



WILKINSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Attendance Policy

Working with Parents and Children to promote
'Learning for Life' through good attendance

Reviewed	Sept 2020
Monitoring & Evaluation: Headteacher, Educational Welfare Officer and Governing Body	Oct 2020

Target – 96.4%



ATTENDANCE POLICY

At Wilkinson Primary School, we wish to enable everyone to succeed as a learner; promoting, sustaining and celebrating their efforts and achievements as individuals and as valued members of the school community.

Our attendance policy and guidelines support our school aims;
In particular:

- To maintain and develop the established partnership with parents
- To actively involve all staff, children and parents in the learning process
- To provide a haven for children and adults within the local community
- To enable children to take responsibility for their own behaviour by making appropriate choices
- To make the school a happy, fair and friendly place to be

This policy should be read in conjunction with our Behaviour and Home School Agreement policies as part of our work in partnership with parents.

At Wilkinson, we believe that children can only learn effectively if they attend school regularly. It is important too, that children arrive and leave school on time. It is equally important that children should not be at school if they are unwell.

Wilkinson Primary is a happy school. Children learn best when they are happy and relaxed. All staff show concern and care about each child's welfare.

Good attendance is crucial to effective learning. School places great emphasis on this in its communication with parents. Our School Attendance policy forms a part of our induction pack for new parents. Information on lateness, illness and absence is also given to parents in the School Prospectus. This highlights the importance of children being at school on time and the need to notify school if their child is absent for any reason.

Children are admitted to school at various times of the year, and into various year groups. All parents requesting a place are asked to make an appointment with the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher. At this meeting the importance of regular attendance is always highlighted along with other school routines.

Parents are asked to share with us any worries their child may have in school. Sometimes small things upset children, which means they become unhappy, and may not want to come to school. We need to know about these issues to help avert any unnecessary difficulties

SCHOOL STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING GOOD ATTENDANCE

At Wilkinson we have a range of systems for promoting and celebrating good attendance and improved attendance / punctuality.

Ways we encourage good attendance and punctuality are:

- School attendance target is shared with children and parents
- Attendance and punctuality are part of our home-school agreement
- Certificates and prizes for achieving this attendance target – termly, annually
- Certificates and prizes for achieving 100% attendance – termly, annually
- Certificates for children with improved attendance / punctuality as part of 'Well Done' assemblies
- Parents are informed about our Annual Attendance target and reminded about Attendance and Punctuality in our News Letters
- Children's attendance is recorded on their end of year report

Attendance and Punctuality

Parents / Carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time each day. This is also part of our Home School Agreement with parents and children, because it is such an important factor in children's achievement at school.

Children need the best possible start to each day and this means arriving punctually. School starts at 8.55a.m. and all children should be at school by this time each morning. However, children are able to come into school from 8.45 and go into their classrooms. Children who are late should report to the school office. School keeps a record of all children arriving late (after 8.55a.m.)

Registers

Registers are a legal document and have to be completed carefully and accurately. Teachers are responsible for completing them at the start of each morning and afternoon session. The following codes are used in registers:

/	Present
B	educated off site (not Dual reg.)
C	Other authorised circumstances
D	Dual registration
E	Excluded
G	Family holiday (not agreed)
H	Family holiday (agreed)
I	Illness
J	Interview
L	Late (before registers closed)
M	Medical/Dental appointments
N	No reason yet provided for absence
O	Unauthorised Absence
P	Approved sporting activity
R	Religious observance
S	Study leave
T	Traveller absence
U	Late (after registers closed)
V	Educational visit or trip
W	Work experience
#	School closed to pupils & Staff *
Y	Enforced closure *
X	Non-compulsory school age absence
Z	Pupil not on roll *
-	All should attend / No mark recorded

** these codes have to be input through routines by office staff.*

Due to COVID-19, the following staggered start and finish times apply.

	<u>Start</u>	<u>Finish</u>
T4T's/ Nursery (am)	8:45am	11.45am
T4T's/ Nursery (pm)	12:15pm	3:15pm
Reception & Year 1	8:30am	2:45pm
Year 2 & Year 3	8:45am	3:00pm
Year 4 & Year 5	8:15am	2:30pm
Year 6	8:45am	3:15pm

Registers are closed *15 minutes after arrival time*. Children are marked L after this time.

Children are not allowed to leave school unaccompanied during the day for medical appointments, etc. They must be collected by a parent/carer and signed out indicating time collected and the reason.

Upon return the parent/carer signs the child back into school. We appreciate prior notice of such appointments whenever possible.

Parents must contact school on each day of their child's absence. This can be done by telephoning or calling into school to see the Headteacher or the Office Staff to explain the absence. A note pad is kept by the office telephone to record date, child, class and reason for absence. Parents can also send a letter into school when their child returns explaining the reason for the absence.

All information is used to inform teachers when filling their registers. If no notification is received about a child's absence we will contact parents/carers to request a reason.

School has a system of contacting parents when children have poor attendance.

Absences are recorded as either AUTHORISED or UNAUTHORISED.

Absences can only be authorised for:

- Illness
- Medical or dental reasons
- Religious observations
- Agreed holidays
- Exclusions

Absence is unauthorised when:

- No reason has been given for an absence
- Children have arrived late after registers have been closed and no adequate reason has been provided
- A reason has been given but it was not accepted by the Headteacher

Holidays

It is important that Parents arrange their family holidays within the school holidays, rather than in term time, to ensure that their child's educational progress is not affected. School can only authorise absence in exceptional circumstances during term time. Any absence above this is recorded as unauthorised. Parents will need to complete a Local Authority Leave of Absence Form for term time holidays, which explains the implications of taking a child out of school during term time. The Headteacher will not, under any circumstance, authorise holidays in September or May.

If parents decide to take their child out of school during term time, the Local Authority may decide to impose a fine.

Concerns

Teachers monitor the attendance of the children in their classes. If they have concerns these are reported to the Head Teacher. If a child is regularly late for school or is often absent then the school will contact the parent concerned to have an informal discussion about this.

Letters are sent to parents reminding them of the importance of punctuality, periodically during the year.

Attendance data is looked at regularly by the Head Teacher and Senior Management Team. Trends are monitored and shared with the staff and periodically, the children.

There are often patterns of absence, which do affect children's progress over the year. We work closely with our Educational Welfare Officer. If problems do persist, a referral is

made and the Educational Welfare Officer will then contact the parents to discuss the problem. The Educational Welfare Officer meets with the Attendance Officer every 3 weeks to discuss attendance related issues, and with the Head Teacher and Attendance Officer every half term to discuss in more detail, and offer advice and support. The EWO will make contact with parents if poor attendance/lateness continues. More serious problems may result in legal enforcement.

Truancy

All the staff at Wilkinson Primary are concerned about the children's regular attendance, and the importance of continuity in each child's learning. They are also concerned about each child's safety, welfare and happiness.

Although it's a very rare occurrence for a child to truant, if there is a concern that a child might be truanting then action is taken straight away.

If truancy is suspected, the Head Teacher is notified, who then contacts the parent by telephone. The Educational Welfare Office is also contacted. Parents are asked to bring their child to school so that reasons for the child not wanting to attend can be discussed and hopefully resolved.

In the event of not being able to talk to the parent then the Head Teacher talks to the child concerned to find out if there are any worries or problems in school. If there are, then these are discussed with the Class Teacher and appropriate action is taken.

Co-ordinator Headteacher

Date: Oct 2020

Policy to be reviewed: Oct 2021