



Attendance (Student) Policy

Policy Reference	
Committee	C&S
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Policy Owner	VP
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MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed when there are changes in the law or at least every two years, to assess implementation and effectiveness in line with DfE guidance September 2022.

This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Academy.

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PREFACE

Chiltern Hills Academy is a learning environment at the heart of its community. We encourage every person in our community to:

Create, Aspire and Excel to 'Live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

We achieve this through our dedication to the seven Christian values of love, hope, self-discipline, compassion, forgiveness, respect and honesty.

We are a community in which staff, students and parents work collaboratively to develop a learning environment and organisation which is spiritual, safe, innovative, creative and exciting. All members of the Academy are motivated and inspired by the vision to give their best and to play a full part in the life of the school and in their own developing lives.

The Governors at Chiltern Hills Academy are committed to achieving the vision and values. The Curriculum and Standards committee oversee and monitor this policy to ensure that this is being achieved.

1. INTRODUCTION

Regular school attendance is essential if students are to achieve their potential.

Chiltern Hills Academy believes that regular school attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who are able to realise their potential and make a positive contribution to their community. We are committed to encouraging and supporting parents in ensuring their children achieve maximum possible attendance by promoting 100% attendance and acting early to identify patterns of absence.

Chiltern Hills Academy values all its students. As set out in this policy, we will work with families to identify the reasons for poor attendance and try to resolve any difficulties. We aim to build strong relationships with families to ensure our students have the support in place to attend school. We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

Chiltern Hills Academy recognises that attendance is a matter for the whole school community. Our Attendance Policy should not be viewed in isolation; it is a strand that runs through all aspects of school improvement, supported by our policies on safeguarding, bullying, behaviour and inclusive learning. Our strive to improve attendance across the school forms part of our whole school development plan (ADP). This policy also takes into account the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act states that parents must ensure that children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

A child is of Compulsory School Age at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach the age of 16. After this age it is expected that a young person will follow one of three pathways: apprenticeship, further education or part-time education and part-time work.

Under the Education Act 1996, the Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that parents secure education for children of compulsory school age and where necessary, use legal enforcement.

The Education (Student Registration) (England) Regulations 2016, require schools to take an attendance register twice a day, once at the start of the morning session and then again during the afternoon session.

The register must record whether the student was:

- present
- absent
- present at approved educational activity, or
- unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

This policy meets the requirements of the working together to improve attendance (doc link) from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on school attendance parental responsibility measures (doc link). 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 (doc link)

Part 3 of the The Education Act 2002 (doc link)

Part 7 of The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (doc link)

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

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

3. ACADEMY PROCEDURES

Under the provision of the Education Act 1996 (s434) and the Student Registration Regulations 1995 the school is required to keep an attendance register. The attendance register (taken using the Academy's Student Information and Management Systems; SIMS) will be taken at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session (form time and lesson 5) attendance required by law. Registers will be taken at the start of every lesson throughout the school day.

The register will mark whether every student is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unauthorised Absence: Where no reason has been provided, or whose absence is deemed to be without valid reason
- Authorised: Where a reason has been provided that is deemed to be valid under the Education Act 1996.

Every entry in the attendance register will be preserved for 3 years after the date on which the entry was made.

Students must arrive in school by 8.35am promptly on each day (morning registration). A warning bell will sound at 8.38am to signify that students should make their way to their form room. The register for the first session will be taken during morning registration (8.40am – 9.00am). A student is late if they arrive between 8.50am and 9am and this is recorded by the Attendance upon arrival to the school. The register for the second session will be taken during lesson 5 (afternoon registration) between 2.00 and 2.10pm.

Daily attendance is monitored by the Attendance Officer. Parents are asked to telephone or email the Academy before 8.30am on the day of absence to explain any absence. Telephone calls are taken either by the Attendance Officer or Student Admissions/Attendance. The attendance email address is attendance@chacademy.co.uk

Parents are contacted where students have failed to arrive by 9.30am and will receive a text/email message, irrespective of whether they have already contacted the school. This is carried out using an automated system in SIMS.

