



Truro and Penwith
Academy Trust



BLACKWATER COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Attendance Policy

2023 - 2024

Policy Statement

It is the aim of all TPAT schools that every pupil enjoys learning, experiences success and realises their full potential. The Attendance Policy reflects these aims and recognises that regular full time attendance has a very significant positive effect on the motivation, social development and attainment of pupils.

As part of the Truro and Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT), we are committed to our shared core purpose, which is at the heart of all we do. This core purpose is to improve the life chances for all children and young people in our schools. Our school's mission/ core values are aligned with that of the Trust:

“Treat others how you wish to be treated”

Our school strives to deliver excellent educational experiences for pupils, improving their life chances and serving the communities to which we belong.

This policy should be read in conjunction with existing school policies including (but not limited to) the following policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Special Educational Needs and Disability
- Behaviour (Relational Policy)
- Exclusions and Suspensions
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

Legislation and DfE guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the following legislation which sets out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance including:

- The Education Act 1996 (as amended)
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended in 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2016)
- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended in 2012 and 2013)

DfE guidance:

- The Equality Act 2010 and schools (DfE May 2014)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice_Final.pdf
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (DfE December 2015)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>

- Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school (DfE January 2013)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>
- Keeping children safe in education (DfE)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- Working together to improve School Attendance (DfE)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>
- School attendance parental responsibility measures (DfE January 2015)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/parental-responsibility-measures-for-behaviour-and-attendance>
- School census guidance (DfE)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complete-the-school-census>
- [Suspension and permanent exclusion \(DfE May 2023\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suspension-and-permanent-exclusion)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suspension-and-permanent-exclusion>
- Home to school travel and transport guidance (DfE June 2023)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-to-school-travel-and-transport-guidance>

Aims

- To communicate the importance to all pupils and their parents/carers of maximum attendance at school as an essential pre-requisite for making full advantage of the educational opportunities and to maximise individual achievement;
- To make explicit to all relevant parties (staff, parents/carers and students) the School's expectations for attendance;
- To promote a consistent approach across the school towards all matters relating to attendance;
- To clarify the roles and responsibilities of all parties with respect to attendance;
- To communicate to all relevant parties, the legal position with respect to attendance and the categories of absence which are deemed "authorised";
- To communicate the need for families and school staff to work in close partnership to achieve high attendance.

Introduction

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996, places a legal duty on Parents/Carers to ensure that any child of compulsory school age receives full-time education that is suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs the child may have. It is essential for children to attend school regularly in order to maximise the opportunities available to them. For a child to reach their full

potential a high level of school attendance and punctuality is essential. We aspire to achieve 100% attendance for every child. We acknowledge that there may be times when a child is unavoidably absent from school.

Blackwater School supports children and parents by:

- *Promoting the value of high attendance and punctuality and reducing absence, lateness and particularly persistent absence*
- *Ensuring every child has access to full time education to which they are entitled*
- *Acting early to support high attendance and address absence*
- *Ensuring school is a safe and supportive environment in which children can thrive.*

Why regular attendance is important:

Any absence impacts on the progress of a child and disrupts learning, relationships with peers and academic, personal and social development. Repeated absence is therefore most likely to be detrimental to children and to seriously impede their learning. Any child's absence disrupts teaching and may, therefore, affect the learning of others in the same class.

Ensuring a child's regular attendance at school is the responsibility of the parent/carer and permitting absence from school without a good reason is an offence in law and may result in prosecution.

Safeguarding:

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 places a duty on local authorities and governing bodies to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and students under the age of 18.

A child may be at risk of harm if they do not attend school regularly. Safeguarding the interests of each child is everyone's responsibility and, within the context of this school, we will adhere to the latest safeguarding policies and practices. A child missing from education may be at risk of abuse or neglect or become a victim of harm, exploitation or radicalisation. Failing to attend school on a regular basis is therefore a safeguarding concern.

