



**Inspiring  
Learners**

MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

# Attendance Policy

*Date published:* **October 2020**

*Date of next review:* **October 2021**

## 1. Introduction

*“Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood that it is insufficiently stated – pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.” (School Attendance Guidance, DfE, 2013)*

At Bollin, all staff work collaboratively to encourage every pupil to strive for excellence. Every child is supported, challenged and valued. One way in which we strive to do this is by encouraging staff, parents and children to maximise the learning experience in order that all children reach their full potential.

We are determined in encouraging the development of high self-esteem and for our children to take pride and ownership of their learning. In conjunction with this, we will continuously provide a clear framework for parents and staff as well as clear procedures for involving parents and/or external agencies where appropriate.

Our policy applies to all children registered at this school and this policy is made available to all parents/carers of pupils that are registered at our school on the school website.

Bollin encourages all parents/carers to work in partnership with the school in order to improve attendance and punctuality.

*“parents have the primary responsibility to ensure that pupils of compulsory school age attend school regularly” (DfE, 1999)*

Our Home-School Agreement also emphasises the expectation that we have that children will attend school regularly and punctually.

## 2. Our Attendance Vision

Maximise the attendance rate of **every** child so that they are in school, supported and enabled to reach their full potential.

Our school mission and values underpin our attendance vision. Our mission statement ‘*Growing hearts and minds together*’ encapsulates our purpose as a school and our four school values underpin this mission; principles upon which all members of the school community support us to embed in our school.

*We work together*

*We learn and achieve*

*We are kind and care for each other*

*We respect our school and community*

Excellent attendance for every child is a critical factor in enabling us to achieve our mission and in enabling our children to achieve their potential. If attendance is outstanding, our children have improved life chances and will make more rapid progress academically and socially.

### 3. Aims and Targets

The Trust Board and Governing body of Bollin Primary school strive to achieve standards and believe that excellent pupil attendance and punctuality are essential. In order for children to achieve their potential, pupils must be highly motivated to learn and keen and eager to attend school.

Regular, punctual attendance will establish good habits that will support them throughout their lives. To achieve this, the trustees, governors and staff are committed to working in partnership with parents to ensure that the school achieves a **minimum of 97% attendance throughout the school.**

Through this policy we aim to:

- Improve pupils' achievement by ensure high levels of attendance and punctuality.
- Achieve a **minimum of 95% for all pupils**, apart from those with chronic health issues.
- Create an ethos in which high attendance and punctuality are recognised as the norm and seen to be valued by the school.
- Promote a positive and welcoming atmosphere in which pupils feel safe, secure and valued, and encourage in pupils a sense of their own responsibility.
- Raise awareness of parents, carers and pupils of the importance of uninterrupted attendance and punctuality at every stage of a child's education.
- Promote good attendance habits, with non-compulsory school age pupils in Nursery and Reception.
- Work in partnership with pupils, parents, staff and external agencies so that all pupils realise their potential, unhindered by unnecessary absence.
- Establish a pattern of monitoring attendance and ensure consistency in recognising achievement and dealing with difficulties.
- Recognise the key role of all staff in promoting good attendance.

Attendance during one school year ...	equals this number of days absence ...	which is approximately this many weeks absent ...	which means this number of lessons missed.	Every Day Counts
100%	0 days	0 weeks	0 lessons	EXCELLENT
97%	5.5 days	1 week	20 lessons	GOOD
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons	AVERAGE
93%	13 days	3 weeks	60 lessons	POOR
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons	PERSISTENT ABSENTEE – VERY POOR
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons	
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons	

#### **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

##### **Parents**

- Ensure that their children attend school regularly
- Notify school on the first day of absence before 9.30am by phone/letter/email
- Complete a request form for absence in term time for exceptional circumstances
- Hand in medical evidence where attendance rate and/or attendance pattern is a concern for the school (typically below 93%).
- Meet with the Head of School / Assistant Head to discuss their child's attendance when necessary

##### **Class Teachers**

- Complete register at the start of each session (morning and afternoon)
- Monitor daily patterns of attendance and report any concerns that arise to the SLT
- Provide work for children to do at home if an absence is due to a long illness, disability, absence as a result of a Positive Covid Test, or other exceptional circumstances
- Make parents aware of concerns over good attendance

