



# East Midlands Academy Trust

## Attendance Policy

**'Every child deserves to be the best they can be'**

| <b>Scope: East Midlands Academy Trust &amp; Academies within the Trust</b> |  |
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| <b>Version: 3.1</b>  | <b>Filename:</b><br>EMAT Attendance Policy   |
| <b>Approval: January 2026</b><br>Approved by Trust Board                   | <b>Next Review: September 2026</b><br>This Policy will be reviewed by the owner and & approved by the trust board annually |
| <b>Owner:</b><br>Thompson Team / Head of Education                         |  |

| <b>Policy type:</b> |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Statutory           | Replaces Academy's current policy |

### Revision History

| Revision Date     | Revisor  | Description of Revision  |
|-------------------|----------|--|
| January 2026 v3.1 | Matt Lee | Addition of NIA6 Attendance and Punctuality Appendix   |
| September 2025 v3 | TT       | Updated to reflect changes and additions to local and national guidance. Minor changes. Reflecting update to KCSIE 2025.   |
| April 2025 v2.1   | ZM / TT  | Updated to allow home visits to be made earlier should it be considered appropriate<br>Ensuring consistent message of 96% as the academy attendance target.                  |
| September 2024 v2 | AR / TT  | DFE updates to FPN fine and irregular attendance scope.<br>Updated attendance codes. Reference to parental contract changed to attendance contract. Reference to KCSIE 2024. |
| May 2024 v1.2     | AR       | Addition of criteria that must be met before WNC School Attendance Support Team can proceed with any referral.   |
| March 2024 v1.1   | JL       | Addition of reference to text message and email communication, incl Appendix F<br>Tidied pupil absence safeguarding procedure diagram  |
| February 2024 v1  | TT       | • New Policy   |

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## **1. AIMS AND PURPOSE**

The following policy sets out the mechanisms and processes for attendance monitoring within EMAT but fundamentally we believe a strong partnership with parents, carers and pupils is the key ingredient. Regular school attendance is essential if pupils are to achieve their full potential.

Northampton International Academy believes that regular school attendance is the key to enabling pupils to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become resilient, confident and competent adults who can realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community. If pupils do not attend school regularly, they will not be able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them. Every young person is entitled to an education and absence from school means lost learning. Pupils' absence can sometimes also be a warning sign for a range of safeguarding issues.

Northampton International Academy believes that the foundation to secure good attendance is ensuring that school is a calm, orderly, safe and supportive environment where all pupils want to be and are keen and ready to learn.

Attendance is an essential foundation for positive outcomes for all pupils and the responsibility of everyone.

Our attendance target for pupils is 96% and above and we are committed to working proactively to help and support parents/carers and pupils to achieve this. Pupils must attend school no less than 96% of the time within a period of 10 weeks. Attendance that falls lower than this is classed as irregular.

Most pupils attend well, and we will work with families to identify the reasons if attendance is low and try to resolve any difficulties.

## **2. LEGISLATION AND STATUTORY GUIDANCE**

This Attendance Policy should not be viewed in isolation. It is a strand that runs through all aspects of school improvement and is supported by our policies on safeguarding, bullying, behaviour and SEND.

The school adheres to all relevant legislation, statutory guidance and local guidance from the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. This includes:

### **Statutory Guidance**

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation (July 2020)
- Early Years Foundation Stage (2025)
- Working together to improve school attendance (August 2024)

### **Legislation**

- The Children Act 1989 and The Children Act 2004
- Section 5B (11) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015
- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006



- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (and the Prevent Duty guidance, updated 2023)
- The Education Act 2002
- The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009
- Part 1 of the schedule to the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015.
- The Equality Act (2010)
- The Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 (and 2018 amendment)
- The Childcare Act 2006 (all schools with pupils aged under 8)

The school also has regard to relevant non-statutory guidance relating to safeguarding, including:

- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused (2015)
- Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings (2022)
- Information Sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (2024)

This policy links with other school policies and procedures, including:

- Behaviour policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Colleague Code of Conduct
- Complaints policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Online Safety policy
- SEND policy
- Equality policy
- Relationships & Sex Education policy
- First Aid policy
- Designated CLA Teacher policy
- Privacy notices
- Speak Up policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Acceptable Usage policy
- Pupil Mental Health and Wellbeing policy

### **3. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

We will ensure every child becomes the best they can be. But this means we need parents/carers to work with us to ensure that their child(ren) attend school. Through ensuring children of compulsory school age attend school, in return they will receive full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude.

A child is of compulsory school age at the beginning of the term following their 5th birthday. A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the academic year in which they reach the age of 16.

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

The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, require schools to take an attendance register twice a day, once at the start of the morning session and again during the afternoon session.

The register must record whether the pupil was:

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

#### **4. ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE**

Where pupils at 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 Headteacher and cannot be authorised by parents/carers. All absences will be treated as unauthorised unless a satisfactory explanation for the pupil's absence has been received.

##### **4.1. Procedures for reporting absence**

**Parents/carers must advise the school by telephone on 01604 212 811 on each day of each absence by 8am** providing the reason for the child's absence and an expected date of return. This must be followed up with medical evidence should a child have visited a doctor/dentist etc. This can be in the form of an appointment letter/card/text or a copy of a prescription.

##### **Vulnerable pupils**

Vulnerable pupils, include but is not exclusive to, those who are Looked After Children (LAC), subject to a Child Protection Plan (CP) or Children in Need (CIN), have specific expectations on monitoring to ensure their continued safety. Any unexplained absence will be followed up immediately by a telephone call to the pupil's home, a home visit or by a call to the local authority duty line and/or any other relevant agencies in order that a same-day visit can be made. Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will be treated with similar priority. We will work closely with vulnerable pupils' parents/carers and appropriate agencies to support their learning and ensure their safety.

##### **4.2. Categorising absence**

**Absence is categorised as follows:**

- **Illness:** parents/carers may be asked to provide medical evidence to allow the Headteacher to authorise absence where appropriate. This will usually be in the form of an appointment card, prescription etc.
- **Medical/dental appointments:** parents/carers are advised where possible to make medical and dental appointments outside of the school day. Where this is not possible, pupils must attend school for part of the day. Parents/carers must show the appointment card/text to school.
- **Other authorised circumstances:** this relates to where there is cause for absence due to *exceptional* circumstances, e.g. serious family illness or bereavement.

- **Suspension:** suspension from attending school is counted as an authorised absence. In these circumstances, the school will arrange for work to be sent home.

#### **4.3. Requesting a leave of absence**

Parents/carers who need to take their **child out of school during term time due to exceptional circumstances must send a written request to the Headteacher** using the school's Term Time Absence Request Form (See Appendix A).

Only exceptional circumstances warrant a leave of absence. We will consider each application individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.

All requests for term time absence will be responded to in writing outlining whether the request for absence has been granted.

Retrospective requests for a term time absences will not be considered and therefore will result in the absence being categorised as unauthorised.

If a pupil fails to return to school and contact with the parents/carers has not been made or received, school may take the pupil off the school's roll in compliance with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. This means that the child will lose their school place.

If the permission to take term time absence is not granted and the parent/carer takes their child out of school the absence will be unauthorised. In such cases, the school may request the local authority issue a Fixed Penalty Notice or consider other legal sanctions including prosecution in the Magistrates' Court.