Here at Blackwater School we monitor trends and patterns of absence for all pupils as a part of our standard procedure. However, it is recognised that sudden or gradual changes in a pupil's attendance may indicate additional or more extreme safeguarding issues. In line with government guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), Local Procedures and the School's Safeguarding Policy, staff will monitor and report any safeguarding concerns within the school to the DSL on to the relevant authorities as appropriate. As part of the school's safeguarding duty and standard procedures, staff will inform the Local Authority and/or the Police of the details of any pupil who is absent from school when they cannot establish their whereabouts and there is concern for the pupil's welfare.

If a pupil is not attending school regularly as required, staff may make home visits to see and speak to the pupil and parents/carers as part of the school's safeguarding and attendance processes. If staff are unable to see and speak to the pupil and parents/carers, they may contact the pupil's

emergency contacts and/or other professionals or contacts of the family, who they reasonably expect may be able to provide the school with relevant information.

Why do pupils benefit from 'high' attendance?

Achieving high school attendance is a national priority. Blackwater School data clearly shows a correlation between high attendance rates and high achievement.

We want our children to achieve excellent attendance in line with national average. Illness usually appears as a block of time off school. We review attendance patterns each week and look for unbroken and broken weeks as a key indicator. We would not usually expect that children would have more than one or two broken weeks in the course of an academic year. Regular broken weeks are a cause for concern and we will offer support to families where there are more frequent broken weeks, in line with our attendance procedures. The impact broken weeks can have on a child's education (taken from national data) is illustrated below:

If your child misses...	That equals at least...	Which is the same as....	And over 13 years of education that's...	Or at least...
1 day a fortnight	80 lessons per year	4 whole school weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 whole years	1040 lessons
1 day a week	160 lessons per year	8 whole school weeks per year	Over 2.5 whole years	2080 lessons
2 days a week	320 lessons per year	16 whole school weeks per year	Over 5 whole years	4160 lessons
3 days a week	480 lessons per year	24 whole school weeks per year	Nearly 8 whole years	6240 lessons

Understanding Absence:

By law, schools must register pupils for two sessions each day (morning and afternoon registration). Every half-day of absence must be classified by the school as either authorised or unauthorised. This is why information about the nature of any absence is always required from parents.

'Authorised absence' means that the school has either given approval in advance for a pupil to be away from the school or has accepted an explanation offered afterwards as justification for absence. The following information outlines the main circumstances where absence may be authorised by Blackwater School.

Illness

- In most cases, absences for illness which are reported by parents/carers in line with the school's absence reporting procedures will be authorised.
- If the school has a genuine and reasonable concern about the authenticity of the illness, the school will request medical information and/or evidence to support the absence - such as a prescription, appointment card, or other appropriate form of information/evidence.
- If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.
- Where a pupil has a high level and/or frequency of absence, the school may require suitable information and/or evidence in order to authorise any future absence where illness has been given as the reason. If this is the case, the school will make the parent/carer/s aware of this expectation in advance.
- The reporting of absence due to illness remains the responsibility of the parent/carer. Absences due to illness which have **not** been reported to the school by the parent/carer on the first and any subsequent days of absence may not be authorised.

Pupils taken ill during the school day

If a pupil needs to be sent home from school due to illness, this will be agreed by an appropriately authorised member of school staff. In such circumstances, the pupil must be collected by a parent/carer or adult authorised to collect the child by the parent/carer and identified to the school. No pupil who is ill will be allowed to leave the school without being collected by a known adult. Even if a family home is relatively close to the school, we do not allow sick children to walk home unaccompanied.