##### **Office Staff**

**Mrs Cowle is responsible for Attendance Administrator within the school office.**

- Input attendance data on SIMs system
- For children for whom absence is a concern, input any absence, and communication from parents, on CPOMs
- Print a weekly attendance update, with attendance rate for every child
- Print off official reports for each calendar month for monitoring purposes (or more frequently if required) and update on Attendance Spreadsheet.
- Monitor alongside the Head of School and Attendance Lead, patterns of attendance and lateness and immediately raise any concerns.
- Make first day absence calls and record reasons for absence
- Carry out attendance procedures with parents of children whose attendance is of a concern

##### **Attendance Lead**

**Mrs Weightman is our Attendance Lead.**

##### **Punctuality**

- Daily meet and greet at front of school all children.
- Liaise with parents regarding any issue which also helps to build positive relationships.
- Contact home and speak where possible to all parents to discuss reasons why the child is arriving late to school, again to foster positive working relationships.
- In the case of persistent lateness invite parent/carers to attend school to discuss and formulate a plan.

##### **Attendance**

- Liaise with parents regarding any issue which also helps to build positive relationships.
- Closely monitor attendance of PA children and act swiftly if they are absent.
- Liaise closely with school office each morning to determine children who are absent and to find out why.
- Ensure that all interventions / conversations / actions are logged on CPOMs.

- Carry out home visits to check on the welfare of a child if asked by the Head of School.
- Liaise closely with and share information with other agencies if appropriate.
- Highlight persistent absence concerns with SLT as soon as possible.
- Work with Head of School to meet with parents and put Attendance Plans in place for children whose attendance rate is a concern.

### Attendance Data

- Work with SLT to analyse attendance data (whole school, cohort, class, pupil groups, individual pupils) to identify patterns and areas of concern and to plan action to address.

### Head of School

Mrs O'Hara, Head of School, is the **designated Attendance Champion** for our school and oversees all the work to promote and support good attendance.

- Work closely with school office and Attendance Lead to closely monitor all absences.
- Analyse weekly and monthly attendance data, monitor official registers and take actions where concerns have been identified.
- Report to governors termly on attendance performance.
- Inform parents of individual pupils' attendance record, each term at Parents' Evening and in the end of year schools report.
- Inform/Meet with parents whose children's attendance causes concern.
- Work with Attendance Lead to meet with parents and put Attendance Plans in place for children whose attendance rate is a concern.
- Make referrals to the School Nurse / Early Help / First Response

### Governing body

- Monitor whole school attendance termly and take appropriate action should it affect standards.
- Nominate a named Governor for Attendance (Safeguarding governor) and meet at least twice yearly to discuss attendance.

### Trust Board

- Approve the Trust Attendance Policy
- Monitor attendance patterns across the Trust and monitor/evaluate the impact of the Attendance Policy

### Punctuality

When a child arrives on time:

- Registration takes place quickly and smoothly
- An activity is put on the board or out around the classroom
- The day gets off to a good start for everyone
- Everyone hears the information given and is included in important explanations and discussions. This ensures that everyone knows what to do and what is expected of them

When a child arrives late:

- It interrupts concentration
- It wastes valuable learning time
- The teacher repeats information / instructions whilst others have to wait

- The late child is at an immediate disadvantage because they may have missed important teaching points, missed discussions where ideas are shared and will be generally unsettled

It is the parent/carers responsibility:

- To ensure that their children arrive to school on time. Our doors open at 8:45am providing a 15 minute window for the children to arrive. This is sufficient time for all pupils to get to their classroom. School officially starts at 9am and the doors are closed at that time. From 9am, any children arriving **MUST** report to the main entrance and they will receive a late mark.
- Due to Covid we have increased our arrival and exit time period and staggered entry for pupils according to surname. Parents are asked to ensure their child arrives and is collected, on time, during their allocated time slot.
- To ensure children are collected promptly at the end of the school day and that necessary arrangements are in place for the journey home. If these differ from the child's normal arrangements, the class teacher and school office should be made aware of this.
- Children who arrive late (after the doors close at 9am) and have gone to the office entrance, must be signed in by their parent/carer or appropriate adult, a reason for the lateness is also requested. The admin staff will update the SIMs system with their mark. Adults of EYFS children will wait with their child until it is convenient for the child to be taken to class.
- Children who have to leave for any reason throughout the day must be signed out at the main office by their parent/carer or appropriate adult. However, this is strongly discouraged. Parents are requested to make dental or medical appointments outside of school hours.