#### **4.4. Religious Observance**

We acknowledge the multi-faith nature of British society and recognise that on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods or weekends and that this may result in the need for a term-time absence request. Any absence request for religious observance must be in line with DfE guidance relating to absence for religious observance. We may authorise a one day absence per occasion where the day is exclusively set aside for religious observance by the religious body to which the parents/carers belong. Parents/carers will be aware of these dates in advance and a Term Time Absence Request Form should be submitted to the school (Appendix A). Any further days taken will be unauthorised. If a term time Absence Request Form is not submitted the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. Where necessary, the school will liaise with, and seek advice from, the relevant local religious bodies.

#### **4.5. Late arrival to school (punctuality)**

Lateness to school or poor punctuality also negatively impact pupils' learning. If a pupil is late by 5 minutes each day, over an academic year this would amount to three whole days of learning lost, 10 minutes lateness is six and a half days, and 15 minutes is 10 days of lost learning. 10 days is 50 hours and this can seriously impact on a pupil's achievement and ultimately, life chances. Good timekeeping is an important life skill. Poor punctuality not only disrupts your child's learning but the learning of others. It is for these reasons we take punctuality very seriously.

Pupils are expected to arrive on time however, **we encourage all pupils to arrive to school 15 minutes before school begins** so that they are in their classroom ready to learn. Lateness to school is not acceptable.



Registration begins at the following times for our pupils:

- 8.30am for Key stage 3 and Key stage 4 – Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

Registration is completed by a member of staff and pupils are given a code to show their attendance status (see Appendix B).

**The register closes 30 minutes after school begins** for all pupils. All pupil absences codes are checked by the attendance officers by 9.30am and all pupils on site are accounted for by the Attendance team by 9.45am. If a pupil is absent and no reason has been provided, we will call the parent/carer. This begins at 9.45am by the Attendance team.

Pupils who arrive after formal teaching has started will be marked as 'Late' on the registers (coded 'L').

Pupils arriving after the close of register must immediately report to **the relevant main reception (Primary or Secondary)** to ensure that they are registered correctly and that staff are aware that the pupil has arrived in school. This will be recorded as an unauthorised half-day absence (coded 'U'). Statutory action, as outlined in section 11, may be taken where appropriate. Lateness will only be authorised if a satisfactory explanation and evidence for the late arrival is provided, for example, attendance at a medical appointment.

Due to the importance of punctuality, all pupils who arrive late to school will be issued with a detention (please see the behaviour and attitudes policy for more details).

#### **4.6. Unauthorised absence**

Absence will not be authorised unless parents/carers have provided a satisfactory reason and explanation that has been accepted as such by the Headteacher.

Examples of **unsatisfactory** reasons include:

- A pupil's/family member's birthday
- Shopping for uniform or any other shopping activities
- Having a hair cut
- Closure of a sibling's school for training days or other purposes
- "Couldn't get up"
- Illness where the child is considered well enough to attend school
- Family holidays
- Looking after a family member.

## 5. ABSENCE PROCEDURES: SCHOOL ACTIONS

If a pupil is marked absent when registration opens and this has not been reported by parents/carers by the expected time (see above), the Attendance Team will make a telephone call to the parent/carer on the same day to clarify the reasons for the absence and ensure the absence of a pupil is made known to the parent/carer (see appendix E). If contact is not able to be made by phone, contact will be made by text message and followed up with a further phone call. If a pupil is deemed to be vulnerable and we have not had a response then we will make a home visit and inform the relevant agencies as appropriate (Police, Social Care etc).

If a pupil is absent for three or more consecutive days and it has not been possible to make contact with the parent/carer, a home visit will be made no later than the third day of absence and any subsequent days of absence until contact is made. For vulnerable pupils, daily home visits will be made on the first day of absence and any subsequent days of absence. For any child who is absent without explanation and contact is not able to be made, advice may be sought from the local authority in order that further investigations can be made. Police and/or other relevant external agencies may also be notified where the school has concerns.

In the event of a pupil's absence where contact has been made with the parent / carer, a home visit will be made no later than the fifth day of absence and at regular intervals until no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day of continuous absence. For children defined as a vulnerable pupil, daily home visits will be made on the first day of absence and any subsequent days of absence. For any child, Police and/or other relevant external agencies may also be notified where the school has concerns.

Where there are unexplained or unauthorised absences, the school will contact parents/carers for more information. Where there is a pattern of unauthorised absence, or children being absent from education for prolonged periods and/or on repeat occasions, the school will contact parents/carers to discuss the reasons for this and school systems that could support the family and/or the pupil with their attendance.

Reasons for absence must always be reported by parents/carers. Where a pupil gives a reason for an unauthorised absence, the Attendance Officer will contact the parent/carer to discuss this absence.

A Child Missing in Education (CME) referral will be made by the Attendance Officer where the following criteria applies:

- A pupil has been absent from school for a period of 10 consecutive school days
- The absence was unauthorised
- The school has not been able to contact the parents/carers
- The family do not appear to be living at the home address.

The school will take disciplinary action against any pupils discovered to be truanting. Truancy includes a pupil absconding from lessons and/or absconding from school. In the event of truancy, parents/carers will be contacted to discuss possible reasons and school systems that could support the family and child to reduce the risk of further absence.

## 6. LOW AND PERSISTENT ABSENCE



We monitor pupils' attendance closely and regularly inform parents/carers about their child's attendance and absence levels, including the amount of time missed and the impact on the pupil's learning.

| Percentage Attendance            | Number of days absence | Learning hours lost | What happens?   |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Pupils with attendance 100%      | 0                      | 0                   | Maximised chance of success   |
| Pupils with attendance 99 – 97%  | 2 to 6 days            | 10 to 30 hours      | Likely to make full academic progress                                 |
| Pupils with attendance 96 - 94%  | 7.5 to 11 days         | 37.5 to 55 hours    | Reduces chances of achieving full academic progress                   |
| Pupils with attendance 93 - 91%  | 13 to 17 days          | 65 to 85 hours      | Reduces chances of making academic progress by 1 level                |
| Pupils with attendance below 90% | 19 days or more        | 95 hours or more    | Reduces chance of making full academic progress by more than 1 level. |

We report pupils' attendance to parents and carers on a regular basis. Where we have concerns about attendance, we will notify parents / carers by letter (see appendix D). In addition, we provide parents and carers with weekly updates by text or email (see appendix F).

### **6.1. Persistent Absence**

**A pupil has persistent absence (PA) if attendance falls below 90%.** When a pupil misses 10% or more of school this is equivalent to 1 day or more a fortnight across a full school year. We will put additional targeted support in place for pupils who are persistently absent.

### **6.2. Severe Absence**

**Severe absence is when attendance falls below 50%.** Pupils who are absent from school more than they are present are identified as severely absent pupils.

These pupils may find it more difficult to be in school or face bigger barriers to their regular attendance and as such, we will provide more intensive, targeted support and an agreed joint approach with parents/carers, local authorities and where necessary, working with additional partners and agencies. All partners will work together, including specific support with attendance, including where relevant a whole family plan, or, for example, possible consideration for an education, health and care plan or an alternative form of educational provision where necessary to overcome barriers to a pupil being in school.

We will work with the local authority's School Attendance Support Team to identify, discuss, and agree joint targeted actions for pupils who are persistently or severely absent and those at risk of becoming so. This will include agreeing what support the local authority will provide and which (if any) other statutory or voluntary services should become involved.

Parents/carers should do everything possible to encourage all school-age children to attend. However, if the reason for their reluctance appears to be school based, such as difficulty with work, please discuss this with the school at the earliest opportunity and the school will do everything possible to resolve the problem.

