



## Mottram C.E. Primary School

### **Attendance Policy**

Mottram CE (Aided) Primary School recognises that positive behaviour and good attendance are central to raising standards and pupil attainment. It is very important that you make sure your child attends regularly. This policy sets out how, together, we can achieve this.

At Mottram CE (Aided) Primary School we:

- promote children's welfare and safeguarding
- ensure every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- ensure that pupils succeed whilst at school
- ensure that pupils have access to the widest possible range of opportunities when they leave school

For children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend school. Your child should be at school, on time, every day.

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. Any pupil's absence or late arrival disrupts teaching routines and may affect the learning of others in the same class.

It is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure punctual and regular school attendance set out in Section 4441 of the 1996 Education Act. Absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution under Section 4441 or 441a of the 1996 Education Act.

#### **Promoting Regular Attendance**

Helping to create a pattern of regular attendance is everybody's responsibility – parents/carers, pupils and all members of school staff.

We will inform parents/carers if we become concerned about a child's attendance. We will also inform parents/carers if a child's punctuality needs to improve.

97% - 100%	Excellent
94% - 96.99%	Good
90% - 93.99%	Cause for Concern
Below 90%	Serious Concern



## **Understanding types of absence**

Every half-day absence from school has to be classified by the school as either AUTHORISED or UNAUTHORISED. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required in writing.

Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a good reason, such as, illness or medical treatment which unavoidably falls in school time. However, this will impact on the child's attendance percentage.

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been given. This type of absence can lead to Tameside Council using legal proceedings. Unauthorised absence includes:

- holidays during term time and day trips
- parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily
- truancy before or during the school day
- absences which have never been properly explained
- children who arrive at school too late to get a mark - after 9.15 am.
- shopping, haircuts, looking after other children or birthdays

Whilst any child may be off school because they are ill, sometimes they can be reluctant to attend school. Any problems with regular attendance are best sorted out between the school, the parents/carers and the child. If your child is reluctant to attend school, it is never best to cover up their absence or to give in to pressure to excuse them from attending. This gives the impression that attendance does not matter and usually makes things worse.

If your child is absent following a holiday in term time, following safeguarding guidelines you may receive a home visit from our Education Welfare Officer or member of staff.

## **Processes for managing and supporting good attendance**

### Leave of Absence

From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 the law relating to term time holidays by pupils at maintained schools and special schools not maintained by a local authority is set out in Regulation 7 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, as amended by the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 Headteachers are no longer able to authorise any absence for the purpose of a holiday in term time. The new law gives parents/carers no entitlement to take their child out of school for a holiday in term time. If parents/carers take their child out of school when the absence is unauthorised, a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to parents/carers following ten sessions of absence (5 days). This can also apply to ten sessions of split absence over a period of time.

### Monitoring attendance patterns

We aim for outstanding attendance by following the steps below:

1. We have a legal responsibility to monitor attendance daily. Reports are produced at the end of every month, taking into consideration the following points:



- a. The number and frequency of absences
  - b. The number of authorised and unauthorised periods of absence (including unauthorised holidays in term time)
  - c. The pattern of absences
  - d. The impact on the child's learning
  - e. The nature of any illness and need for a doctor or other medical advice to support the discussion
2. If absence continues to be a serious concern, we may implement an Attendance Plan.
  3. If the problem cannot be successfully addressed within school, then we may need to contact other outside agencies to seek support and resolve the situation.
  4. Where attendance falls below 90% this is classified as persistent absence. If this happens parents/carers will be notified. Where parents/carers are in agreement a strategy will be put into place to improve the attendance and intervention from the Educational Welfare Officer may be required.
  5. A pupil becomes a 'persistent absentee' when their percentage attendance reaches 90% for whatever reason. Absence at this level is doing considerable damage to any child's educational prospects and we need parents/carers fullest support and cooperation to tackle this. PA pupils are tracked and monitored carefully through our pastoral system and we also combine this with academic mentoring where absence affects attainment. All PA cases are made known to the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) and Tameside Local Authority, and all are put on first day contact (whenever possible, a member of the school administration team will contact home before 10am).

### **Absence Procedures**

If your child is absent you must:

- Contact us by telephone as soon as possible on the first day of absence and any subsequent days following, or parents/carers can call into school and report to the office.

If your child is absent, we will:

- Telephone, email or text you on the first day of absence if we have not heard from you by 9:30am.
- Invite you in to discuss the situation if absences persist.
- Consider issuing a Penalty Notice Warning if attendance continues to be an issue.

Parents/carers are expected to contact school at an early stage and to work with the staff in resolving any problems together. If difficulties cannot be sorted out this way, the school may refer the child to the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO), who will try to resolve the situation by agreement but, if other ways of trying to improve the child's attendance have failed and unauthorised absences persist, school may request sanctions such as Penalty Warnings, Penalty Notices or prosecutions at the Magistrates Court. Full details of the options open to enforce attendance at school are available from the school or Local Authority. If parents/carers take a child out of school for a period of unauthorised extended leave, the child may be removed from the school roll.



## **Lateness**

Poor punctuality is not acceptable. If a child misses the start of the day, they can miss work and do not spend time with their class teacher getting vital information and news for the day. Late arriving pupils also disrupt lessons and it can be embarrassing for a child when walking into a lesson when it has already begun. It can also encourage absence. Good time keeping is a vital life skill which will help our children as they progress through school life into the wider world.

### ***How we manage lateness***

The school day starts at 8:55am and we expect the children to arrive at school before this time. The school gates will be opened at 8:45am when the teaching staff enter the playground to meet and greet children.

Registers are marked at the start of school every day and your child will receive a late mark if they arrive in school after 9:00am.

Registers are closed at 9:15am. In accordance with the Regulations, if your child arrives after that time, they will receive a mark that shows them to be on site, but this will count as a 'late after registers have closed' mark and it will mean they have an unauthorised absence. This may mean that you could face the possibility of a Penalty Warning if the problem persists.

If your child has a persistent late record you will be asked to meet with school to resolve the problem, but you can approach us at any time if you are having problems getting your child to school on time. If poor punctuality persists, we may have to implement an Attendance Plan.

We will encourage good punctuality by being good role models to our children and celebrate good class punctuality.

### **School target**

Our attendance target as set out by the Governing Body of Mottram CE (Aided) Primary School is 96%. Our aim is to reach and exceed our target because we believe that good attendance is the key to successful learning.

### **Those people responsible for attendance matters at Mottram CE (Aided) Primary School:**

Mrs Scattergood, Headteacher  
Mrs Hughes, Acting Headteacher  
Karen Johnson, School Business Manager  
Vanessa Pomfrey, One Education

### **People responsible for this policy and its implementation:**

Headteacher  
The Governing Body