The following procedure will be followed if the Academy does not receive a reason for absence:

- The Attendance Officer will check the session registers completed by school staff for any student marked absent
- The Attendance Officer will ensure there is a call to parent or carers using the priority contact details on SIMS
- If the Academy still does not hear from the family a phone call will be made to subsequent contacts on SIMS

If the school has not been able to contact parents or carers and a child is absent then the DSLs will risk assess the current level of concern and consider whether circumstances warrant either:

- A home visit
- A request to the police to initiate a welfare check

Children that have Social Care involvement or are vulnerable are treated as high priority and, if appropriate, a social worker will be contacted on the same day in the event of a student's absence. Vulnerable students are monitored daily by the DDSL who will liaise with the Attendance team and follow up with additional welfare checks and call home. Students that are educated at Alternative Provision are contacted daily to monitor and track attendance.

Within the First 5 Days of a student absence we will:

- Check with all members of staff who the child may have had contact with
- Check with the student's friends
- Telephone calls made to any numbers held in the school records
- Send emails to all known email addresses
- Check with any schools known to have siblings or relatives on their roll
- Conduct a home visit if the Academy has been unable to locate the child's whereabouts

Within 5 – 10 days of a student absence we will:

- Write to address of emergency contact
- Speak to the County Attendance Officer countyattendanceteam@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Inform the parent in writing that we are concerned about their child's unexplained absence and that a referral to Children Missing in Education may be needed if no response is provided.
- Repeat a home visit if we have been unable to locate the child.

On day 10

- Complete an online Child Missing in Education referral form and contact CME Officer.

Student data is collated by the Attendance Officer to track the attendance of individual students, identify whether or not there are particular groups of students whose absences may cause for concern, and monitor and evaluate those students identified as being in need of intervention and support. This data is shared with Year Leaders, Key Stage Leaders and SLT. The Vice Principal – Safeguarding and Behaviour has oversight of attendance across the Academy. Data is used to analyse any patterns or emerging concerns and appropriate procedures followed by relevant staff; this may be the YL, KSL, AP and VP.

CATEGORISING ABSENCE

See appendix for the DfE attendance codes.

Where students of compulsory school age are recorded as absent, the register must show whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

Absence can only be authorised by the school and cannot be authorised by parents. All absences will be treated as unauthorised unless a satisfactory explanation for the student's absence has been received.

Absence will be categorised as follows:

Illness

In most cases a telephone call or a note from the parent informing the school that their child is ill will be acceptable. Parents must be asked to provide medical evidence where there are repeated absences or a prolonged absence due to reported illness. This will usually be in the form of an appointment card, prescription and can be emailed to the Attendance Officer at the Academy.

Medical/Dental Appointments

Parents are advised to make medical and dental appointments outside the school day. Where this is not possible, students should attend school for as great a part of the day as possible.

Appointments made late or early in the day will support this. The Form Tutor or Student Services staff will need to see a note or appointment card to authorise this. Appointments can be sent by email. If students are leaving school site for a specific reason (dental, hospital appointment) they must report to Student Services first and then sign out using Inventory at Reception.

Parents/carers must collect their child from the Academy to take them to medical or dental appointments. If they are unable to do this, written confirmation of the named person collecting their child must be sent to the attendance officer, who will check their details, when they arrive at the Academy to collect the student. Students will not to be permitted to leave the school site without a parent/carer arriving in reception to collect them.

Other Authorised Circumstances

This relates to occasions where there is cause for absence due to exceptional circumstances, for example family bereavement or part time timetable agreed as part of a reintegration package with the Attendance Officer, the Key Stage Leader, Year Leader or a senior member of staff.

Approved Educational Activities such as sporting engagements where previously agreed with the school.

Excluded (No alternative provision made)

Exclusion from attending school is counted as an authorised absence. The student's Year Leader will make arrangements for work to be collected for completion at home.

Lateness and punctuality

Students must be in their form rooms by 8.40am every day Monday to Friday. They will be recorded on SIMS by the Form Tutor as late after this time. Registration closes at 9.00am. If the student arrives after this time, this will not be authorised and will count as an absence. Late arrival will result in a sanction, in line with the school behaviour policy, where the Academy deems there not to be a valid reason. Regular patterns of lateness will result in sanctions including, but not limited to, school detentions and the student placed on attendance monitoring reports and monitored by the Form Tutor and Year Leader. Parents will be made aware of regular patterns of lateness by the Attendance Officer and concerns will be shared with the relevant Year Leader.