Medical/Dental Appointments

- Parents/carers must, wherever possible, arrange for medical and dental appointments to take place outside of school hours. Where appointments during the school day are unavoidable, the pupil should only be absent for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment. It is not acceptable for a pupil to miss a whole day for an appointment, unless absolutely necessary, in which case the school will need an explanation as to why this is. The school recognises that pupils with a health condition may have a higher number of medical appointments than other pupils and it is therefore possible that at least some of these appointments may be during the school day.
- If a pupil must attend a medical appointment during the school day, they must be collected from the school office by the parent/carer or another authorised adult. No pupil will be allowed to leave the school site without parent/carer confirmation.
- The school reserves the right to request evidence of appointments from parents/carers. Suitable evidence may include appointment letters or cards, copies of emails from a verifiable address (e.g. NHS) confirming the date and time of the appointment.

Exceptional Circumstances Leave of Absence

By law, Headteachers are not allowed to authorise absence during term time unless the circumstances are exceptional.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court

All requests from parents for term time leave of absence must be made in writing to the Headteacher using the school's form (available on the website or from Reception). Wherever possible, a request must be made at least 3 weeks (15 school days) prior to the requested leave of absence. Parents will receive written notification to confirm whether their request has been authorised.

Each application from parents for an 'exceptional circumstance' leave of absence during term time will be considered on its own merit - see Appendix 5 Exceptional Circumstances Request Form.

Persistent Absence

In line with DfE Guidance, a pupil is considered as 'persistently absent' when they miss 10% or more of their schooling across the school year **for any reason**. Absence at this level is highly likely to significantly harm a child's educational progress.

Children who are persistently or severely absent are supported by our school attendance team, the school's Education Welfare Officer and the TPAT Attendance and Inclusion Lead in line with our attendance procedures.

Home / School Partnership

Blackwater School works in close partnership with parents and families to achieve high attendance for every pupil.

Parents must:

- Contact the School on the first day of a child's absence – by 8.50am at the latest;
- Ensure their child arrives at school on time – by 8.45M. Late arrival after registers close may be classed as an absence –see Appendix 3 (Late to School Protocol)
- Arrival after the register closes at 8:45am without satisfactory explanation will result in an unauthorised absence being recorded on the register.

The School will:

- Contact parents on the first day of absence if a reason for absence has not been given. Wherever possible the school will phone the parent to discuss their child's absence;

- Meet with parents to discuss and agree support to improve attendance in line with our attendance procedures.
- Escalate concerns about attendance to the TPAT Attendance and Inclusion Lead when appropriate and in line with our attendance procedures to ensure children receive support to attend school regularly.
- Where necessary to ensure regular attendance, it may be necessary to apply for sanctions such as Penalty Notice fines or prosecutions in the Magistrates Court. In all cases we believe it is in the child's best interests to attend school regularly and our decision making is always led by our commitment to protecting the entitlement of children to full time education.
- Follow up promptly any concerns parents pass on to us that may be affecting a child's attendance;
- Provide support and involve the school's support staff and other support agencies to help pupils re-integrate into school after illness or other individual circumstances;
- Regularly remind pupils (where appropriate) of the importance of high attendance and punctuality for example, through assemblies and class time;
- Acknowledge and celebrate improving attendance.

Telephone numbers:

There are times when the School needs to contact parents about educational matters, including attendance, punctuality and absence. The school may also need to contact parents in the event of an emergency. Therefore, we need to have correct parental contact phone numbers at all times. Parents must ensure the school always has an up to date contact number. **Parents have a duty to notify the school as soon as possible of any changes to their contact details.**

Supporting High Attendance and Reporting

To promote the importance of high attendance and punctuality, the School will recognise improvement in attendance.

Attendances, punctuality and absence are reported to parents in all written reports and attendance records are available to parents on request.

Roles and Responsibilities

The roles of the class teacher, Attendance Officer and Pastoral Team are explained in **Appendix 2**. All members of staff have a responsibility to promote high attendance.

The Trusts Attendance and Inclusion Lead

The trust Attendance and Inclusion Lead works alongside the school's Attendance lead. The School works closely with the Attendance and Inclusion Lead to support pupils whose attendance is a cause for concern. The Attendance and Inclusion Lead may accompany staff to visit homes, meet with parents in school (or at their home) and is a vital component in our efforts to secure high attendance.

