90% and less. Parents are contacted to ensure they know and understand their responsibilities and an action plan is written to improve the attendance. This is monitored by the school. If there is no improvement, then FastTrack is actioned.

4. Approved Educational Activity

This includes types of supervised educational activity undertaken off site but with the approval of the school.

NB Pupils recorded in this category are deemed to be present for attendance returns purposes.

This might include:

- educational visits
- sporting activities
- most types of dual registration
- work experience placements

APPENDIX 3: Attendance codes

The school uses a computer system for keeping the school attendance records. The following national codes are used to record attendance information Code	Description	Meaning
/	Present am	Present
\	Present pm	Present
B	Educated off site (NOT dual registration)	Approved Education activity
C	Other authorised Circumstances (not covered by other appropriate code/description)	Authorised absence
D	Dual registration (i.e. pupil attending other establishment)	Approved Education activity
E	Excluded (no alternative provision made)	Authorised absence
G	Family holiday (not agreed or days in excess of agreement)	Unauthorised absence
H	Family holiday (agreed)	Authorised absence
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointments)	Authorised absence
J	Interview	Approved Education activity
L	Late (before registers closed)	Present
M	Medical/Dental appointments	Authorised absence
N	No reason yet provided for absence	Unauthorised absence
O	Unauthorised absence (not covered by any other code/description)	Unauthorised absence
P	Approved sporting activity	Approved Education activity
R	Religious observance	Authorised absence
S	Study leave	Authorised absence
T	Traveller absence	Authorised absence
U	Late (after registers closed)	Unauthorised absence
V	Educational visit or trip	Approved Education activity

W	Work experience	Approved Education activity
X	Un-timetabled sessions for non-compulsory school-age pupils	Not counted in possible attendances
Y	Enforced and partial enforced closure	Not counted in possible attendances
Z	Pupil not yet on roll	Not counted in possible attendances
#	School closed to pupils	Not counted in possible attendances

APPENDIX 4: Roles and responsibilities

Pupils are expected to:

- attend school every day.
- be punctual
- be ready to learn

Parents/Carers are expected to:

- ensure their child attends school regularly.
- be aware of their legal responsibilities in relation to their child's education and attendance.
- ensure they contact school on the first day of absence.
- inform the learning mentor if there are problems/worries that are causing their child to stay away from school.

School is expected to:

- provide a welcoming atmosphere and a safe learning environment.
- address any concerns that pupils or parents/carers may highlight pertaining to attendance.
- keep accurate records of morning and afternoon registration.
- monitor each child's attendance and punctuality.
- make first day absence calls when a child has failed to attend and no reason has been given by parent/carer.
- make home visits on the first day of absence if parents/carers have failed to make contact with the school in that time.
- promote good attendance through assemblies and focus weeks.
- encourage good attendance with certificates and rewards each term for individual pupils
- reward classes with the best attendance & punctuality each week. These achievements are announced in phase assemblies.
- acknowledge and reward pupils with 100% attendance for the academic year.
- meet with parents in school to discuss attendance concerns weekly and address any issues that may arise from that meeting.
- monitor individual pupils' attendance and punctuality.
- Enter into an Attendance Agreement Plan to evidence that parents are working with school to improve their child's Persistent Absence
- Liaise with the Court Officer from the Education Welfare department to monitor and improve the attendance of persistent absence pupils
- Action the FASTRACK and Extended Leave BCC procedures to address parents of pupils where there has been no improvement with persistent unauthorised absence.

Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.

But there are [government guidelines](#) for schools and nurseries that say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that they won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

Chickenpox

If your child has [chickenpox](#), keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.

This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a [cold sore](#).

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have [conjunctivitis](#).

Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

Ear infection

If your child has an [ear infection](#) and a fever or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their fever goes away.

Fever

If your child has a fever, keep them off school until the [fever](#) goes away.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has [hand, foot and mouth disease](#) but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.

See [how to get rid of them](#).

Impetigo

If your child has [impetigo](#), they'll need antibiotic treatment from the GP.

Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment.

Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share towels, cups and so on with other children at school.

Ringworm

If your child has [ringworm](#), see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see the GP.

It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

If your child has [scarlet fever](#), they'll need treatment with antibiotics from the GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [slapped cheek syndrome](#) because once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.

If you suspect your child has slapped cheek syndrome, take them to the GP and let their school know if they're diagnosed with it.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a [sore throat](#). But if they also have a fever, they should stay at home until it goes away.

Threadworms

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [threadworms](#).

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with [diarrhoea or vomiting](#) should stay away from school for 2 days after their symptoms have gone.

Page last reviewed: 13/02/2018

Next review due: 13/02/2020

APPENDIX 6 – Whole School Letter



**BROOKFIELDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Brookfields Primary School

2 Hingeston Street

Hockley

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B18 6PU

Tel: 0121 675 1897

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www.brookfields.bham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. S. Lees

School Attendance

A very important message for all Parents/Carers

Date

Dear Parent/Carer,

Brookfields Primary School is working in partnership with parents and the Local Authority to improve school attendance. **We would like to congratulate the many parents who make sure their children attend school regularly.**

Absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class. Are you aware that children who do not attend regularly:

- do not achieve well in exams
- find it difficult to maintain friendships
- are more likely to become involved in crime
- miss out on opportunities in further education and the world of work?

How does your child compare?

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

Absence can only be authorised by the Headteacher, within the boundaries set by the Education (Pupil Registrations) (England) Regulations 2006. **Headteachers may not authorise leave during term time except where the circumstances are exceptional.**

Please remember that parental illness, going shopping, visiting family, truancy, not wanting to go to school, alleged bullying (speak to school immediately to resolve the issue) family holidays (unless authorised by the Head teacher by pre-arrangement) are not acceptable reasons to be absent. All of these will be recorded as unauthorised absence, including if your child arrives at school after the close of registration.

Family emergencies need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Being at school with support from staff and peers can provide children with a safe and familiar background during times of uncertainty.

It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their children receive appropriate education. Failing to send your child to school regularly without good reason is a criminal offence.

Legal action that may be taken includes:

- **Issuing penalty notices:** Each parent receives a penalty notice for each child who has unauthorised absence. The penalty is £60 or £120 depending on how soon payment is made. So, if there are two parents and two children the total penalties could be up to £480. Failure to pay may result in prosecution.
- **Taking parents to court for unauthorised absence:** Education Act 1996 Section 444(1) - court can fine each parent up to £1000 per child, order payment of prosecution costs and/or impose a Parenting Order.
- **Taking parents to court for persistent unauthorised absence:** Education Act 1996 Section 444(1A) - court can fine each parent up to £2,500 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Parenting Order and/or sentence you to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months.

Being taken to court could result in you having a criminal record.

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

If your child's level of absence is of serious concern, the school will offer advice and support to improve attendance. After this, any unauthorised absence may result in the School and the Local Authority taking legal action.

If you have concerns about your child's school attendance please contact the school urgently. They may be able to assist you or even offer you an Early Help Assessment.

Again, we would like to thank those parents who make sure their child is attending school regularly and are therefore benefiting fully from their educational opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. Lees
Headteacher

APPENDIX 7 – Letter of Concern



**BROOKFIELDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Brookfields Primary School

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Tel: 0121 675 1897

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www.brookfields.bham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. S. Lees

Date

Name

Address

Dear Parent

Re: Child's full name, D.O.B. Year Group

I'm writing to you to express concern about «ChildFirstName» attendance in school. As you may be aware, it is the legal responsibility of parents to ensure children attend school regularly.

We work with parents to improve school attendance. Good attendance will mean that your child is able to achieve the best grades for their ability and have real opportunity in further education and the world of work.. Absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class. Children who do not attend regularly:

- do not achieve well in exams
- find it difficult to maintain friendships
- miss out on social events
- are more likely to become involved in crime

If you feel that your child has ongoing or unresolved medical issues you are advised to approach your doctor urgently and to inform the school. If there are other difficulties affecting your ability to ensure your child attends school regularly, which you may need support for, we may be able to help and offer an Early Help Assessment so please contact us urgently to arrange a meeting.