### **Holiday in Term Time Procedures**

*“Head teachers should only authorise leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. If a head teacher grants a leave request, it will be for the head teacher to determine the length of time that the child can be away from school. Leave is unlikely, however, to be granted for the purposes of a family holiday as a norm.”*

**School Attendance Guidance, DfE**

Any absence, other than for genuine illness or emergency medical attention, will most likely be classed as unauthorised unless exceptional circumstances. As a Trust we **do not** authorise days absence for holidays – **holidays are not exceptional circumstances.**

Where an unauthorised holiday is taken in term time, it is likely a request will be made to the LA to issue a fine.

Parents may choose to complete an ‘Exceptional Circumstances Form’ stating why they are requesting to remove their child during term time. This is given to the Head of School. Only exceptional circumstances will this be authorised. The decision whether to authorise an ‘exceptional circumstance’ will be made by the Head of School and Executive Headteacher.

### **Strategies for Monitoring Good Attendance**

- Individual praise postcards sent home half termly where ‘target’ attendance (97%) has been gained (*this is always calculated cumulatively from September*).
- Praise postcards / letter sent home where a child’s attendance rate shows significant improvement.
- Head of School will monitor attendance and any child with below 95% attendance will trigger concern resulting attendance procedures to take place (see flow chart) and/or an action plan to be put in place.
- Monthly attendance update on Head of School’s newsletter for parents.

## **School attendance, Safeguarding and Children Missing Education**

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. School staff will follow the Trust's procedures for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future (Keeping Children Safe in Education (updated September 2020) and Children Missing in Education Nov 2013, updated Sept 2016).

All Schools are required to make the local authority aware of every registered pupil who fails to attend school regularly and any children who have been absent from school, where the absence has been treated as unauthorised for a continuous period of not less than 10 school days Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 regulation 12.

This attendance policy is part of broader suite of Safeguarding policies including the Trust's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

### **Illness**

It is a school's decision whether to accept a reason for a child's absence and whether to authorise that absence. In the majority of cases a parents' note/email/phone call explaining that their child was ill can be accepted without question or concern. Where attendance rate and/or attendance pattern is a concern for the school (typically below 93%) further evidence of a child's illness may be requested for the absence to be authorised.

This policy reflects the mission and aims of Inspiring Learners Trust and Bollin Primary School.

### **Appendices**

**Appendix A** – Guidance from NAHT on authorised term time pupil absence

**Appendix B** – Flow chart of late procedures

**Appendix C** – EXAMPLE Late Letters: Letter 1 (Late warning letter), Letter 2 – (Invitation to a School Review Lates Meeting)

**Appendix D** - Flow chart of attendance procedures

**Appendix E** – EXAMPLE Attendance Letters: Letter 1 (Whole School Attendance Letter), Letter 2 (Head of School concerns letter), Letter 3 (Medical evidence/request letter), Letter 4 (Invitation to a School Review Attendance Meeting)

**Appendix F** - Term Time Leave Request Form

**Appendix G** – Attendance Contract Template



### Guidance on authorised term-time pupil absence

A little background to term-time pupil absences On matters relating to term-time pupil absences, the Education (pupil registration) (England) (amendment) Regulations 2013, which came into force on 1 September 2013, removed all references to ‘family holidays’ and ‘extended leave’ as well as the ‘notional threshold of ten school days’.

The 2013 amendments made it clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term-time unless ‘exceptional circumstances’ prevail. The regulations also state that head teachers should determine the number of school days a pupil can be away from school in the event that leave is granted for ‘exceptional circumstances’.

We believe the guidelines in this document are compatible with the amendments and help to clarify the meaning of ‘exceptional circumstances’; they do not change it.

It’s generally held that head teachers can authorise a pupil’s absence during termtime but the merits of such a request are now required to be exceptional.

### NAHT’s approach and advice to managing term-time pupil absence requests

There continues to be some debate about what ‘exceptional circumstances’ mean when deciding whether to grant absence for pupils during term-time. We think we can help in this respect.

The NAHT believes it is valuable to have some guiding principles to back schools in their decisions to grant term-time pupil absences and to provide some consistency.

These guiding principles have no statutory authority; schools are at liberty to adopt them nonetheless as part of their overall approach to granting pupil term-time absence.

The fundamental principles for defining ‘exceptional circumstances’ are that they are ‘rare, significant, unavoidable and short

### Guiding principles

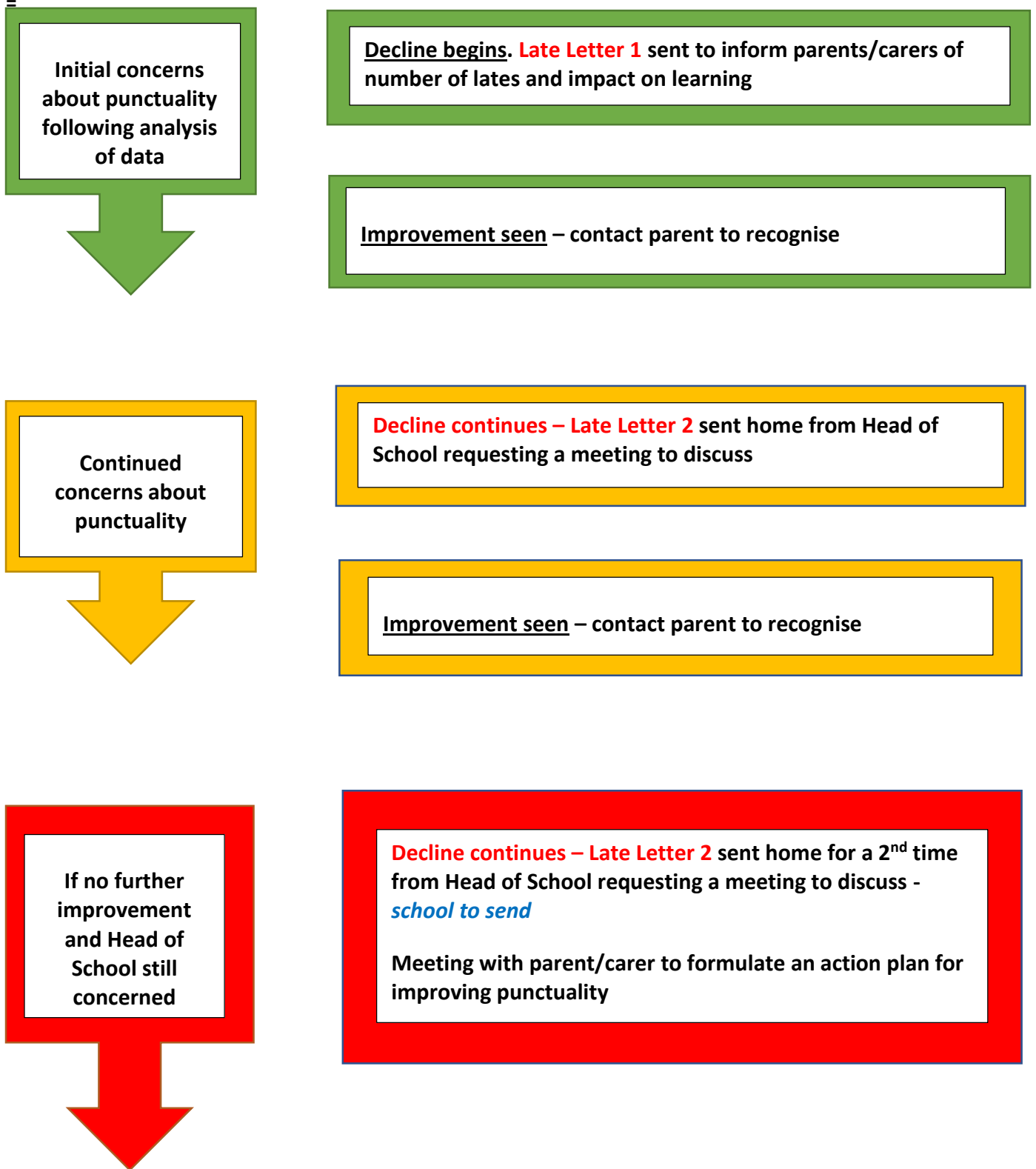
1. Term times are for education. This is the priority. Children and families have 175 days off school to spend time together, including weekends and school holidays. Head teachers will rightly prioritise attendance. The default school policy should be that absences will not be granted during term-time and will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.



2. The decision to authorise a pupil's absence is wholly at the head teacher's discretion based on their assessment and merits of each request.
3. If an event can be reasonably scheduled outside of term-time then it would not be normal to authorise absence for such an event – holidays are therefore not considered 'exceptional circumstances'.
4. Absences to visit seriously-ill relatives or for a bereavement of a close family member are usually considered to amount to 'exceptional circumstances', but for the funeral service only, not for extended leave.
5. Absences for important religious observances are often taken into account but only for the ceremony and travelling time, again, not for extended leave. This is intended for one-off situations rather than regular or recurring events.
6. Schools may wish to take the needs of the families of service personnel into account if they are returning from long operational tours that prevent contact during scheduled holiday time.
7. Schools have a duty to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
8. Families may need time together to recover from a trauma or a crisis.
9. It is acceptable to take a pupil's record of attendance into account when making absence related decisions.
10. It is important to note that head teachers can determine the length of the authorised absence as well as whether a particular absence is authorised. Where schools serve communities whose patterns of work create a regular barrier to attendance and family life, schools could consider changes to term times; we strongly recommend this approach is coordinated across schools in a designated area or region.

Appendix B – Flow chart of late procedures

Flow chart of Late Procedures



**Appendix C – Late Letters: EXAMPLE Letter 1 (Late warning letter)**

Insert date

«ParentTitle» «ParentFirstName» «ParentLastName»

«AddressLine1» «AddressLine2»

«City»

«PostCode»

Dear «ParentTitle» «ParentLastName»

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

**We are sure you are aware that XXXX can enter school from 08.40 to enable him to be in class for registration at 9am.**

Please note that children arriving after 9am will be recorded as an unauthorised late for the morning session, this will affect your child’s attendance record. May we also remind you that if children arrive late a parent/carer should accompany them to the school office to sign them in.

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

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

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

Poor punctuality can lead to your child ...

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

If your child is having any difficulties that you wish to discuss, contact me immediately. Your child’s punctuality must now improve or the school may have no option but to take further action against you.

Yours sincerely,

## Appendix C – Late Letter: EXAMPLE Letter 2 – (Invitation to a School Review Lates Meeting)

Insert date

«ParentTitle» «ParentFirstName» «ParentLastName»

«AddressLine1» «AddressLine2»

«City»

«PostCode»

Dear «ParentTitle» «ParentLastName»

Your child, «ChildFirstName» «ChildLastName» has been identified as having poor punctuality. This year he/she has been late on ?? occasions.

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

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

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

I previously wrote to you in ??? to advise you of my concern with XXXX punctuality. As there has been no improvement, I now wish to request a meeting with you to discuss the situation and to see how we can support you in improving XXX punctuality. Please can I ask you to contact the school office to arrange this meeting.

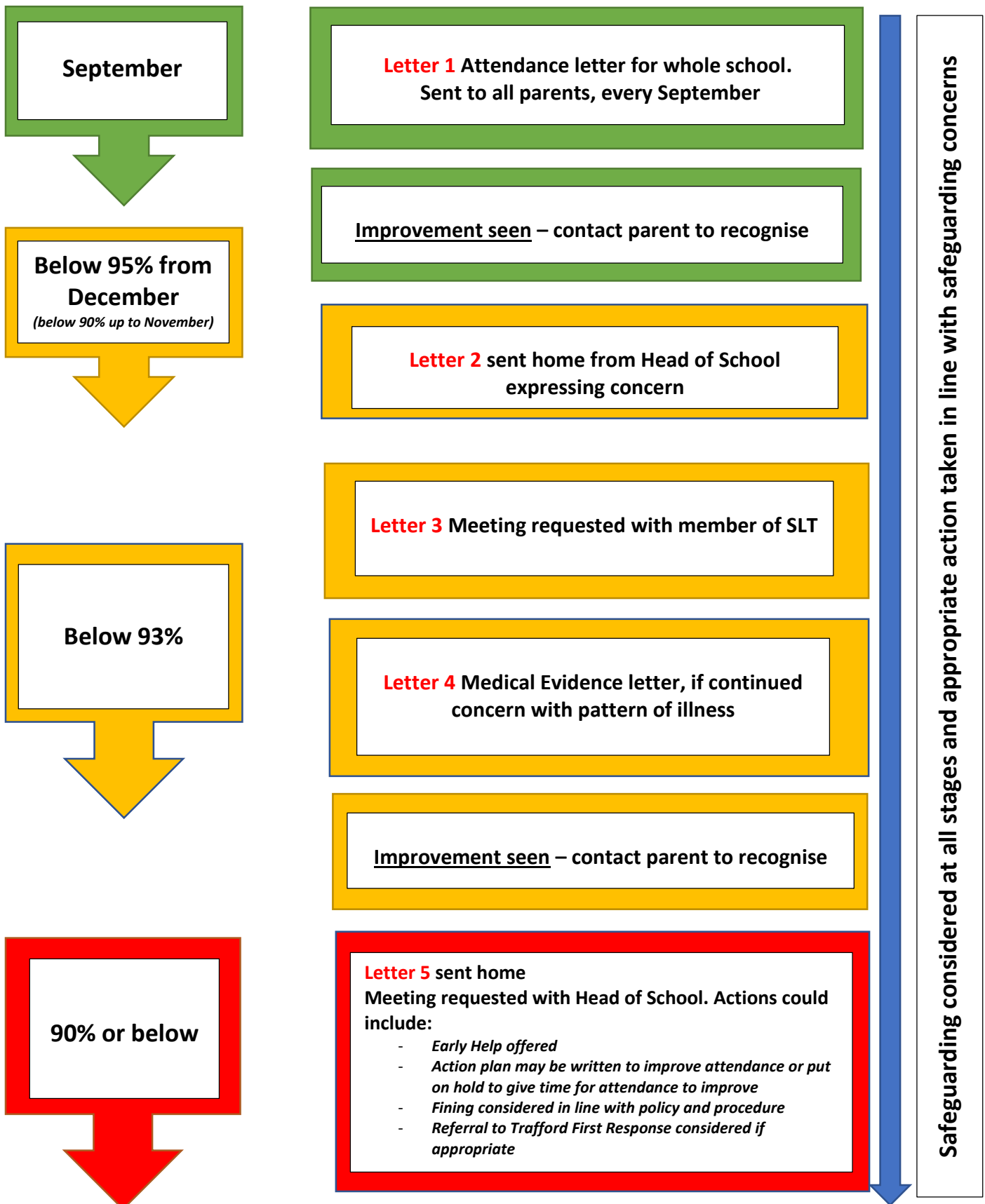
Yours sincerely,

Appendix D - Flow chart of attendance procedures

### Flow chart of Attendance Procedures

This flowchart is a guide.

Head of School is to use their discretion, and knowledge of the child/family, to make decision regarding appropriate action.



## Appendix E – Attendance Letters: EXAMPLE Letter 1 (Whole School Attendance Letter)

### Attendance - A very important message for all Parents/Carers

Insert Date

Dear Parent/Carer,

At the start of the new school year we would like to remind all parents of the importance of attendance and punctuality. We recognise that many parents ensure their child attends school regularly and is punctual and we thank you for your strong support.

At Bollin, we recognise that good attendance and punctuality are central to raising standards and pupil attainment. For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education **it is vital that they attend regularly and be at school, on time, every day the school is open** unless the reason for the absence is genuinely unavoidable.

#### **TIME OFF SCHOOL AFFECTS YOUR CHILD'S ACHIEVEMENT**

Attendance during one school year ...	equals this number of days absence ...	which is approximately this many weeks absent ...	which means this number of lessons missed.	Every Day Counts
100%	0 days	0 weeks	0 lessons	EXCELLENT
97%	5.5 days	1 week	20 lessons	GOOD
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons	AVERAGE
93%	3 days	3 weeks	60 lessons	POOR
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons	PERSISTENT ABSENTEE – VERY POOR
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons	
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons	

If your child's attendance rate is below 95%, their **absence rate will be affecting their learning and achievement** and we will be in contact with you. Please work with us to ensure your child has the very best opportunity to achieve their very best.