The TPAT Attendance and Inclusion Lead may initiate legal proceedings against parents who have not fulfilled their responsibility for ensuring regular attendance. Before a case goes to court, Parenting Contracts may be drawn up, setting targets for improving attendance. The primary aim of

all school action is to ensure every child attends school on a regular basis and is therefore able to achieve their full potential.

Students with Special Educational Needs (SEND)

Our School supports the attendance of students with SEND and understands that their specific needs present additional school challenges. Good attendance for all students including and especially those with SEND is crucial in ensuring academic and social progress. Further information relating to the support available to students with SEND is available from the school's SENDCO.

Young Carers

Students identified as Young Carers are offered additional support to ensure they can achieve high attendance. We recognise that attending regularly can be particularly challenging for Young Carers. Further information about the support available for our Young Carers is available from our Pastoral Team.

Those people responsible for attendance matters in this school are:

Mrs. Evey Evison ~ Headteacher
Mrs. Mel Brown ~ Attendance Governor

Date of Policy: February 2024

Review: September 2024

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Registration Procedures
- Appendix 2 – Tiered Approach to Supporting Attendance
- Appendix 3 – Punctuality Procedure
- Appendix 4 – Attendance letters (Model Letters)
- Appendix 5 – Exceptional Circumstances Leave Request Form and Model Letter

Appendix 1 – Registration Procedures

Staff Guide to Registers and Associated Procedures:

This section complements our Attendance Policy and should be read in conjunction with it. It deals with the practicalities of completing registers and associated attendance procedures. The register is a legal document which may be used as evidence in court. The decision on whether or not to authorise a particular absence rests with the Headteacher. The class teacher will record attendance of a child at morning and afternoon registration. In some circumstances, the Headteacher will authorise another member of staff to take the register with the same level of delegated authority as the teacher or tutor.

Marking the register

A register is taken at the beginning of the AM and PM session to ensure the school has accurate information about where children are. Every register must be taken accurately and in a timely way as an essential part of the school's culture of safeguarding. The responsibility for taking the register will be held by the class teacher (including supply or temporary teachers), cover supervisor, or other school staff as appropriate.

Reading the registers

The registration information is read every morning after Registration. It is imperative that the data entered is accurate and that there is a mark for **EVERY** pupil. Every pupil **must** fall into one of the three categories of present, absent or late. Staff must enter either 'present', 'absent' or 'late' (+ how many minutes late). **Staff have a responsibility to safeguard the children in schools care and it is vital that the information held is accurate.**

The school operates a policy of '1st day response' regarding absence across the school. The Administrator/Attendance Officer will contact the parents of any child who is absent without an explanation.