If students arrive after 8.50am, they must immediately report to the Attendance Officer to sign in. This ensures that we can be responsible for their health, safety and welfare whilst they are in school. If a student does not do this, first day absence calling will take place. If a student arrives after 9am they must report to reception and sign in using InVentry System.

The absence will only be authorised if a satisfactory explanation for the late arrival can

be provided, for example, attendance at a medical appointment (Code M).

The absence will be recorded as **unauthorised** if the student has arrived late after the registers close without justifiable cause (eg; if they woke up late, were waiting for a friend or were dropping a sibling off at school) (Code U).

Unauthorised absence

Absence will not be authorised unless parents have provided a satisfactory explanation and that it has been accepted as such by the school.

Examples of unsatisfactory explanations include:

- A student's/family member's birthday
- Shopping for uniforms
- Having hair cut
- Closure of a sibling's school for INSET (or other) purposes
- Waking up late
- Illness where the child is considered well enough to attend school. (This will also include absence from school when the child is "active" during the school day or in the evening)
- Family holidays taken during school term time

Leave of Absence and Extended Leave

Parents do not have a right to remove their child from school during term time for the purpose of a holiday. Parents should be aware that if their child is absent for 10 school days they will miss 5% of their education during that academic year.

However, in exceptional circumstances (which does **not** include a family holiday) a leave of absence is granted entirely at the Principal's discretion. (An example might be on compassionate grounds in the case of the death of a very close relative).

Parents wishing to take their child out of school during term should make an application on the Leave of Absence form available from Student Services **before** arrangements are made. Documentary evidence of leave and return dates may be required in order to process your request. Retrospective requests will not be considered and therefore will result in the absence being categorised as unauthorised. Each request will be considered individually and the Principal will take the following factors into account:

- Length of the proposed leave
- Age of the student
- The student's general absence/attendance record
- Proximity of public examinations
- Student's ability to catch up the work missed
- Student's educational needs
- General welfare of the student
- Circumstances of the request
- Purpose of the leave
- When the request was made

All requests for leave of absence will be responded to in writing. Where a request has been granted the letter should state:

- The expected date of return
- That parents must contact school should any delays occur

If the permission to take leave is not granted and the student is absent, the absence will be **unauthorised**. In such cases the school may refer the matter to the Education Welfare Service who will issue a Penalty Notice.

Religious Observance

Chiltern Hills Academy acknowledges the multi-faith nature of British society and recognises that on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods or weekends and this necessitates a consideration of authorised absence or special leave for religious observance. (Code R)

It is reasonable for a parent to allow their children not to attend school on any day of religious observance if recognised by the parent's religious body.

Parents are requested to give advance notice to the school if they intend their child to be absent.

However, in the interests of fulfilling the academic requirements of the school and limiting the authorised absence rate of the school, it is identified as reasonable that no more than one day be designated for any individual occasion of religious observance/festival and no more than three days in total in any academic year.

Any further absence will be categorised as unauthorised.

Traveller Absence

The aim for the attendance of Traveller children, in common with all other children, is to attend school as regularly and as frequently as possible.

To protect Traveller parents from unreasonable prosecution for non-attendance, the Education Act 1944, section 86, states that a Traveller parent is safe from prosecution if their child accrues 200 attendances (i.e. 200 half days) in a year. This is only when the family are engaged in a trade or business that requires them to travel and when the child is attending school as regularly as that trade permits.

It does not mean that part-time education for Traveller children is legally acceptable, nor does it relieve parents of their duties to ensure that their children are receiving suitable education when not at school.

When in or around Buckinghamshire, if a family can reasonably travel back to their Base School (see below) then the expectation is that their child will attend full-time.

Chiltern Hills Academy will be regarded as the base school if it is the school where the child normally attends when they are not travelling. However, the student must have attended in the last 18 months. Traveller children can register at other schools temporarily while away from their base school. In such cases, the student's school place at Chiltern Hills Academy will be kept open for them whilst travelling. This is to protect them from unfairly losing their place at their school of usual attendance.