School refusal/school phobia is a psychological condition that has been medically diagnosed. Other arrangements may be put in place for a child with a genuine school phobia diagnosis and referrals to external agencies will be sought to support the pupil in receiving their education.

## **7. REMOVAL FROM THE SCHOOL REGISTER**

In accordance with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, pupils can be removed from the school's register when one of the following circumstances applies:

- The pupil has ceased to be of compulsory school age.
- Permanent exclusion has occurred, and the correct process has been completed and the local authority have indicated the pupil can be removed from roll.
- Transfer to a new school; the pupil will not be removed from the register until we have received confirmation of their new provision and evidence the pupil has started.
- The pupil is withdrawn by the parent/carer (in writing) to be educated outside the school system.
- Failure to return from an extended holiday after the school has tried to locate the pupil, continuous unauthorised absence and/or the school has not been able to locate the pupil. The school will complete a Child Missing in Education (CME) application to the local authority.

## **8. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

We believe that improved school attendance can only be achieved if it is viewed as a shared responsibility of the school staff, governors, parents/carers, pupils, and the wider school community.

### **8.1. East Midlands Academy Trust will:**

- Recognise the importance of school attendance and promote it across the trust's ethos and policies.
- Take an active role in attendance improvement, support our schools to prioritise attendance, and work together with school leaders to establish positive, whole-school attendance cultures.
- Work collaboratively with staff in schools, the local advisory boards, local authorities, and other local partners to support schools to maintain high levels of attendance for all pupils.
- Set high expectations of all leaders, staff, pupils, and parents/carers.
- Ensure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties.
- Regularly review attendance data, discuss, and challenge trends, and help school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Identify and monitor attendance patterns across our schools to identify common issues and barriers and share effective practice between schools.
- Regularly review attendance data at board meetings, including thorough examination of recent and historic trends at a school level as well as benchmarking to comparator schools within the trust, local authority area, region and nationwide.

- Regularly review the Attendance Policy and ensure the required resources are available to fully implement the policy.
- Ensure training on attendance is included in any trust wide induction packs.
- Ensure training on attendance is included in schools continued professional development offer for all staff.
- Provide opportunities to share effective practice and interventions on attendance management and improvement across schools.
- Where appropriate, share staff and other resources between schools in the trust.

### **8.2. The Trust Board and Local Advisory Board will:**

- Recognise the importance of school attendance and promote it across the school's ethos and policies.
- Ensure that the importance and value of good attendance is promoted to pupils and their parents/carers.
- Regularly review the school's Attendance Policy and ensure the required resources are available to fully implement the policy.
- Ensure that the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and other attendance related legislation is complied with.
- Agree school attendance targets and, where appropriate, link these to the performance management of senior leadership within the school.
- Monitor the school's attendance and related issues through termly reporting at Governing Body Meetings.
- Ensure that attendance data is reported to the local authority or Department for Education as required and on time.
- Ensure that there is a named senior leader to lead on attendance.
- Ensure that the school has clear systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site.
- Ensure that there are procedures for collecting and analysing attendance data frequently to identify causes and patterns of absence.
- Ensure that data is understood and monitored to devise solutions and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.
- Regularly review attendance data, discuss, and challenge trends, and help school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Ensure school staff receive adequate training on attendance.

### **8.3. The school leadership team will:**

- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents/carers to ensure a partnership approach to high attendance is maintained.
- Recognise the importance of good attendance and, alongside good behaviour, make it a central part of the school's vision, values, ethos, and day to day life.
- Have an effective whole-school culture of high attendance which is underpinned by clear expectations, procedures, and responsibilities.
- Have a designated senior leader with overall responsibility for championing and improving attendance in school.
- Have a clear vision for attendance improvement.
- Have a clear process for data analysis, evaluation and monitoring.



- Ensure all teaching and non-teaching staff know the importance of good attendance, are consistent in their communication with pupils and parents/carers and receive the training and professional development they need.
- Set high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils and communicate these regularly to pupils and parents/carers through all available channels.
- Visibly demonstrate the benefits of good attendance throughout school life, through displays, assemblies, praise and rewards.
- Monitor and analyse weekly attendance patterns and trends and deliver intervention and support in a targeted way to pupils and families.
- Provide regular attendance reports to other relevant leaders and class teachers or tutors to facilitate discussions with pupils.
- Conduct thorough analyses of half-termly, termly, and full year data to identify patterns and trends.
- Benchmark attendance data (at whole school, year group and cohort level) against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement.
- Devise specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data.
- Monitor through data, the impact of school wide attendance efforts including any specific strategies implemented and use this information to evaluate approaches or inform future strategies.
- Provide data and reports to support the work of the board or governing body.
- Monitor the implementation of the Attendance Policy and ensure that the policy is reviewed regularly.
- Ensure that the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and other attendance related legislation is complied with.
- Return school attendance data to the Department for Education as required and on time.
- Ensure that systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site are implemented.
- Develop a multi-agency response to improve attendance and support pupils and their families.
- Use the standard documents to support a move to legal proceedings should that be necessary.

#### **8.4. The Attendance Officer will:**

- Monitor registration on a daily basis.
- Receive calls and messages from parents/carers regarding pupil absence.
- Contact parents/carers regarding pupil absence.
- Identify absence trends or concerns and raise these with the appropriate members of staff.
- Discuss attendance concerns with parents/carers and liaise with relevant members of staff.
- Take the lead on raising the profile of attendance throughout the school, including improving attendance and reducing persistent absence.
- Monitor absence and attendance regularly.
- Identify any absence trends or concerns and liaise with the appropriate members of staff.
- Contact parents/carers where attendance concerns have been identified and provide support to improve their child's attendance.
- Support pupils to improve their attendance.
- Work with outside agencies, including the local authority, where appropriate to improve attendance of individual pupils.

- Provide data to the Headteacher, senior leaders, including those for safeguarding, LAB Members and the trust on a regular basis.

#### **8.5. The Child and Family Support Worker may be required to if relevant:**

- Promote good attendance and punctuality.
- Support the Attendance Officer and the Attendance Team with their roles and responsibilities.
- Build strong relationships with families.
- Provide support for pupils and families.
- Provide families with information and signposting to services in the local area.
- Liaise with a range of external services such as housing and Social Care.
- Arrange and attend regular meetings with families.
- Provide reports to the Headteacher, principal, senior leaders, LAB Members and the trust on a regular basis.

#### **8.6. Teachers and Support Staff will:**

- Be pro-active in their approach to promoting good attendance to pupils and their parents/carers, which includes forming positive relationships with families.
- Endorse a whole school culture that promotes the benefits of high attendance.
- Treat all pupils and parents/carers with dignity and model respectful relationships to build positive relationships between home and school to help promote good attendance.
- Ensure that the school's teaching and learning experiences encourage regular attendance and that pupils are taught the value of high attendance for their own personal progression and achievement.
- Ensure that they fully understand and are up to date with the school's Attendance Policy, legislation and government guidance, and that they will speak to another member of staff or seek support if they are unsure how to deal with an attendance issue.
- Understand the importance of good attendance and that absence is almost always a symptom of wider circumstances.
- Understand the law and requirements of schools including on the keeping of registers.
- Understand the school/trusts' strategies and procedures for tracking, following up and improving attendance.
- Understand the processes for working with other partners to provide more intensive support to pupils who need it.
- Ensure that they follow the correct systems for recording attendance and registers are recorded accurately.
- Communicate with parents/carers on a regular basis about attendance.
- Contribute to strategy meetings and interventions where they are needed.
- Work with external agencies to support pupils and their families who are struggling with regular attendance.