Communication with/from parents

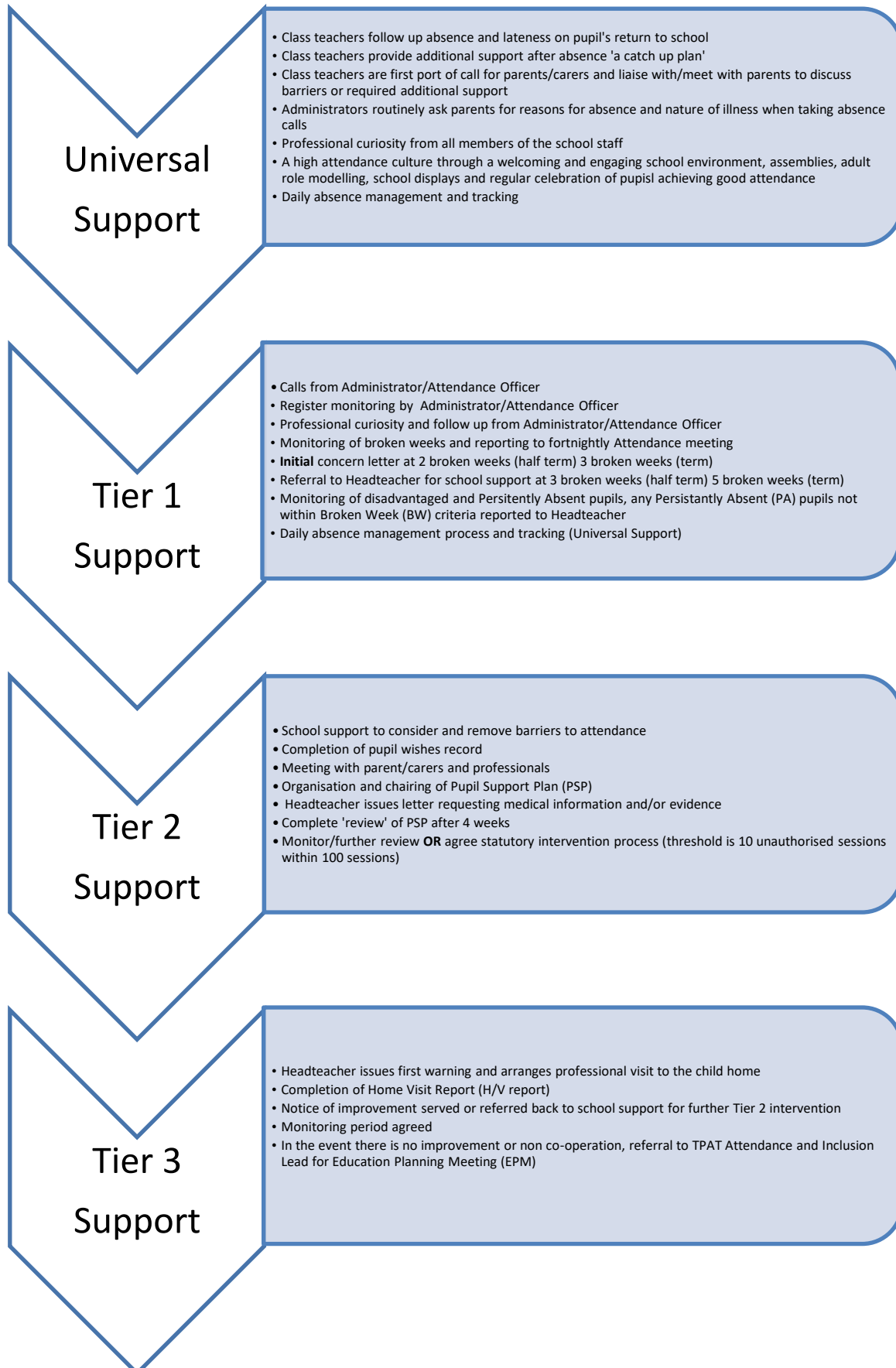
Same-day contact has been shown to be the single most effective strategy in improving rates of attendance. It is also vital to safeguard children. Parents must contact the school as early as possible on the **first** day of absence to notify the school of their child's absence and the reason for absence. Communication by phone or in person is required on each day of a period of absence. If absence notes are received, they should be initialed and dated by the class teacher. **All notes must be sent to the Administrator/Attendance Officer on the same day they are received.**

Punctuality

- Registration starts at 8:30am and at 1.00pm Thereafter a pupil's absence will be recorded as late (L).
- A pupil should be marked as **late** when the class teacher has completed the register and a pupil arrives after the register has been "sent". A late mark should be added for any student who arrives to class after 8.45am and after 1:15pm. The number of minutes late should be recorded.
- Parents may be prosecuted for persistently failing to get their child to school on time. The school will take a robust response to pupils who are regularly arriving late.

Appendix 2: Tiered Approach to Supporting High Attendance

Appendix 3: Punctuality Procedure



Aim:

- To achieve high levels of punctuality for all pupils, through partnership with parents and students.