Chiltern Hills Academy can only effectively operate as the child's base school if it is engaged in on-going dialogue with Traveller families. This means that parents must:

- advise of their forthcoming travelling patterns before they happen (this advance notice must be deemed appropriate by the Academy); and
- inform the Academy regarding proposed return dates

Chiltern Hills Academy will authorise absence of Traveller children if we are satisfied that a family is travelling and parents have given indication that they intend to return.

Traveller children will be recorded as attending an approved educational activity when:

- The child is on roll and attending another visited school
- Undertaking supervised educational activity under the jurisdiction of another local authority's Traveller Education Service
- The child is undertaking computer based distance learning that is time evidenced

Where Traveller children are registered students at a school and are known to be present either at a site (official or otherwise) or in a house and are not attending school, the absence will be investigated in the same way as that for any student and appropriate statutory action may be taken.

4. DELETIONS FROM THE REGISTER

In accordance with the Education (Student Registration) (England) Regulations 2016, students will only be deleted from the register when one of the following circumstances applies:

- The school is replaced by another school on a School Attendance Order
- The School Attendance Order is revoked by the local authority
- The student has ceased to be of compulsory school age
- Permanent exclusion has occurred and procedures have been completed
- Death of a student
- Transfer between schools (once the child is on roll in a new school)
- When a parent informs the school in writing that the student is to be withdrawn to be educated outside the school system
- Failure to return from an extended holiday after both the school and the local authority have tried to locate the student
- A medical condition prevents their attendance and return to the school before ending compulsory school-age
- In custody for more than four months (in discussion with The Youth Offending Service)
- 20 days' continuous unauthorised absence and both the local authority and school have unsuccessfully tried to locate the student

- Left the school but not known where he/she has gone after both the school and the local authority have tried to locate the student

Chiltern Hills Academy will follow Buckinghamshire County Council's Children Missing Education (add link) Protocol when a student's whereabouts is unknown.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chiltern Hills Academy believe that improved school attendance can only be achieved if it is viewed as a shared responsibility of the school staff, governors, parents, students and the wider school community. The Academy recognises that poor attendance can be an indication of difficulties in a child's life. Families should make the Academy aware (as soon as is possible) of any difficulty or changes in circumstances that may affect their child's attendance and to behaviour in school, for example, bereavement, divorce/separation, incidents of domestic abuse and other safeguarding issues. This will help the Academy identify any additional support that may be required. Information on changes or difficulty will be recorded on CPOMS to enable close monitoring of vulnerable students.

Chiltern Hills also recognises that some students are more likely to require additional support to attain good attendance, for example, those students with special educational needs, those with physical or mental health needs, looked after children (LAC) and those students who have a social worker. The Academy will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance and work with external agencies as and when required.

Staff Responsibilities:

Senior Leadership Team, Key Stage Leaders, Year Leaders, Subject Leaders, Form Tutors, Pastoral staff and the safeguarding team (as appropriate) will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to students and their parents through phone calls, meetings, weekly newsletters. Parents are signposted to the Intervention Flow Chart (Appendix 1) as appropriate.
- Form positive relationships with students and parents
- Contribute to a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance. Good teaching and learning experiences will encourage all students to attend and to achieve
- Comply with the Registration Regulations, England, 2016 and other attendance related legislation
- Implement systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all students, including those who are educated off-site
- Analyse attendance data to identify causes and patterns of absence working alongside the Attendance Officer
- Contribute to the evaluation of school strategies and interventions
- Work with other agencies to improve attendance and support students and their families

- Document interventions used to a standard required by the local authority should legal proceedings be instigated

The Academy expects that Parents will:

- Talk to their child about school and what goes on there, taking a positive interest in their child's work and educational progress
- Instil the value of education and regular school attendance within the home environment
- Encourage their child to look to the future and have high aspirations
- Contact the Academy if their child is absent to let them know the reason why and the expected date of return. Follow this up with a note/email.
- Avoid unnecessary absences. Wherever possible appointments for the doctor, dentist etc. should be made outside school hours
- Ask the school for help if their child is experiencing difficulties
- Inform the school of any change in circumstances that may impact on their child's attendance
- Support the school; take every opportunity to get involved in their child's education, form a positive relationship with school and acknowledge the importance of children receiving the same messages from both school and home
- Encourage routine at home such as bed times, home-work and preparing school bag and uniform the evening before
- Not keep their child away from school to go shopping, to help at home or to look after other members of the family
- Not take their child on holiday during term-time.