#### **8.7. Parents and Carers will:**

- Ensure their child attends school regularly.
- Communicate effectively with the school to identify reasons for absence and strategies to support improved attendance and punctuality.
- Support their child by working together with the school and any other agencies to address any barriers to attendance.
- 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 become 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.
- Avoid taking their child out of school during term-time. Where this is unavoidable, and in exceptional circumstances, parents/carers will need to complete a Term Time Request for Absence Form prior to the absence.

## 9. MONITORING ATTENDANCE

Specific measures to monitor attendance must be embedded and regularly checked to ensure the safeguarding of all pupils through specific and tailored interventions. These include:

- Registering pupils accurately and efficiently – recording within the first 5 minutes of every lesson / session on Arbor. In the event this system is down, a paper register must be sent to the attendance office immediately.
- Setting attendance targets for individual pupils and specific groups, in line with national and trust expectations.
- Monitoring the attendance of vulnerable groups in relation to local and national figures for all pupils.
- Using Pupil Premium funding to address persistent absence and severe absence of disadvantaged pupils and regularly monitoring the impact of such interventions.
- Ensuring a multi-agency approach is in place for all pupils with severe absence.
- Working collaboratively with the School Attendance Support Team.
- Regularly monitoring pupil attendance and punctuality, reporting overall absence, persistent absence rates and severe absence rates for all pupils to the Local Advisory Board and East Midlands Academy Trust (EMAT).
- Persistently monitoring low attending pupils over time to ensure rigorous intervention strategies are provided and demonstrate positive impact.
- Reporting school attendance statistics to parents/carers, local authority and DfE as appropriate.

### 9.1. Internal Truancy

All pupils are expected to attend lessons as set out on their individual timetables. If a pupil does not attend each lesson the teacher will mark the register with an absent mark (N).

All teaching staff ensure that registers are recorded accurately and will change the absence (N) to a late mark (L) if a child arrives after the register is taken. A comment will be recorded as an attendance comment on Arbor as to why they are late.

The Attendance Team monitor and track all 'N' marks to lessons. They will analyse patterns of attendance to see if a pupil has been absent since the start of the school day (this will be picked up by the first-day response team) or if they have been attending other lessons and are absent for just one lesson during the school day. This would indicate possible internal truancy.

The Attendance Team will locate in the school site, any pupils who are absent to lessons but were registered at the start of the school day and liaise with heads of year, the mental health hub staff and other school teams.

Truancy will be dealt with through the behaviour policy. Please see the behaviour policy for more details.

### **If we are unable to locate a pupil**

In the event that an absent pupil cannot be located following the checks made by the Attendance Team, a member of the safeguarding team will be notified that the pupil is missing. The safeguarding team will liaise with the parent/carer by telephone to inform them that their child has not attended their class and has not been located in the school. This telephone call is not to alarm the parent/carer, but to identify if there are any reasons for the absence, and to clarify the next steps to ensure the pupil's safety. Where necessary, the Police and/or other agencies will be contacted to support in locating the pupil. When the missing pupil is located, a phone call will be made home to notify the parent or carer by the same member of staff who made the original call, and clarify with the parent/carer, the next steps in response to the pupil's absence.

### **9.2. Absence and attendance codes**

National absence and attendance codes enable schools to record and monitor attendance and absence in a consistent way and comply with regulations. They are also used for collecting statistics through our school census system. The data helps schools, trusts, local authorities and the Government to gain a greater understanding of the level of, and the reasons for absence.

Details of the attendance codes can be found in Appendix B and Government guidance (*Working together to improve school attendance*) regarding school attendance can be found by clicking the following link:

[Guidance on attendance codes \(Pages 76 – 92\)](#)

### **9.3 Using Attendance Data**

We regularly monitor and analyse attendance and absence data to identify pupils or cohorts that require support with their attendance and put effective strategies in place. We will work collaboratively with parents/carers, local authorities, and other partners when absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe.

We monitor and analyse weekly attendance patterns and trends to deliver intervention and support in a targeted way to pupils and families. This looks at individual pupils, cohorts and groups (including their punctuality) across the school.

Attendance and punctuality analysis is used to provide regular attendance reports to class teachers or tutors to facilitate discussions with pupils and to leaders (including any special educational needs coordinators, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium leads). Pupils who need support are identified and staff efforts are focused on developing targeted actions for these individuals or groups.

Half-termly, termly, and full year data is analysed and monitored to identify patterns and trends of pupils and cohorts. This data is benchmarked (at whole school, year group and cohort level) against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement.

Specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance or punctuality are identified through data. The impact of school wide attendance efforts, including any specific strategies implemented, are monitored and the findings are used to evaluate approaches and inform future strategies.

- Heads of year interventions with targeted learners
- Incentives driven by high levels of attendance.
- Engagement in mentoring for identified learners.
- Inter year and house competitions for attendance and punctuality

## 10. SUPPORT SYSTEMS

We recognise that poor attendance can be an indication of other issues in a pupil's life. This may be related to problems at home and/or in school. Parents/carers should make the school aware of any difficulties or changes in circumstances that may affect their child's attendance and/or behaviour in school, for example, bereavement, divorce/separation, incidents of domestic abuse. This will help the school identify any additional support that may be required.

We also recognise that some pupils may need more additional support to attain good attendance, for example, some pupils with special educational needs, pupils with physical or mental health needs and looked after children.

The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance (see appendix C). These include:

- Discussion with parents/carers and pupils
- Convening attendance panels
- Attendance contracts
- Attendance report cards
- Referrals to support agencies – Early Help
- Learning Mentors
- Pupil Voice activities
- Friendship groups
- PSHE support
- Family learning
- Reward systems
- Time limited part-time timetables
- Additional learning support
- Behaviour support
- Inclusion units
- Reintegration support packages via our Family Support Workers

Attendance Celebration incentives:

- Celebration afternoon with headteacher with attendance included.
- 100% attendance certificates.
- Half termly 100% attendance awards.
- Improved attendance awards.
- External trips half termly/termly/annually.

All support offered to families will be child-centred and planned in discussion and agreement with parents/carers and pupils. Where parents/carers fail or refuse to engage with the support offered and further unauthorised absence occurs, the school will consider the use of legal sanctions.

## **11. ATTENDANCE LEGAL INTERVENTION**

Where voluntary support has not been effective and/or has not been engaged with, we will work with the local authority to put formal support in place in the form of an attendance contract or an education supervision order; issue a fixed penalty notice where support would not be appropriate or has not been successful or engaged with and it is likely to change parents'/carers' behaviour; intensify support through statutory children's social care involvement where there are safeguarding concerns, prosecute parents/carers where all other routes have failed or are not deemed appropriate. This could include making the case for a community or parenting order where the parent/carer is convicted to secure engagement with support.

### **Fixed Penalty Notices**

Penalty Notices will be considered when:

- If a child is out of school for an accumulative total of 5 days or more (10 sessions) over a period of ten weeks, the school will deem this as irregular attendance and will consider a referral to the Local authority for consideration of a penalty notice.

Fixed penalty notices can be issued to each parent liable for the attendance offence or offences, which should usually be the parent or parents with day-to-day responsibility for the pupil's attendance.

A Penalty Notice is a fine of £160 if it is paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days of the date the Notice was issued.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. Penalty Notices will be used in accordance with the Local Authority.

See the following government guidance for more information: [School attendance and absence: Legal action to enforce school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance-and-absence-legal-action-to-enforce-school-attendance)

### **Attendance Contracts**

An attendance contract is a formal voluntary written agreement between a parent/carer and the school to address irregular attendance at school or alternative provision.