If you wish to discuss the contents of this letter or your child's attendance please contact the school. If you call and there is no one available, please leave a message and contact telephone number.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. Lees
Headteacher

APPENDIX 8 - Medical Evidence Letter



**BROOKFIELDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Brookfields Primary School
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Tel: 0121 675 1897
enquiry@brookfields.bham.sch.uk
www.brookfields.bham.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs. S. Lees

Date:
Name
Address

Dear (Parent's name)

Re:

Your child's poor attendance at school this year is causing serious concern as **he/she** has been absent for **number** of sessions out of a possible **number** of sessions and this will make it much harder for your child to achieve good results in their school work. **Most/All** of the absence has been due to illness or for medical reasons.

It has been decided that due to the high level of your child's absence, **the Headteacher will no longer authorise any absence for medical reasons unless supported by medical evidence.**

I have to advise you that we monitor all pupils with poor school attendance and will take action when absence is unauthorised; this may lead to prosecution.

Therefore, should your child have any further sessions of absence because of illness or medical reasons you are strongly advised to provide one of the following which may enable the Headteacher to authorise your child's absence:

- Medical appointment card with one appointment entered
- Letter from a professional such as a hospital Consultant or Psychologist
- Evidence of a consultation with NHS 111
- Medication prescribed by a GP
- Copy of prescription
- Print screen of medical notes
- Letters concerning hospital appointments
- Slip with date, pupils name and surgery stamp, signed by Receptionist

Doctors or GP 'sick' notes are not required. Please do not request these from your GP.

Please be aware that telephone calls and handwritten notes from a parent/carer are **not** acceptable as medical evidence when attendance is of serious concern.

I have to advise you as a parent/carer of a child of statutory school age, you have a legal responsibility to ensure full time education suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs the child may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise (Education Act 1996 Section 444).

We work with parents to improve school attendance. Good attendance will mean that your child is able to achieve the best grades for their ability and have real opportunity in further education and the world of work. Absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class. Children who do not attend regularly:

- do not achieve well in exams
- find it difficult to maintain friendships
- miss out on social events
- are more likely to become involved in crime

If you feel that your child has ongoing or unresolved medical issues you are advised to approach your doctor urgently.

If you have other concerns about your child or difficulties you may need support with, please contact the school who may be able to assist in the form of an Early Help Assessment.

If you wish to discuss the contents of this letter or your child's attendance please contact me. If you call and I am not available, please leave a message and contact telephone number.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. Lees
Headteacher

APPENDIX 9: SARM



**BROOKFIELDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Brookfields Primary School

2 Hingeston Street
Hockley

Birmingham
B18 6PU

Tel: 0121 675 1897

enquiry@brookfields.bham.sch.uk

www.brookfields.bham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. S. Lees

Date

Parent's name

Address

FAST-track to Attendance Invitation to a School Attendance Review Meeting

Dear (Parent's name)

Re: Child's full name - D.O.B. Yr group at Brookfields Primary

There have been continuing difficulties concerning the attendance of your (child's name) at Brookfields Primary.

To assist you, the school have tried to engage with you to offer additional support such as Early Help to improve «ChildFirstName»'s attendance and prevent the need for legal action.

In an attempt to resolve issues regarding attendance, a School Attendance Review Meeting has been arranged at **Brookfields Primary on appointment date and time.**

(Child's name) should be in school and can join us for the meeting. If (child's name) is not in school please bring (child's name) with you.

It is very important that you attend. Your co-operation is essential.

This meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss any matters of concern. If you now require Early Help, you must attend the meeting after which an assessment can be arranged.

Failure to attend this meeting and further unauthorised absence could result in you being prosecuted in court and/or a penalty notice being issued.

I have to advise you as a parent/carer of a child of statutory school age, you have a legal responsibility to ensure full time education suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs the child may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise (Section 444, Education Act 1996).