All parties have a role to play in improving attendance to school, the student, the family, the Academy and the County council. The DfE Summary of table of responsibilities for school attendance (add doc link) (September 2022) are used to signify the responsibility of all parties and the actions required by each.

Steps which will be followed to facilitate good school attendance (96%)

- Assemblies highlighting the importance of attendance
- Communication with students and families regarding attendance data (Newsletters, emails, postcards, rewards)
- Termly attendance awards for each year group (achievement and most improved)
- Meetings to discuss attendance and look at barriers and solutions to identify strategies that can be implemented to address issues.
- Home visits (protocol to be followed and form completed for every visit)
- Parent attendance contract (PCM)
- Referrals to support agencies
- Reintegration support packages

Support offered to families will be child centred and planned in discussions and agreement with both the family and the student (s), always looking at individual barriers and what solutions will be most effective.

Where families fail or refuse to engage fully with the support offered and further unauthorised absence occurs, the Academy will consider the use of legal sanctions, under the guidance of Buckinghamshire County Council.

6. USING ATTENDANCE DATA

Students' attendance will be monitored and will be shared with the Local Authority and other agencies if any student's attendance is a cause for concern.

Year Leaders and the Academy Attendance Officer will monitor year group attendance through bi-weekly meetings. YLs will regularly receive Attendance Data for all those students in their year group with under 90% attendance (PAs) and under 50% (SAs). Depending upon reasons for absence the YL will continue to monitor or contact parents. Oversight of attendance will be supported by the Key Stage Leader and SLT, if necessary. Attendance data and associated actions are recorded on a centralised spreadsheet and monitored by the attendance team and the relevant Year Leader.

Weekly, the Academy Attendance Officer will publish the previous week's attendance on the Student/Staff Bulletin.

Updated Tutor Group Attendance data and individual students with 100% Attendance will be posted on the Attendance Noticeboard each month. Student Voice have the opportunity to review how the academy rewards attendance at their meetings. Feedback is provided by the Assistant Principal to the Attendance Officer.

Weekly the Academy Attendance Officer will provide Year Leaders, Key Stage Leaders and SLT with Attendance Data for each individual student in their year group. The list will be presented in numerical descending order with the highest attendees at the top. Year Leaders (Y7-13) will receive a complete set of data for their year groups to inform actions.

This student data will be used to trigger school action as set out in the escalation of intervention (Appendix 1).

Attendance data will also be used to identify emerging patterns and trends to inform whole school strategies to improve attendance and attainment. Attendance data is regularly reviewed by the pastoral team (KSL, YL and VP) looking at patterns of attendance and if there are particular concerns for specific students or cohorts of students in the Academy.

Chiltern Hills Academy will share attendance data with the Local Authority as required. Absence data is collected each term and published at national and local authority level through the DfE's

school absence national statistics. All information shared will be done so in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

7. PERSISTENT AND SEVERE ABSENCE

The persistent absence threshold is 10%. If a student's individual overall absence rate is greater than or equal to 10% and not less than 50%, the student will be classified as a persistent absentee (PA). The severe absence threshold is 50%. If a student's individual overall absence rate is greater than or equal to 50%, the student will be classified as a severe absentee (SA).

We will contact the families to discuss the reasons for this and invite families in to look at barriers and solutions, and completion of a parent contract (PCM). If after contacting families a student's absence continues to rise, we will involve Buckinghamshire Council for support and consider external agencies, as appropriate.

Where a student's absence meet the severe absence threshold and the above mechanisms for responding to persistent absence have not resulted in improved levels of attendance, then intensive support should be put in place, involving all relevant services. This may include further involvement for the County Attendance Team. It may also be required to make a referral to social care, the Local Authority Special Educational Needs team, the Local Authority offer for children who cannot attend school due to medical needs or early help services depending upon the reason for the absence. Student that meet this threshold should be discussed with the Academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead and SENDCo in order to implement the most appropriate plan of support.

8. SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Chiltern Hills Academy also recognises that some students are more likely to require additional support to attain good attendance. For example, those students with special educational needs, young carers, those with physical or mental health needs, migrant and refugee students, looked-after children and those who have a social worker.

The Academy will select from a range of strategies to support improved attendance. Strategies used will include:

- Discussion with parents and students
- Referrals to support agencies
- Use of learning mentors
- Referral to the Academy's Alternative Provision Tutor
- Use of friendship groups and student mentors
- Positive re-enforcement through reward systems
- Time limited part time time-tables
- Additional learning support
- Behaviour support
- Inclusion Unit and Learning Zone support

- Reintegration support packages

Support offered to families will be child-centred and planned in discussion and agreement with both parents and students. Any support and intervention will be recorded and monitored by the Year Leader and reviewed as appropriate for each individual student. The Vice Principal who has oversight of attendance completes annual case studies to review policy and practice.

9. LEGAL SANCTIONS

Where intervention fails to bring about an improvement in attendance, Chiltern Hills Academy will notify the Buckinghamshire County Attendance Team of the irregular attendance.

The County Attendance Team may invite parents to attend a Parenting Contract Meeting (if not already conducted by the Academy) and issue a formal warning of a Penalty Notice.

Parenting Contracts (PCM)

(Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003). A Parenting contract is a voluntary agreement between the Local Authority, school and the parent, it can also be extended to include the child and any other agencies offering support to resolve any difficulties leading to improved attendance.

The contract will outline attendance targets and will detail agreed actions that will help to achieve the target. The contract will be reviewed regularly as agreed at the parent meeting. The contract can be used as evidence in a prosecution should irregular attendance continue.

Penalty Notices

(Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003). Penalty Notices will be considered when:

- Intervention has failed to bring about improvement and further unauthorised absence has occurred following written warning to improve.
- A student has taken leave of absence i.e. for the purpose of a holiday in term time and the absence has not been authorised by the school

The Academy will provide information to Bucks County Council to support the issuance of a Penalty Notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

A penalty notice gives the parent the opportunity to avoid prosecution. A £60 fine, per parent, per child, must be paid within 21 days. The fine increases to £120 per parent, per child, if [paid after 21 days, but with 28 days of the date the Notice was issued. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

Prosecution

The Academy will provide the Local Authority with evidence required for a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. This is to ensure that parents realise their own responsibilities in ensuring attendance at school and most importantly about returning children to education.

Intervention Flow Chart

The Academy will notify parent(s) of the child's irregular school attendance and offer them the opportunity and support to

If you receive a letter informing you of concerns regarding your child's attendance you should

- Speak with your child to see if there are any reasons why they are reluctant to attend
- Contact the Academy to discuss any difficulties you or your child may be experiencing.
 - Ensure your child attends regularly

If there is no improvement and the parent has not provided a good reason for the absence, the Academy will ask for a meeting with the parent(s) to agree and sign a Parenting Contract

If there continues to be no improvement The Education Welfare Service may issue a Warning of a Penalty Notice.

A Parenting Contract is a voluntary agreement between you and the school aimed at supporting you in improving your child's school attendance.

Whilst your involvement in a Parenting Contract is voluntary, if you fail to engage with the support offered and your child's attendance remains irregular the Education Welfare Service may issue a Penalty Notice or begin legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court.

If you are issued with a Penalty Notice of £60 this must be paid in full within 28 days otherwise the Penalty will increase to £120. If you fail to pay the Penalty the Education Welfare Service may instigate legal proceedings against you.

If you are found guilty of this offence you can be fined up to £2500 and or be imprisoned for a period of three months.

Appendix 2: 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 closes
B	Off-site educational activity	Student is at a supervised off-site educational activity approached by the school
D	Dual registered	Students is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered.
J	Interview	Student has an interview with a prospective employee/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 a educational visit organised , or approved, by the school
W	Work experience	Student is on work experience

Authorised absence

Code	Definition	Scenario
C	Authorised leave of absence	Student has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
E	Excluded	Students has been excluded but no alternative provision has been made
H	Authorised holiday	Student has been allowed to go on holiday but 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	Student is on study leave during their public examinations
T	Gypsy, Roma and Traveller absence	Student from a traveller community is travelling, as agreed by the school