Rationale:

- Excellent punctuality is central to learning. For pupils to achieve their potential it is essential that high levels of punctuality are maintained. All parents are expected to ensure that their children are on time every day.

Our school acknowledges its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010, with respect to safeguarding and in respect to students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Punctuality

Poor punctuality is not acceptable. If a child misses the start of a lesson they may miss work and vital information to support progress. Late arriving pupils disrupt lessons and the learning of others. The school day starts at 8.45 am. We expect every child to be in registration at that time. Registers will be marked at 8:45am and a child will receive a late mark if they are not present in the class.

If a child arrives after the register closes at 8.45am and the explanation provided is not satisfactory they will receive a mark that shows them to be on site, but this may **not** count as a present mark and it may mean they have an unauthorised absence. Ten or more unauthorised sessions (5 school days) in 100 sessions (50 school days/10 school weeks) could result in a first warning of Penalty Notice and/or prosecution.

If a child is persistently late parents/carers will be asked to meet with a member of school staff and/or Attendance and Inclusion Lead to resolve the problem. We encourage Parents/Carers to approach us at any time if there are problems getting a child to school on time.

All pupils are expected to be on time every day and to every lesson. Lateness is only excused in exceptional circumstances. Where lateness is caused by unforeseen family circumstances, parents must contact the school to provide a reason, or provide a written explanation. Persistent lateness will not be authorised.

If a pupil is late to school and arrives during registration, this will be recorded by the school administration team, who will ask parents to accompany the child into reception and sign a late book providing an explanation for the late arrival. The administrator/attendance officer will monitor punctuality and follow schools' absence management process

Attendance Monitoring Letter: Stage 1 (Below 96%)/ Three Broken weeks in a term

During routine absence monitoring this term, it has been noted that your child has already had two separate instances of absence related to illness and/or arrival after the close of register.

*Your child's attendance for the academic year so far falls into a **risk area** which could lead to underachievement if attendance does not improve. The 'odd day off' may seem harmless but it creates gaps in learning which are difficult for pupils to catch up on, it disrupts friendships and social groups. The table below shows the impact of time missed over the course of a child's education.*

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of education that's...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

*I note from a recent register check that **** attendance *** from the start of this academic year. I enclose a copy of your child's registration certificate for your information.*

This attendance level may include times when your child was ill or attending routine appointments. The expected attendance in primary schools nationally is 96%. We aim to achieve this percentage or even better to ensure that all pupils gain full benefits from their education.

I am writing as per my legal responsibility to ensure attendance of at least 96% for all children. This letter is Tier 1 of our Attendance Support Plan. I am also enclosing a copy of our Attendance Guide for Parents for your information.

The school has a statutory duty to support every child's attendance and achievement. We very much value your support and have researched how parents can help improve attendance.

- If your child is not 100% in the morning without clear symptoms of illness, please encourage them to attend school. Frequently they will feel better when they 'get going' and if they do not, our trained staff will contact you to arrange for them to return home.*
- Be clear with your child that they must attend school whenever possible to build good habits for life.*
- Book routine medical and other appointments outside of school time.*

- Do not allow your child to take occasional 'days off' and only allow them to stay at home if they are so unwell that they cannot reasonably attend school.

To help your child to achieve the desired attendance of 96% we will:

- Monitor and review your child's attendance and provide extra support if required
- Arrange for your child's class teacher to meet with your child to talk about their progress and attendance and check if they need additional support.

We very much appreciate your support in ensuring your child's attendance improves and please be assured that we remain available to assist with any barriers or issues that you feel may be impacting on your child's ability to attend school regularly.