Please contact me urgently on the telephone number provided if you are unable to attend. If I am not available, please leave a message and contact telephone number.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. Lees



Headteacher

APPENDIX 10



**BROOKFIELDS
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Headteacher: Mrs. S. Lees

Date
Name
Address

**Fast-track to Attendance
Formal Warning Notice**

Dear Parent's name

Re: Child's full name - D.O.B. Year group at Brookfields Primary

DO NOT IGNORE THIS LETTER. TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION

Your child, «ChildFirstName» has been identified as having poor attendance at «SchoolName».

To assist you, the school have tried to engage with you to offer additional support such as Early Help etc.; have invited you to attend a formal School Attendance Review Meeting; and have provided you with advice to improve your child's attendance.

Despite this, there is now a significant amount of unauthorised absence. Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 states that: *'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'*.

This is a formal warning notice advising you that the Local Authority may consider issuing a penalty notice/taking legal action against you should there be any further unauthorised absence.

To avoid this you **must** prevent any further unauthorised absence. You are reminded that you need to provide medical evidence in order for the school to authorise any illness absences. Details of the medical evidence required is included on the attached leaflet.

I would strongly advise that you read the attached leaflet which will provide further guidance on getting your child to school and advice as to your legal responsibilities.

Most attendance problems can be sorted out by parents. **If your child is having any difficulties that you wish to discuss contact the school immediately and ask for an Early Help assessment.**

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. Lees
Headteacher

APPENDIX 11



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Headteacher: Mrs. S. Lees

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES – PUPIL TERM TIME LEAVE REQUEST (to be completed by parents/carers only)

Pupil's Name D.O.B Form

Pupil's Name D.O.B Form

Pupil's Name D.O.B Form

I request permission for the above named pupil(s) to be granted leave during the school term.

Reason for request

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

Dates of Absence

From To No of school days

Address where we will be staying.....

.....



I/We understand that if leave is agreed:

- if travelling abroad, I / we will supply a copy of the return travel documentation.
- I / we will supply the name and phone number of a contact person whilst abroad.
- if I / we do not return at the agreed time; I / we am / are aware that I / we may be issued with a penalty notice. If I do not pay the fine, the case may be referred to Court which could result in a fine of up to £1000 per child and a criminal record.
- In exceptional circumstances penalty notices may not be issued and cases may be taken straight to Court.

Parent/Carer Name	Parent/Carer Name
DOB	DOB
Address	Address
Signature	Signature
Date	Date

Request **agreed / denied**

Signed Headteacher Dated

APPENDIX 12: LEAVE DENIED PROCESS (LD1)



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www.brookfields.bham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. S. Lees

Date

Parent name

Address

Dear (Parent name)

Re: Child's full name - D.O.B. Yr Group at Brookfields Primary

Thank you for your recent leave of absence request.

On this occasion I am not able to authorise your child's leave of absence.

Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 states that:

'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'.

If you decide to take the leave the absence will be marked as unauthorised and may result in a Penalty Notice being issued or legal action taken.

If the request is due to a family emergency, careful consideration is required as to whether it is appropriate or in the best interest of the child to miss school for emergencies being dealt with by adult family members.

It is essential for your child to be in school regularly to benefit fully from their educational opportunities. Good attendance will ensure that your child can reach their full potential. To achieve this, your child needs to attend school every day. For example, two weeks absence is equivalent to around 50 lessons missed which will never be repeated.

We are sure you would not wish to jeopardise your child's academic progress by taking them away at this time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. Lees
Headteacher

Enclosure: copy of 'Leave of Absence Request Form'

APPENDIX 13: UNAUTHORISED LEAVE (LD2)





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www.brookfields.bham.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs. S. Lees

Date

Name

Address

Dear (Parent's name)

Re: Child's full name, D.O.B. «Child Yr Group at Brookfields Primary

This letter is sent to parents/carers whose child is/has been absent from school due to possible unauthorised leave in term time.

If it was not unauthorised leave but illness which caused your child's absence you will need to provide medical evidence to the school in order for it to be authorised. This could include:

- Medical appointment card with one appointment entered
- Letter from a professional such as a hospital Consultant or Psychologist
- Evidence of a consultation with NHS 111
- Medication prescribed by a GP
- Copy of prescription
- Print screen of medical notes
- Letters concerning hospital appointments
- Slip with date, pupils name and surgery stamp, signed by Receptionist

Doctors or GP 'sick' notes are not required unless the child has been treated abroad.

If you asked a friend/relative to notify the school of the leave, you must contact the school yourself, to explain the absence - but this does not mean it will be authorised.

Under the Regulations, retrospective authorisation for leave in exceptional circumstances is not permitted

Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 states that:

'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'.

Unauthorised absence may result in a Penalty Notice being issued or legal action being taken against you. I would also advise that if your child is still currently absent from school, you must return the child to school with immediate effect.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. Lees
Headteacher

APPENDIX 14



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www.brookfields.bham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. S. Lees

Date

Name

Address

Dear Parent

Your child, «ChildFirstName» «ChildLastName» has been identified as having poor punctuality at «School_name» School.

As you may be aware, the law treats some persistent lateness in the same way as irregular attendance and parents may be prosecuted by the Local Authority if late arrival is not resolved.

I have to advise you as a parent/carer of a child of statutory school age, you have a legal responsibility to ensure full time education suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs the child may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. (Education Act 1996)

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days worth of teaching lost in a year
5 mins	3.4 days
10 mins	6.9 days
15 mins	10.3 days
20 mins	13.8 days
30 mins	20.7 days

Poor punctuality can lead to your child...

- Feeling embarrassed in front of their friends
- Missing the beginning of vital lessons
- Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day
- Learning bad habits which could affect their employability in the future

If your child is having any difficulties that you wish to discuss, contact me immediately. If you have other concerns about your child or difficulties you may need support with, please contact the school who may be able to assist in the form of an Early Help Assessment.

Your child's punctuality must now improve or the school may have no option but to take further action against you.

If you call and I am not available, please leave a message and telephone number.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. Lees

Headteacher



APPENDIX 15

School Attendance (Legal Action) - Information for Parents

To avoid Legal Action being taken against you for failing to ensure your child/ren attend school regularly, you are advised of the following:

- Ensure your child attends school every day it is open, on time, escorting them into school if necessary and handing them over to a member of staff. (Please be aware your child will get an **unauthorised absence mark** when they arrive after registration closes.
- Contact school on the first day of every absence by 9.30am stating the reason for absence and the likely return date.
- Take your child to the doctor if unwell and provide the school with: medical appointment card with one appointment entered, letter from a professional, doctor's note, medication prescribed by a doctor, copy of prescription, print screen of medical notes, as well as letters concerning hospital appointments or any other relevant evidence.

The Head Teacher will not authorise medical absence without evidence.

How does your child compare?

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

- **Section 23(1) Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2007:**
Penalty notices may be issued to the parent of pupils who have unauthorised absence from school. **The amount of the penalty is £60.**
 - **If this is not paid within 21 days the amount rises to £120.**
 - **If not paid within 28 days the Local Authority may prosecute** under section 444(1) unless it comes to our attention that the penalty notice had been issued in error.
- **Section 444(1) Education Act 1996:**
"If you are the parent of a child of compulsory school age who fails to attend school regularly, you are guilty of an offence."
 - **The court can fine each parent up to £1,000 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs and/or make a Parenting Order.**
- **Section 444(1A) Education Act 1996:**
"If in the above circumstances you, the parent, know that your child is failing to attend regularly at the school and fail without reasonable justification to cause him/her to attend, you are guilty of an offence."
 - **The court can fine you up to £2,500 per child and/or sentence you to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months, and order payment of the prosecution costs.**

Please note that:

- Penalties and prosecutions are in respect of each parent for each child.
- 'Parent' includes any person who is not a parent of the child but who has parental responsibility for the child (and applies whether or not that person lives with the child) or who has care of him/her.

These prosecutions are criminal proceedings and could result in you having a criminal record.