Unauthorised Absence

Code	Definition	Scenario
G	Unauthorised holiday	Student is on 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 a code O if no reason for

		absence has been provided after 5 days
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 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 local/national emergency, or student is in custody
Z	Student not on admission register	Register is 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 3

Different levels of attendance and what they mean in practice		
100%	Perfect attendance	0 days off school in a year 0 lesson missed
99%	Excellent attendance	2 days off school in a year 10 lesson missed
97%	Good attendance	5 days off school in a year 25 lessons missed
95%	CHA absence threshold	10 days off school in a year 50 lessons missed
90%	Persistent absence	20 days off school in a year 100 lessons missed
50%	Severe absence	95 days off school in a year 475 lesson missed

Impact of lateness to school		
Daily	Weekly	Annually
10 minutes	50 minutes	1 and ½ weeks
20 minutes	1 hour 40 minutes	2 and ½ weeks
30 minutes	Half a day	4 weeks
1 hour	1 day	8 weeks

Emotionally Based School Non Attendance (EBSNA)

Authorising absence:

Chiltern Hills Academy recognises that it is the legal duty of parents/carers to:

- ensure that their children receive an education
- ensure regular attendance if this education is in a school
- ensure an education other than at school

If a child does not attend school, then the school has to use a specific code to record the absence. ***The Department of Education's School Attendance: Guidance for Schools (2013)*** advises schools on how to record absences. It does not provide specific guidance for EBSNA.

In **some** cases, a school can code a child's absence due to EBSNA as 'I' (illness) due to:

- the significant levels of anxiety that they experience
- the negative impact of their attendance on their mental health

This is at the discretion of the Principal and will be reviewed on a case by case basis. The following is to be considered as guidance when making this decision:

- Is there a mental health professional involved with the child or young person
- Does the child have a known medical or SEND that may be a barrier to attendance
- Is the **agreed aspirational outcome** between school and home that after intervention the child or young person attends full time education at Chiltern Hills
- Are parents and the child or young person engaging with the school, reporting absence daily, attending meetings and taking actions towards reintegration into school
- Is the period of absence likely to exceed two consecutive weeks

EBSNA – Alternative Provision

If the Principal agrees to authorise an absence longer than two consecutive weeks as (I) under the EBSNA guidance then the school will seek to employ an Alternative Provision to meet the educational needs of a child or young person.

Chiltern Hills Academy commission Academy 21 for students who experiencing long term EBSNA. Academy 21 offer daily sessions in the core subjects for KS3 and KS4 Monday – Thursday and PSHE on Fridays.

Whilst Academy 21 supports students to rebuild their confidence with learning after prolonged time away from the classroom, this does not substitute for full time access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Chiltern Hills Academy do not advocate the long term use of Academy 21 other than in exceptional circumstances.

Each case is to be reviewed regularly by the Assistant Principal Inclusion who then reports back to the Vice Principal and Principal.

EBSNA Reduced timetables

Chiltern Hills Academy do not utilise reduced timetables to manage behaviour.

Reduced timetables are agreed in conjunction with the Assistant Principal Inclusion (SEND/DSL) as a last resort to support EBSNA and/or complex SEND needs.

The aim of a part-time timetable is to help the child return to full-time education. Longer-term plans for reduced hours are for **recognised medical needs only**.

As per government guidance a reduced timetable requires written agreement from parents or carers and the school must notify the local authority of the agreement.

Reduced timetables must be reviewed every two weeks and outcomes of the meeting and a student's progress towards targets must be documented and sent to the local authority.

At Chiltern Hills Academy, any student/parent requesting to stay on a reduced timetable for longer than 6 weeks, must attend a meeting with a member of the senior leadership team to discuss this. A sustained period of lost learning is shown to have a significantly detrimental impact on a student's outcomes.

In relation to pupils experiencing EBSNA a reduced timetable *might* be useful to allow:

- time for rest and recovery from significant anxiety.
- reasonable adjustments, for example, to allow your child to avoid the lessons or situations they find most challenging.

A reduced timetable will not resolve EBSNA.

Avoiding tricky situations can maintain and increase feelings of anxiety.

Whilst we value and prioritise the voice of the child as central to this process, it is essential that the team around the child lead this process and are able to challenge and support as required.