We will therefore continue to monitor ***** attendance and will contact you again if attendance continues to remain a cause for concern. Should you wish to discuss attendance in the interim please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Mrs Evey Evison
Headteacher

Appendix 4b: Tier 2 letter

Attendance Monitoring Letter: Stage 2 (less than 90%) / Four Broken weeks in a term

You may recall that I wrote to you recently to make you aware that <*>'s attendance was <*>%. <*>'s attendance is now <*>% and is still a cause for concern. I enclose an attendance certificate for your information. I am therefore inviting you into school on [date] at [time] to discuss ways that we can work together to support <> in improving their attendance.

This meeting is Tier 2 of our Attendance Support Plan, as we are concerned that your child is at risk of falling into the DfE's Persistent Absentee category. I am also enclosing a copy of our Attendance Guide for Parents for you information. May I draw your attention to the section that states the local authority will monitor attendance below 94% and may issue penalty notices if attendance does not improve.

Please share any medical evidence you have so that we can support your child's welfare and education and authorise their absence. If you are unable to attend the appointment date or time, then please do not hesitate to contact us to rearrange this.

Best wishes

Mrs Evison
Headteacher

Appendix 4c: Tier 3 Letter

Pupil name		Year group	
Gender		Attendance %	
		No of Broken Weeks	
Date of birth		Attendance percentage previous academic year.	
		No of Broken Weeks	
Parent/Carers details		No of unauthorised attendances:	
		Lates:	
Is child in care?		Is pupil a young carer?	
SEND Status			
Support Offered:			
<p>Tier 1 (enclose A/O initial concern contact)</p> <p>Tier 2 (enclose pupil wishes form and PSP/review meeting details and support offered and accessed.</p> <p>List all prior action in Chronological order, include any parent non-engagement details.</p>			

Are there 10 unauthorised sessions of absence within the last 100 sessions?			
Are there 3 or more weeks broken by absence (if no – a Penalty Notice request may be more appropriate at this stage)			
Desired outcome from EWO intervention			
Any other info the EWO should be aware of eg risk when visiting. Parental disagreement etc.			
Other agencies offered or involved with the family. Consider eg: Early Help, Social Care, Early Support, EP, YOS, CAMHS, School Nurse, Community Paediatrician			
Registration certificate attached	Y / N		
Details of any Police VIST incident reports you have received about this child			
Please confirm that the parent has been made aware as part of your intervention that this referral would be processed.			
Referral approved by Headteacher			
Referred by		Title	
Date		Phone number	

Appendix 4d: Tier 3 Pupil Voice

Name of Child:

Date of Birth:

Date of Pupil Support Meeting

- **On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being really bad and 10 being amazing -**
- **What number would the pupil use to describe their experience of school?**
-

- **Is there anything that the pupil particularly likes or enjoys about attending school?**
- Consider favourite lessons and subjects, teachers, social interaction, specific times of day.

- **Is there anything that the pupil does not like or enjoy about attending school?**
- Consider least favourite subjects, other children, times of day, free time, travelling to and from school.

If the pupil could change three things about school to improve their experience, what would those three things be?

- **What changes would the pupil like to be made at school, to help them attend?**
- Consider if anything could help in class, support at break and lunch times, access around the school building, travel to and from school, staff doing things differently, other children doing things differently.

- **What changes would the child like to be made at home or outside of school, to help them attend?**
-

This form was completed by the child :

Date :

**This form was completed on behalf of the
child by :**

Date :

NOTICE TO PARENTS /CARERS

The law does not grant parents an automatic right to take their child out of school during term time. Any absence from school will disrupt your child's learning. You may consider that a holiday will be educational, but your child will miss out on the teaching that their classmates will receive during your holiday. Attendance is vital to academic success and lost education poses a potential risk of underachievement. This is something we all have a responsibility to avoid.

The Department for Education no longer allows Headteachers to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you consider that your request for absence is exceptional you will need to complete the form attached to this notification. A response will be sent to you as soon as possible. If leave is not authorised and you nevertheless withdraw your child from school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court.