The aim from the outset is for the parent/carer(s), the pupil where they are old enough, and the school to work in partnership. The contract will outline attendance targets and will detail agreed actions that will help to achieve the target. The contract will be reviewed regularly.

It is important to note that while an attendance contract is used as an alternative to prosecution, parents/carers who do not engage with the contract and/or fail to carry out agreed targets identified in the contract may be subject to future prosecution. Furthermore, evidence of failure to engage with the attendance contract can be used as evidence in subsequent prosecution.

### **Education Supervision Orders (ESOs)**

Where a formal attendance contract has not been successful, an Education Supervision Order (ESO) is used as an alternative to provide formal legal intervention without criminal prosecution. Where there are safeguarding concerns, children's social care services will be involved in the ESO.

ESOs are made through the Family or High Court, rather than Magistrates Court. They give the local authority a formal role in advising, helping and directing the pupil and parent/carer(s) to ensure the pupil receives an efficient, full-time, suitable education. For the duration of the ESO, the parent's/carer's duties to secure their child's education and regular attendance are superseded by a duty to comply with any directions given by the local authority under the ESO.

Where parents persistently fail to comply with the directions given under the ESO, they may be guilty of an offence and the local authorities may prosecute under Section 444 (1) Education Act 1996, in the Magistrates Court for persistent non-compliance with the Order and parents/carers (upon conviction) will be liable to a fine of up to £1,000.

### **Prosecution**

Prosecution in the Magistrates Court is the last resort where all other voluntary and formal support or legal intervention has failed or where support has been deemed inappropriate in the circumstances of the individual case.

It is important that parents/carers realise their own responsibilities in ensuring their child's attendance at school. Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 states that if a parent/carer fails to ensure the regular school attendance of their child, the child is a registered pupil at a school and is of compulsory school age, then they are guilty of an offence.

The school will provide the local authority with evidence required for a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 and will appear as a prosecution witness if required by the court.

A parent/carer found guilty of this offence can be fined up to £2500 and or be imprisoned for a period of three months.

### **Parenting Orders**

Parenting orders are an ancillary order that can be imposed by the Court following conviction for non-attendance alongside a fine and/or community order. Parents' agreement is not required before an order is made. They may be appropriate where the parent has not engaged in support to improve their child's attendance and where compulsion to do so would help change parental behaviour.

## **12. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The implementation of this policy is carried out by the Executive Headteacher and Head of School for safeguarding and inclusion. Changes will be recommended to Governors and ratified by the Local Advisory Board.

The policy is published on the school's website and is shared with parents/carers with any initial information when pupils join the school. Parents/carers are reminded of it at the beginning of each school year and when it is updated.

## Appendix A – Term Time Absence Request Form

Dear Parents / Carers,

Unfortunately, as directed by the government, **NO** holiday leave will be authorised at Castle Academy.

Exceptional circumstances will be reviewed by the Executive Headteacher and Head of School.

Families with children absent for several days for unauthorised reasons are more likely to receive a fixed penalty notice, whilst families who take students out of school during term time for a family holiday are particularly at risk of this.

**If you take your child out of school for an accumulative total of 5 days or more (10 sessions) over a period of ten weeks, the school will deem this as irregular attendance and will consider a referral to the Local authority for consideration of legal action. This could include:**

**A Penalty Notice payable up to £160 fine.**

**Prosecution under section 444 (1) Education Act 1996, where if convicted you may be fined up to £1,000.**

**Prosecution under section 444 (1) (a) Education Act 1996 where if convicted you may be fined up to £2,500 and/or 3 months' imprisonment.**

I must also remind you that the Local Authority impose the fixed penalty notice and the school does not benefit financially from this.

**If any child is absent which is unauthorised for longer than 20 school days, they may be taken off the school roll, in which case parents / carers would have to apply for a school place upon return.**

Please complete the information on the following page on this form, sign to confirm that you have read this information and return to the school office.

Kind regards,

Martin Serrao  
Executive Head Teacher, Northampton International Academy

### Leave of absence request form

*Please return to the school office upon completion.*

|                              |                        |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Name of pupil                |                        |  |
| Class Teacher                |                        |  |
| First date of absence        |                        |  |
| Date returning to school     |                        |  |
| Destination                  |                        |  |
| Reason for absence           |                        |  |
| Parent details               | Mother's name          |  |
|                              | Mother's Date of Birth |  |
|                              | Father's name          |  |
|                              | Father's Date of Birth |  |
| Address                      |                        |  |
| Signature of Parent/Guardian |                        |  |
| Date                         |                        |  |

---

**Office Use Only - Head of School decision:**

I confirm that the above leave request has been authorised

I confirm that the above holiday request has been unauthorised

Head of School Signature.....

Date .....

## Appendix B – Attendance Codes

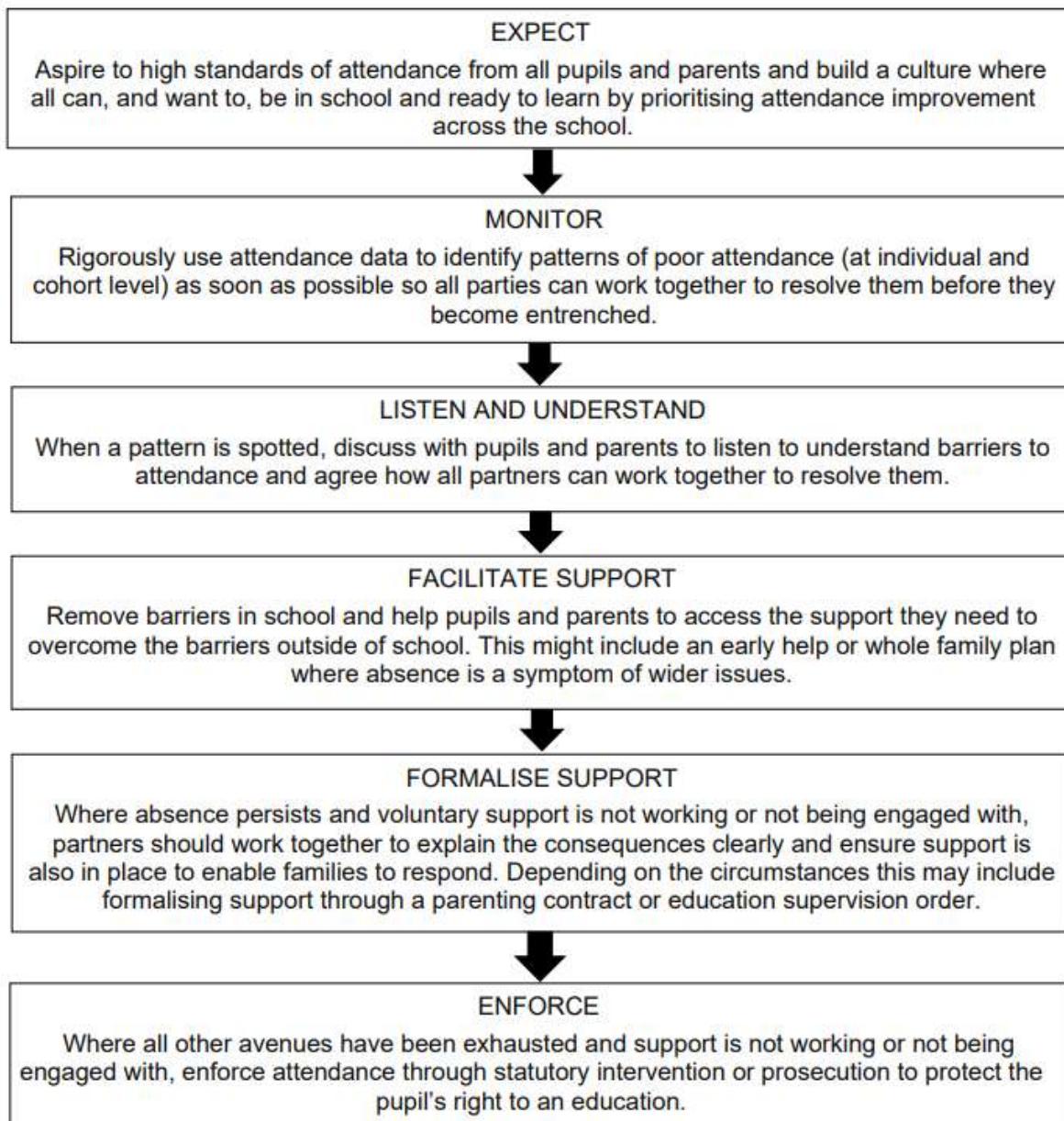
Table 1

| CODE | MEANING   | TYPE                   |
|------|---|------------------------|
| / \  | Present at the school / morning \ afternoon   | Present mark           |
| B    | Attending any other approved educational activity:<br>- Alternative provision not arranged through the approved framework                                   | Present mark           |
| C    | Authorised circumstance (see Table 2: The C code for breakdown).  | Authorised Absence     |
| D    | Dual registered at another school.  | Present mark           |
| E    | Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made.  | Authorised Absence     |
| G    | Holiday not granted by the school or term-time leave not granted by the school.   | Unauthorised Absence   |
| I    | Illness (not medical or dental appointment).  | Authorised Absence     |
| J1   | Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution.                              | Authorised Absence     |
| K    | Attending education provision arranged by the local authority:<br>- Home tutoring<br>- Approved framework for alternative provision<br>- Blended learning.. | Present mark           |
| L    | Late arrival before the registers have closed.  | Present mark           |
| M    | Attended a medical appointment.   | Authorised Absence     |
| N    | Reason for absence not yet established.   | Unauthorised Absence   |
| O    | Absent in other or unknown circumstances.   | Unauthorised Absence   |
| P    | Participating in a sporting activity.   | Present mark           |
| Q    | Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements.   | Not expected to attend |
| R    | Religious observance.   | Authorised Absence     |
| S    | Leave of absence for the purpose of studying for a public examination. Must be used sparingly with revision opportunities in school.                        | Authorised Absence     |
| T    | Parent travelling for occupational purposes, and the pupil has attended for at least 200 sessions in preceding 12 months.                                   | Authorised Absence     |
| U    | Arrived in school after registration closed.  | Unauthorised Absence   |
| V    | Attending an educational trip or visit.   | Present mark           |
| W    | Attending work experience.  | Present mark           |
| X    | Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school.  | Not expected to attend |
| Y    | Unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause (see Table 2: The Y code for breakdown).   | Not expected to attend |
| Z    | Prospective or previous pupil not on admission register.  | Not expected to attend |

Table 2

| CODE  | MEANING   | TYPE                   |
|---|---|------------------------|
| <p><b>The Y code: Unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause, is broken down into the following subcodes to provide better differentiation of the reason:</b></p> |   |                        |
| Y1  | Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available.  | Not expected to attend |
| Y2  | Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel.  | Not expected to attend |
| Y3  | Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed. For example, this may be due to damage or teacher strikes.  | Not expected to attend |
| Y4  | Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed. For example, extreme weather, damage, no hot water, or heating.  | Not expected to attend |
| Y5  | Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention. For example, in police detention, remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or detained under a sentence of detention.                                     | Not expected to attend |
| Y6  | Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law, contrary to or prohibited by any guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of infection or disease.   | Not expected to attend |
| Y7  | Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause. For example, an emergency has prevented the pupil from attending. The unavoidable cause must be something that affects the pupil, not just the parent.                         | Not expected to attend |
| <p><b>The C code: Authorised Absence is broken down into the following subcodes to provide better differentiation of the reason:</b></p>                                    |   |                        |
| C   | Leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. | Authorised Absence     |
| C1  | Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad.  | Authorised Absence     |
| C2  | Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable.  | Authorised Absence     |

## Appendix C – Working Together to Improve Attendance



Working together to improve school attendance (DfE)

## **Appendix D – Template letters sent to parents/carers**

### **CME**

Dear Parents/Carers of

We are writing to inform you that due to STUDENT NAME's absence from school we are going to complete 'A Child Missing from Education' Referral to the local authority.

Should you have any queries about this please do not hesitate to contact us on 01604 212811.

Yours Sincerely

**EHE**

To the Parents/Carers of

**Student Name:    Date of birth:**

**Referral for Elective Home Education**

I am writing to inform you that I have submitted a referral today to the Local Authority for STUDENT NAME as per your request to home educate.

When I receive confirmation from the Local Authority to remove STUDENT NAME from the school roll, I will inform you.

Kind Regards

**TTA not requested:**

**Dear Parent / Carer of Student(s) Full Name,**

**I am contacting you from Northampton International Academy as I understand that you have taken a Term Time Absence for Student(s) Full Name without completing a Term Time Absence form.**

**Government guidelines prevent headteachers from granting any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

**Families with children absent for several days for unauthorised reasons are more likely to receive a fixed penalty notice, whilst families who take students out of school during term time for a family holiday are particularly at risk of this.**

**If you take your child out of school for an accumulative total of 5 days or more (10 sessions) over a period of ten weeks, the school will deem this as irregular attendance and will consider a referral to the Local authority for consideration of legal action. This could include:**

**A Penalty Notice payable up to £160 fine.**

**Prosecution under section 444 (1) Education Act 1996, where if convicted you may be fined up to £1,000.**

**Prosecution under section 444 (1) (a) Education Act 1996 where if convicted you may be fined up to £2,500 and/or 3 months' imprisonment.**

**I must also remind you that the Local Authority impose the fixed penalty notice and the school does not benefit financially from this.**

**If any child is absent which is unauthorised for longer than 20 school days, they may be taken off the school roll, in which case parents / carers would have to apply for a school place upon return.**

**Kind regards,**

**Attendance Officer**

## **Term time absence**

Dear

Government guidelines prevent Head teachers from granting any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The criteria for issuing Penalty Notices for unauthorised term time absence is 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days in a 6-week period).

I understand you have requested a leave of absence between **XX/XX/XXXX** and **XX/XX/XXXX** which is within the school's term time. This request has been declined by the Headteacher therefore STUDENT NAME will be coded as unauthorised.

I will be referring the matter to the School Attendance Support Officer (SASO) for consideration of further action and as such I need to make you aware that the outcome could be a Penalty Notice, payable direct to the Local Authority. The Penalty Notice is £160 per parent/adult for each student to be paid within 28 days, decreasing to £80 if paid within 21 days. If the Penalty Notice is not paid within 28 days, the Local Authority may instigate legal proceedings under section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1996. If found guilty of an offence under this Act, parents will receive a criminal record and could be fined up to £1000.

I realise that the vast majority of parents do not take time off in term time as they recognise the significant impact this can have on a learner's education. We support the government's stance on trying to reduce the amount of school missed and we hope that you will continue to support us by not planning a leave of absence during term time.

Yours sincerely

Attendance Officer

**Term time absence not requested**

Dear

Government guidelines prevent Head teachers from granting any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The criteria for issuing Penalty Notices for unauthorised term time absence is 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days in a 6-week period).

A leave of absence was taken between xxxxxx and xxxxxx, which is within the school's term time. This is declined by the Head teacher therefore will be coded as unauthorised. I understand you have not requested a leave of absence or submitted a written request.

I will be referring the matter to the School Attendance Support Officer (SASO) for consideration of further action and as such I need to make you aware that the outcome could be a Penalty Notice, payable direct to the Local Authority. The Penalty Notice is £160 per parent/adult for each student to be paid within 28 days, decreasing to £80 if paid within 21 days. If the Penalty Notice is not paid within 28 days, the Local Authority may instigate legal proceedings under section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1996. If found guilty of an offence under this Act, parents will receive a criminal record and could be fined up to £1000.

I realise that the vast majority of parents do not take time off in term time as they recognise the significant impact this can have on a learner's education. We support the government's stance on trying to reduce the amount of school missed and we hope that you will continue to support us by not planning a leave of absence during term time.

Yours sincerely

Attendance Officer

## Attendance warning letter

Dear

At Northampton International Academy, attendance is taken very seriously and the amount of time that your child has been absent from school is of concern. It has been noted that has an attendance rate of **++%** which is below the school expected attendance rate.

Due to the concerns, we are setting a monitoring attendance target of **97% over the next 5 school weeks** and would expect to see an immediate improvement. If you have any current medical evidence to support any of the absences, please send them into school so a copy can be taken and placed on file. Should this not be available, this may be required later.

During this time, if attendance continues to decline and we feel that there has been little or no improvement, we will invite you to attend a Parent Contract Meeting. The aim of the meeting will be to explore the reasons regarding the irregular school attendance and to draw up a Parenting Contract to help improve your child's attendance at school.

Whilst your involvement in any Parenting Contract is voluntary, you should be aware that, should the attendance remain irregular, the Local Education Authority may take more formal action. This could result in a conviction of an offence of failing to ensure regular attendance of your child at school under **Section 444, 1/1A Education Act 1996**, and a fine up to **£1,000/£2,500 and/or receive a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 months.**

I hope that you will work with us to improve their attendance and therefore avoid the need for legal proceedings to be implemented. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Attendance Officer

## **Attendance parent contract letter**

Dear Parent/Carer of

Attendance Percentage: Expected Percentage: 97%

I am writing to you concerning the irregular attendance of STUDENT NAME, which as you are aware is causing concern.

I would like you to attend a Parent Contract Meeting on **(Date & Time)** at **xxxx** at Northampton International Academy. The aim of the meeting, which will be chaired by me, is to explore the reasons regarding the irregular school attendance and to draw up a Parenting Contract to help improve your child's attendance at school. If you fail to attend this meeting the Contract will be completed in your absence.

I appreciate there may be some medical evidence to support these absences and would request you bring this to the meeting.

Whilst your involvement in any Parenting Contract is voluntary, you should be aware that, should the attendance remain irregular, the Local Education Authority may take more formal action. This could result in a conviction of an offence of failing to ensure regular attendance of your child at school under Section 444, 1/1A Education Act 1996, and a fine up to £1,000/£2,500 and/or receive a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 months.

I hope that you will work with us to improve their attendance and therefore avoid the need for legal proceedings to be implemented.

Yours sincerely

Attendance Officer

**Did attend parent contract meeting**

Dear

Thank you for attending the Parenting Contract meeting on **DATE OF MEETING**. We have enclosed a copy of the Parenting Contract for your perusal. We will continue to monitor STUDENT NAME's attendance over the next 5 weeks.

During this time if the attendance of STUDENT NAME continues to decline and we feel that there has been little or no improvement, we will refer the case to the Educational Inclusion and Partnership Team at Northamptonshire County Council. This could result in legal action being taken against you under Section 444 1/1A of the 1996 Education Act. You could be fined up to £1000/£2500 and/or receive a term of imprisonment.

I hope that you will work with us to improve their attendance and therefore avoid the need for legal proceedings to be implemented. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01604 212811 and I will be happy to discuss the matter.

Yours sincerely

Attendance Officer

**Did not attend Parent Contract Meeting**

Dear

I was disappointed that you did not attend the Parenting Contract meeting regarding **STUDENT FULL NAME** attendance arranged for **DATE AND TIME**. As you will be aware from my invitation letter, the aim of this meeting was to draw up a Parenting Contract to improve your learner's attendance.

We have therefore completed the contract in your absence and a copy is enclosed. The contract will be reviewed after 5 weeks or sooner if there has been little or no improvement.

If the targets are met the case will be closed, however, if they are not met, a referral will be made to the Education Inclusion Partnership Team at Northampton County Council. As previously notified to you in writing this could result in legal action being taken.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Attendance Officer

EHE Referral

To the Parents/Carers of Student(s) Full Name,

**Student Name:** Student(s) Full Name **Date of birth:** Student(s) Date of Birth

**Referral for Elective Home Education**

I am writing to inform you that I have submitted a referral today to the Local Authority for Student(s) Full Name as per your request to home educate.

As per your notification to us, to home educate your child and as of the date of this letter Student(s) First Name will be removed from our school roll.

Kind Regards,

Sender's Signature

## Appendix E – First Response Procedure

- Attendance staff will be supported each morning by office staff to complete daily attendance first response procedure
- All staff completing attendance first response procedure will be based in the same office
- AM registers will close at 9.00am
- PM registers will close at 12.40pm
- Check pupils who are absent against the absence line
- Pupils who are late will sign in at reception and reception staff will amend attendance codes on pupils arrival
- All staff completing daily first response procedure should suspend all other tasks until first response is complete
- Attendance contact for pupils attending alternative provision will be made by the attendance team
- Pupils attending alternative provision will be identified as vulnerable pupils and home visits will be carried out as outlined below
- All attendance contact should be completed and a list for home visits generated by 10.00am
- All attendance contact to be added as an attendance comment on Arbor
- Staff who complete first day contact will record the name of any pupil who requires a home visit, including the date and the number of days of absence
- ‘Vulnerable’ pupils are identified on Arbor as user defined groups (Social Care involvement, PP, SEND, LAC, vulnerable)
- Vulnerable lists to be reviewed weekly by the DSL team
- Any pupil who is open to Social Care or any ‘vulnerable’ pupil who is absent needs a home visit on day one and any subsequent day regardless if contact has been made
- Any pupil who is open to Social Care or any ‘vulnerable’ pupil who is absent where contact has been made needs a home visit on day 1 and any subsequent days of absence
- DSLs must be informed via My Concern if a home visit is required for any ‘vulnerable’ pupil, including any pupil open to Social Care
- The DSL must inform the social worker of any absence for children open to social care
- The attendance must be made aware of any pupil who has been suspended
- All actions following home visits must be updated on Arbor and / or My Concern by the Attendance Officer
- All home visits must be recorded on the home visit spreadsheet (on the same day) by the person who carried out home visits
- Attendance staff to work with pastoral leads to ensure the accuracy of registers and amend ‘N’ codes if required
- On arrival, the cover supervisor will provide supply / temporary staff with a pack which includes information and expectations on completing registers correctly

| <b>No of days absence without contact</b> | <b>Pupils</b>  | <b>Vulnerable pupils</b>   |
|---|--|--|
| Day 1                                     | Phone call home<br><br>(If no contact is made by phone call, a text or email is sent). A home visit may be needed. | Home visit – daily<br><br>(If no contact is made for 'vulnerable pupils', inform DSL immediately who will contact the relevant agency) |
| Day 2                                     | Phone call home<br><br>(If no contact is made by phone call, a text or email is sent). A home visit may be needed. |  |
| Day 3                                     | Home visit – daily until contact is made then as below   |  |

| <b>No of days absence with contact</b> | <b>Pupils</b>   | <b>Vulnerable pupils</b> |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Day 1                                  | A home visit may be needed.   | Home visit – daily       |
| Day 2                                  | A home visit may be needed.   |                          |
| Day 3                                  | A home visit may be needed.   |                          |
| Day 4                                  | A home visit may be needed.   |                          |
| Day 5                                  | A home visit will be made on the fifth day of absence and at regular intervals of no longer than 5 consecutive days |                          |

## Appendix F: Content of EMAT Attendance emails and text messages

It may be useful for you to know what attendance figures mean for your child:

98% - 100% = Excellent

96% - 97% = Good

95% - below 96% = Satisfactory

91% - 94% = Of concern

Below 90% = Persistent absentee

|   |
|---|
| <b>100%</b>   |
| <b>Termly:</b><br>Dear Parent/Carer of XXX<br>We are delighted to celebrate that XXX achieved 100% attendance last term. We thank you for your continued support to ensure XXX attends school every day.  |
| <b>Weekly:</b><br>Dear Parent/Carer of XXX<br>We are delighted to celebrate that [NAME] achieved 100% attendance last week. We thank you for your continued support to ensure [NAME] attends school every day.  |
| <b>98% - 100% Excellent</b>   |
| Dear Parent/Carer of XXX<br>Your child's attendance last term was (98-100%), with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence.<br>Attendance of over 98% is considered excellent attendance, so very well done – keep it up!  |
| <b>96% - 97% Good</b>   |
| Dear Parent/Carer of XXX<br>Your child's attendance last term was (96-97%), with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence.<br>Attendance of 96-97% is considered good attendance, so very well done – keep it up!  |
| <b>95% - below 96% Satisfactory</b>   |
| Dear Parent/Carer of XXX<br>Your child's attendance last term was XX%, with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence.<br>Attendance between 95% and below 96% is considered satisfactory attendance. Please ensure [NAME] attends school every day.  |
| <b>91% - 94% Of concern</b>   |
| <b>Messages will be sent termly and weekly</b>  |
| <b>Termly:</b><br>Dear Parent/Carer of XXX<br>Your child's attendance last term was XX%, with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence.<br>Attendance between 91%-94% is considered to be low and of concern. Please ensure [NAME] attends school every day. If there is anything we can help with to improve your child's attendance, please contact the school office. |
| <b>Weekly:</b><br>Dear Parent/Carer of XXX  |

Your child's attendance this term so far is XX%, with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence.

Attendance between 91%-94% is considered to be low and of concern. Please ensure [NAME] attends school every day. If there is anything we can help with to improve your child's attendance, please contact the school office.

**Below 90%**

**Messages will be sent termly and weekly**

**Termly:**

Dear Parent/Carer of XXX

Your child's attendance last term was XX%, with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence.

Attendance below 90% means your child is persistently absent and this is of concern.

Please ensure [NAME] attends school every day. We will contact you to agree how we can work together to improve your child's attendance.

**Weekly:**

Dear Parent/Carer of XXX

Your child's attendance this term so far is XX%, with XX% authorised absence and XX% unauthorised absence.

Attendance below 90% means your child is persistently absent and this is of concern. Please ensure [NAME] attends school every day. We will contact you to agree how we can work together to improve your child's attendance.

## Appendix G: NIA 6th Form Attendance & Punctuality

### Purpose

The NIA6 Team acknowledge the essential role that good school attendance plays in academic and personal development for Post 16 students. Promoting regular attendance is a key component in students' employability skills and work ethic. Consistent high levels of attendance and excellent punctuality are characteristics of students who achieve above or in-line with their potential.

Research shows that poor attendance and punctuality have a serious and detrimental effect on outcomes. Attendance falling below 95% has been shown to result in an average reduction of one grade at A level per subject and this increases to two grades when attendance falls below 90%. Our sixth form attendance and punctuality policy is designed to support the best possible outcomes for our students.

### Responsibility for monitoring attendance

*In September 2015 amendments to section 7 of the Education Act to require children to continue in education or training until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. If a child is registered in the School Sixth Form, it is the parents who have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their child attends regularly.*

The NIA6 Team have a responsibility to maintain and improve Sixth Form attendance. Our Attendance Officer monitors registers and attendance and informs NIA6 Team which students attendance is falling below our expectations of 95% and above where it is causing concern. The NIA6 Team will follow up with the following actions:

|                         | Stage 1  | Stage 2   | Stage 3   | Stage 4  |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| 95% attendance or above | 90% – 94% attendance   | 80% - 89% attendance  | Below 80% attendance  | Continue attendance below 80%  |
| No action required      | Form Tutor or member of the NIA6 Team discuss concerns with the student and record detail. | Attendance concern letter sent home. Follow up conversation with student and parents by one of the NIA6 Team. | Head of Sixth Form meets with student and parents/carers to agree a support plan. | Failure to meet the terms of the support plan may lead to a request to leave the Sixth Form. |

### NIA6 Team

- Matthew John – Head of NIA6 – [matthew.john@nia.emat.uk](mailto:matthew.john@nia.emat.uk)
- Jo Silvestre – Head of year 12 & 13 – [jo.silvestre@nia.emat.uk](mailto:jo.silvestre@nia.emat.uk)
- Zara Best – Key stage 5 Pastoral leader – [zara.best@nia.emat.uk](mailto:zara.best@nia.emat.uk)
- Charley Sweeney – NIA6 Administrator – [charley.sweeney@nia.emat.uk](mailto:charley.sweeney@nia.emat.uk)

## **Authorised Absence**

Categories of absence can be seen in the [NIA attendance policy \(section 4.2\)](#). Students requiring authorisation for a planned absence (such as a medical appointment or University Open Day) are required to give the Sixth Form Administrator a pink authorisation slip at least three days before the absence. Students are encouraged where possible to make medical or dental appointments outside of school hours.

## **Illness/Family Emergency**

In the case of an unplanned absence, parents/carers are expected to notify the NIA6 Administrator each day of their child's absence, as per the NIA attendance policy (section 4.1). They will be asked to give a reason for absence and an expected return date. The NIA6 Administrator will contact home on the first day of absence if the school has not received notification from a parent/carer via email or the Sixth Form absence line. If no contact has been made by the parent/carer by the third day of absence an email will be sent home from the NIA6 Team. If there has been no response to the email from the parent/carer the NIA6 Team may make a home visit.

## **Family Holidays**

Term time holidays are not approved in the sixth form and applications for them will be declined, as per our whole-school attendance policy. Any absences will need to be requested as per 4.3 of the NIA attendance policy.

## **Punctuality**

If a student arrives late to school (after 8.45am) or arrives late to a lesson they will be initially spoken to by their form tutor. If no improvement is seen parents will be contacted by one of the NIA6 Team. Persistent lateness will require the student, parents/carers to have a meeting with the NIA6 Team to form a support plan and may lead to the student losing their place in the sixth form.

## **Driving Lessons**

Students will be given permission to attend driving lessons during study periods under the following conditions:

- Permission has been requested via a pink slip at least 3 days before the driving lesson.
- The lesson takes place during a study period not a lesson.
- Attendance is above 95% and punctuality is good.
- The most recent report cycle suggests the student's ATL and WAG grades are good or better.