#### **Questions to ask yourselves:**

Does my child really need to be absent from school?

Unless a child has a long-term health condition incidents of absence due to illness should be rare. Whilst we don't wish a child to be sent to school if they are genuinely ill, we do encourage children to attend school when they are suffering from minor ailments such as a cold as this will establish good habits that will support them throughout their lives.

We appreciate that it is difficult to assess whether you should send your child into school if they feel poorly, rest assured we will contact you to collect them if they are too ill to be in school.

Is it appropriate to take my child out of school for a holiday?

The Trust Board and Governing Body have determined through our Attendance Policy that holidays will all be regarded as unauthorised and subject to Fixed Penalty Notice. Please note we will automatically request medical evidence for any illness absence taken immediately before or after a school holiday.

Does my child have to attend a medical appointment during the school day?

We ask that you endeavour to attend medical appointments out of school hours

Please can I once again emphasise how much we appreciate your on-going support.

## Appendix E – Attendance Letters: EXAMPLE Letter 2 (Head of School concerns letter)

Insert date

«ParentTitle» «ParentFirstName» «ParentLastName»

«AddressLine1» «AddressLine2»

«PostCode»

Dear «ParentTitle» «ParentLastName»

Re: «ChildFirstName» «ChildLastName» - D.O.B. «ChildDOB» Yr «YearGroup»

I'm writing to you to express concern about «ChildFirstName» attendance in school. Please see the attached Attendance Certificate for further details.

As you may be aware, it is the legal responsibility of parents to ensure children attend school regularly.

### **TIME OFF SCHOOL AFFECTS YOUR CHILD'S ACHIEVEMENT**

Attendance during one school year ...	equals this number of days absence ...	which is approximately this many weeks absent ...	which means this number of lessons missed.	Every Day Counts
100%	0 days	0 weeks	0 lessons	EXCELLENT
97%	5.5 days	1 week	20 lessons	GOOD
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons	AVERAGE
93%	3 days	3 weeks	60 lessons	POOR
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons	PERSISTENT ABSENTEE – VERY POOR
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons	
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons	

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

- do not achieve their potential as absence affects their learning and achievement
- find it difficult to maintain friendships
- miss out on social events

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

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

I look forward to seeing «ChildFirstName» attendance improve over the coming weeks and thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

## Appendix E – EXAMPLE Letter 3 (Medical evidence/request letter)

Insert date

«ParentTitle» «ParentFirstName» «ParentLastName»

«AddressLine1» «AddressLine2»

«City»

«PostCode»

Dear «ParentTitle» «ParentLastName»

Re: «ChildFirstName» «ChildLastName» - D.O.B. «ChildDOB» Yr «YearGroup»

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please be aware that telephone calls and handwritten notes from a parent/carer are not acceptable as medical evidence when attendance is of serious concern. I have to advise you as a parent/carer of a child of statutory school age, you have a legal responsibility to ensure full time education suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs the child may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise (Education Act 1996 Section 444).



We work with parents to improve school attendance. Good attendance will mean that your child is able to achieve the best grades for their ability and have real opportunity in further education and the world of work. Absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class.

Children who do not attend regularly:

- do not achieve their potential
- find it difficult to maintain friendships
- miss out on social events

If you feel that your child has ongoing or unresolved medical issues you are advised to approach your doctor urgently. If you wish to discuss the contents of this letter or your child's attendance, please contact school.

Yours sincerely,

**Appendix E – Attendance Letters: EXAMPLE Letter 4 (Invitation to a School Review Attendance Meeting)**

Insert date

«ParentTitle» «ParentFirstName» «ParentLastName»

«AddressLine1» «AddressLine2»

«City»

«PostCode»

Attendance Invitation to a School Attendance Review Meeting

Dear «ParentTitle» «ParentLastName»

Re: «ChildFirstName» «ChildLastName» - D.O.B. «ChildDOB» Yr «YearGroup» at «SchoolName»

There have been continuing difficulties concerning the attendance of your child «ChildFirstName» «ChildLastName» at «SchoolName».

You have been offered advice and support to improve «ChildFirstName»'s attendance.

In an attempt to resolve issues regarding attendance, I request an urgent School Attendance Review Meeting.

**It is very important that you contact me to arrange a convenient time and date. Your co-operation is essential.**

This meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss any matters of concern. Failure to attend this meeting and further unauthorised absence could result in you being prosecuted in court and/or a penalty notice being issued.

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

Please contact me urgently to arrange a meeting within the coming week.

Yours sincerely

## Appendix F – Exceptional Circumstances Form

Bollin Primary School



*Growing hearts and minds together*

### EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES REQUEST

#### EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Dear Parent/Carer,

The law states that you ***do not have the right*** to take your child out of school during term time. The local authority works with the school to reduce the number of children missing school because of absence taken in term time and the school may not approve your request to take your child out of school.

The regulations allow Head Teachers discretion to grant permission for authorised leave of absence in ***exceptional circumstances***. It is important to ensure that should you need to request leave of absence for your child you should give as much notice as possible and certainly not less than 28 days.

There are times of the year when a child may experience extra problems because of missing school. These include test periods, at the time of starting a new school or at the start of a new school term. In deciding whether to authorise your child's absence and give permission for a leave of absence in term time, the school will take these and other factors into account.

If your application is refused and you still take your child out of school the absences will be treated as unauthorised. Unauthorised absences ***may lead to a Penalty Notice or a Summons*** being issued against you for irregular school attendance.

Having read the information if you still wish to apply for leave of absence for your child in exceptional circumstances then please complete the application form attached. **You should be aware that leave of absence will not be granted for a holiday during school time.**

Your application form should be returned to the school office as far in advance of the proposed absence as possible and no later than 28 days before the absence is proposed.

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs N O'Hara**  
Head of School



**EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES REQUEST FORM**

Parents do not have a right to take their children out of school for leave during term time. Parents wishing to apply for their child to have leave from school should complete this form and return it to school, giving at least 4 weeks' notice, waiting for authorisation.

**Regular attendance is an important factor in your child's performance at school. Please think carefully before deciding to request leave of absence.**

**PARENTS SECTION (Please Complete All Boxes)**

Name of child/children:
Class(es):

First date of absence: dd/mm/yyyy	
Date of Return: dd/mm/yyyy	
Number of days requested:	
Reason for Request :	

Would s(he) miss any national/school tests? (in May) <i>No holidays will be authorised in May (for all year groups) unless assessment period is over.</i>	
Would s(he) miss any preparation for national tests? <i>No holidays will be authorised in March or April for Year 2 or 6.</i>	
Have you requested time off in term time before?	

I understand that if leave of absence is not agreed it will be treated as unauthorised and may lead to the issue of a penalty notice for £60, which increases to £120 if not paid within 14 days. I am also aware that non-payment of a penalty notice may result in a summons for irregular school attendance.

Name of parent/carer making application:

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**For Office Use Only**

Attendance last academic year:	Comments:
Attendance this academic year:	
<b>Approved</b>	<b>Not Approved</b>

**Signed (Head of School):**

## Appendix G – Attendance Contract Template

**Bollin Primary School**



*Growing hearts and minds together*

### Attendance Contract Template

<b>Date/time of meeting:</b>	
<b>Venue:</b>	

<b>Pupil name:</b>	
<b>Date of birth:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>School:</b>	

<b>Present at meeting:</b>	
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<b>Action agreed</b>
EXAMPLES OF ACTION AGREED: Pupil will arrive at school in their allocated slot time every day. Parent will inform the school on the first day of a sickness absence and provide a note upon pupil's return. Parent will provide medical evidence for every sickness absence pupil may incur. Are any issues preventing pupil from attending regularly, school staff will be informed?

<b>Attendance target:</b>	97%+
<b>Timescale for improvement:</b>	

<b>Date for review meeting:</b>	
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I confirm that this Attendance Action Plan was agreed by all present.

Signed:

..... Parent/carer  
..... Pupil  
..... School Representative  
..... Other Agency