'Parent' as set out in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, defines parent to include: natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person or body who has parental responsibility for a child (as defined by the Children Act 1989) and; any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child. Having care of a child means a person with whom a child lives and who looks after a child, irrespective of what their relationship is with said child.

All requests must be completed on this form; letters will not be accepted. This form should be returned to the Reception Office at least 15 school days before the start of the absence.

I hope you will support our efforts in raising attendance and attainment at
Blackwater School

Blackwater CP School
APPLICATION BY PARENT/CARER

If you consider an absence during term time to be an exceptional circumstance, please complete this form and return it to the Reception Office at least 15 school days before the date you wish to remove your child from school.

Pupil Name: _____ DOB: _____ Year group: _____

Home Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

Name of Parent/Carer completing this form: _____

First day of absence: _____ Date of return to school: _____

If leaving your home address before the first day of absence, please provide the date on which you will leave _____

Total number of days missed: _____ days

Reason for absence:

*I understand that if the absence request is unauthorised the school may request that Cornwall Council issue a Penalty Notice. I understand that a Penalty Notice is issued to each liable parent/carers of each child taken out of school and that this carries a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days, increasing to £120 if paid within 28 days. I understand that if I do not pay the fine, it may result in legal action being taken against me. **I understand that parents have a duty to ensure their child's regular attendance at school and failure to do so is an offence under Section 444(1) and Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996.***

Signed Dated

(Please ensure you give at least 15 school days' notice of the proposed absence)

Below to be completed by the school:

FAO – Headteacher

Date received to the office:.....

% Current	% Last Year	Broken Weeks	Comments

Pupil Name: Year:

☐ **AUTHORISED:**

Request has been authorised for the following dates **only**:

___ / ___ / ___ to ___ / ___ / ___

☐ **UNAUTHORISED:**

Request has been unauthorised for the following dates **only**:

___ / ___ / ___ to ___ / ___ / ___

Total days authorised	
Total days unauthorised	

Signed Headteacher

Date ___ / ___ / ___

Letter sent / Phone Call / other	Signed:	Date:
Action: PN Request on pupil return	Signed:	Date:

Exceptional Circumstance Leave Request

Signed Dated

(Please ensure you give at least 15 school days' notice of the proposed absence)

Below to be completed by the school:

FAO – Headteacher

Date received to the office:.....

% Current	% Last Year	Broken Weeks	Comments

Pupil Name: Year:

☐ **AUTHORISED:**

Request has been authorised for the following dates **only**:

___/___/___ to ___/___/___

☐ **UNAUTHORISED:**

Request has been unauthorised for the following dates **only**:

___/___/___ to ___/___/___

Total days authorised	
Total days unauthorised	

Signed Headteacher

Date ___/___/___

Letter sent / Phone Call / other	Signed: _____	Date: _____
Action: PN Request on pupil return	Signed: _____	Date: _____

Dear

I am writing regarding your request to take out of school on until

The law states that a planned absence from school should only be authorised for pupils in 'exceptional circumstances'. Here at Blackwater School, we recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate to authorise an absence; we look at each request on its own merit, before reaching a decision.

Unfortunately, we regret that on this occasion we are unable to authorise your request for absence. If does not attend school on the dates concerned, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. In cases where parents subsequently report their child as ill during this period, we reserve the right to record the absence as unauthorised.

I urge you to reconsider your decision, and bring to your attention the following warning;

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court.

'Parent' as set out in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, defines parent to include: natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person or body who has parental responsibility for a child (as defined by the Children Act 1989) and; any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child. Having care of a child means a person with whom a child lives and who looks after a child, irrespective of what their relationship is with said child.

I would be happy to talk through why this particular absence is unauthorised. I would like to offer you the opportunity to contact the school office if you would like advice or support in helping your child attend more regularly. Blackwater School is committed to maximising the education of all its pupils and aims to work with parents to ensure this can be achieved. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact the school at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher