



Curiosity | Care | Courage | Creativity

King Edward VI School

Attendance Policy

September 2024

Our Vision:

To be a vibrant learning community nurturing courage, care, curiosity and creativity in every young person, so that they flourish in the world with hope and self-belief.

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Introduction

The whole school community – parents/carers, school staff, governors, and the students themselves – have a responsibility for ensuring that all students attend school every day. We recognise that there is clear evidence of a link between good attendance at school and high levels of attainment. Only by attending school every day and arriving on time will students be able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them. Attending every day not only helps children reach their maximum potential but contributes to their health, wellbeing and safety. Being a member of a school community builds confidence, gives children a sense of belonging and teaches them to contribute and to be responsible for the well-being of others. Good school attendance supports engagement in further education, employment or training in the future, which in turn helps to support a fulfilling life. Students should attend school every day that the school is open.

King Edward VI School is committed to providing an education of the highest quality for all its students, and **all** staff have a key role to play in supporting and promoting excellent school attendance. Staff will work together to provide an environment in which all students are eager to learn, feel valued members of the school community and look forward to coming to school every day. Staff will also set a good example in matters relating to their own attendance and punctuality. Staff should refer to the Staff Handbook and Staff Code of Conduct.

1. Aims

This policy aims to show our commitment to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance, including those laid out in the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#), through our whole-school culture and ethos that values good attendance, including:

- Setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all students
- Promoting good attendance and the benefits of good attendance
- Reducing absence, including persistent and severe absence
- Ensuring every student has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence
- Building strong relationships with families to make sure students have the support in place to attend school

We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#) and [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). The guidance is based on the following pieces of legislation, which set out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- Part 6 of the [Education Act 1996](#)
- Part 3 of the [Education Act 2002](#)
- Part 7 of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)

- > [The Education \(Student Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006 \(and 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2016 amendments\)](#)
- > [The School Attendance \(Student Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#)
- > [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

It also refers to:

- > [School census guidance](#)
- > [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- > [Mental health issues affecting a student's attendance: guidance for schools](#)

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The governing board

The governing board is responsible for:

- > Setting high expectations of all school leaders, staff, students and parents
- > Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties, including:
 - Making sure the school records attendance accurately in the register, and shares the required information with the DfE and local authority
 - Making sure the school works effectively with local partners to help remove barriers to attendance, and keeps them informed regarding specific students, where appropriate
- > Recognising and promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos
- > Making sure the school's attendance management processes are delivered effectively, and that consistent support is provided for students who need it most by prioritising staff and resources
- > Making sure the school has high aspirations for all students, but adapts processes and support to students' individual needs
- > Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on individual students or cohorts who need it most
- > Working with school leaders to set goals or areas of focus for attendance and providing support and challenge
- > Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school and repeatedly evaluating the effectiveness of the school's processes and improvement efforts to make sure they are meeting students' needs
- > Where the school is struggling with attendance, working with school leaders to develop a comprehensive action plan to improve attendance
- > Making sure all staff receive adequate training on attendance as part of the regular continued professional development offer, so that staff understand:
 - The importance of good attendance
 - That absence is almost always a symptom of wider issues
 - The school's legal requirements for keeping registers

- The school's strategies and procedures for tracking, following up on and improving attendance, including working with partners and keeping them informed regarding specific students, where appropriate
- Making sure dedicated training is provided to staff with a specific attendance function in their role, including in interpreting and analysing attendance data
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy

The school has a link governor with responsibility for monitoring the whole school attendance strategy.

3.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- The implementation of this policy at the school
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual students
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary, and/or authorising the Attendance Officer to be able to do so
- Working with the parents of students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to develop specific support approaches for attendance for students with SEND, including where school transport is regularly being missed, and where students with SEND face in-school barriers
- Communicating with the local authority when a student with an education, health and care (EHC) plan has falling attendance, or where there are barriers to attendance that relate to the student's needs
- Communicating the school's high expectations for attendance and punctuality regularly to students and parents through all available channels

3.3 The designated senior leader responsible for attendance

The designated senior leader is responsible for:

- Leading, championing and improving attendance across the school
- Setting a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Having a strong grasp of absence data and oversight of absence data analysis
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating progress in attendance
- Establishing and maintaining effective systems for tackling absence, and making sure they are followed by all staff

The designated senior leader responsible for attendance is Tom Spillane and can be contacted via SP@king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk.

3.4 Head of Year

- Liaising with students, parents/carers and external agencies, where needed
- Building close and productive relationships with parents to discuss and tackle attendance issues
- Creating intervention or reintegration plans in partnership with students and their parents/carers
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to students and families
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating progress in attendance
- Liaising with students, parents/carers and external agencies, where needed
- Working with Educational Welfare Officer to tackle persistent absence.

3.5 The attendance officer

The school attendance officer is responsible for:

- Monitoring and analysing attendance data (see section 7)
- Benchmarking attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Providing regular attendance reports to school staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the designated senior leader responsible for attendance, and the Headteacher
- Working with education welfare officers to tackle persistent absence
- Advising the Headteacher when to issue fixed-penalty notices
 - Receive calls and emails from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system
 - Transfer calls from parents/carers to the year teams and safeguarding where appropriate, in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance

The attendance officers are Nicky Riches and Gill Lebeau (job share) and can be contacted via 01284 761393 or email attendance@king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk.

3.6 Class teachers/form tutors

Class teachers/form tutors are responsible for recording attendance for morning and afternoon sessions daily, using the correct codes (see Appendix 1), and submitting this information to the attendance team within the first 15 minutes of each lesson.

3.7 Parents/Carers

Parents/carers should support their child's attendance by encouraging their children to attend every day and on time. They should contact the school without delay if they are concerned about any aspects of their child's lives. School will endeavour to support parent/carers to address their concerns.

3.8 School admin staff

School admin staff will:

- Take calls from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system
- Transfer calls from parents/carers to the head of year/pastoral support manager, where appropriate, to provide them with more detailed support on attendance.

3.9 Parents

Where this policy refers to a parent, it refers to the adult the school and/or local authority decides is most appropriate to work with, including:

- > All natural parents, whether they are married or not
- > All those who have parental responsibility for a child or young person
- > Those who have day-to-day responsibility for the child (i.e. lives with and looks after them)

Parents are expected to:

- > Make sure their child attends every day and every timetabled session on time
- > Call the school to report their child's absence before 9am on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence, and advise when they are expected to return
- > Provide the school with more than 1 emergency contact number for their child
- > Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day
- > Keep to any attendance contracts that they make with the school and/or local authority
- > Seek support, where necessary, for maintaining good attendance, by contacting the Head of Year or Pastoral Manager.

Absence due to Sickness or other Health Needs

Parents/carers must email attendance@king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk or phone 01284 761393 and leave a message on option 1 by 9.00am if their child is too unwell to attend school and should report in every day their child is absent. If the absence persists for four days or more, they must provide medical evidence.

Parents can refer to the NHS document: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

3.10 Students

All students need to be made aware of the importance of attending school every day on time. They should attend every timetabled session, on time. If they are having difficulties that make them feel they do not want to come to school, they should speak to their tutor or to any member of the school's teaching and support staff.

Students should be aware via their Tutor or through Go4Schools of their present attendance percentage, and what they need to do to improve it, if needed.

4. Recording attendance

4.1 Attendance register

We will keep an electronic attendance register and place all students onto this register.

We will take our attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session. It will mark, using the appropriate national attendance and absence codes from the School Attendance (Student Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, whether every student is:

- > Present
- > Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- > Absent

- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

Any amendment to the attendance register will include:

- The original entry
- The amended entry
- The reason for the amendment
- The date on which the amendment was made
- The name and position of the person who made the amendment

(See Appendix 1 for the DfE attendance codes).

We will also record:

- Whether the absence is authorised or not
- The nature of the activity, where a student is attending an approved educational activity
- The nature of circumstances, where a student is unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

We will keep every entry on the attendance register for 6 years after the date on which the entry was made.

The school day starts at 8.55am and ends at 3.35pm

Students must arrive in school by 8.50am, when the school gates close, each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 9am and will be kept open until 9.30am. The register for the second session will be taken at 12.05pm and will be kept open until 12.35pm.

4.2 Unplanned absence

The student's parent must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9am, or as soon as practically possible, by leaving a message on 01284 761393, options No. 1 or by emailing attendance@king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk.

We will mark absence due to physical or mental illness as authorised, unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.

Where the absence is longer than 4 days, or there are doubts about the authenticity of the illness, the school will ask for medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily.

If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised, and parents will be notified of this in advance.

4.3 Planned absence

Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised if the student's parent notifies the school in advance of the appointment and sends in a copy of the appointment.

However, we encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the student should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary e.g. arrange dental appointments around the end of the day to minimise loss of learning.

The student's parent must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence. Go to Section 5 to find out which term-time absences the school can authorise.

A leave of absence form can be downloaded from our website, or a paper copy is available from Reception. The Headteacher will decide whether it is valid to authorise the absence and this will only be in exceptional circumstances.

4.4 Lateness and punctuality

A student who arrives late:

- Before the register has closed will be marked as late, using a L code
- After the register has closed will be marked as absent, using an U code. U coded count as an unauthorised absence. After 10 sessions (in a rolling 10 week period) of a U code, a penalty notice can be issued See 5.2
- Parents will be sent an automated daily SMS message if they child is marked late by their registration tutor. Parents should contact their child's tutor if they have any concerns
- A student who is persistently late will received a sanction from the Head of Year. If the problem persists, a school-based meeting will be arranged, then the student will be referred to The Education Attendance Service.

4.5 Following up unexplained absence

Where any student we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, without reason, the school will:

- Contact the student's parents on the first day of unexplained absence to ascertain the reason using an automated system. Identify whether the absence is approved or not
- Identify the correct attendance code to use and input it as soon as the reason for absence is ascertained – this will be no later than 5 working days after the session(s) for which the student was absent
- Contact parent on each day that the absence continues without explanation, using the automated system, to make sure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, the school will alert the safeguarding and pastoral teams. Then consider involving an education welfare officer
- Where relevant, report the unexplained absence to the student's youth offending team officer or social worker
- Where appropriate, offer support to the student and/or their parents to improve attendance
- Identify whether the student needs support from wider partners, as quickly as possible, and make the necessary referrals
- Where support is not appropriate, not successful, or not engaged with issue a notice to improve, penalty notice or other legal intervention (see section 5.2 below), as appropriate.

4.6 Reporting to parents

The school will regularly inform parents (see definition of 'parent', as used in this policy, in section 3.7 above) about their child's attendance and absence levels via half-termly written reports and Go4Schools? Parents of students whose attendance is of concern to the school, will be updated more frequently e.g. weekly.

5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

5.1 Approval for term-time absence

The Headteacher will allow students to be absent from the school site for certain educational activities, or to attend other schools or settings.

The Headteacher will only grant a **leave of absence** to a student during term time if the request meets the specific exceptional circumstances set out in the [2024 school attendance regulations](#). These circumstances are:

- > Taking part in a regulated performance, or regulated employment abroad
- > Attending an interview
- > Study leave
- > A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable
- > Exceptional circumstances

If a parent is unsure whether the circumstances would be exceptional, please discuss with the Head of Year, Pastoral Support Manager or Attendance Officer. A leave of absence is granted at the Headteacher's discretion, including the length of time the student is authorised to be absent for.

Leave of absence will not be granted for a student to take part in a protest activity during school hours.

As a leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, a leave of absence will not be granted for the purposes of a family holiday. The Department for Education does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, considering the specific facts, circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, at least 3 weeks before the absence, and in accordance with any leave of absence request form, accessible via our website or from Reception. The Headteacher may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

Other valid reasons for **authorised absence** include (but are not limited to):

- > Illness (including mental-health illness) and medical/dental appointments (see sections 4.2 and 4.3 for more detail)
- > Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the student's parent(s) belong(s). If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parent's religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart
- > Parent(s) travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh gypsies, Irish and Scottish travellers, showmen (fairground people) and circus people, bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and new travellers. Absence may be authorised only when a traveller family is known to be travelling for occupational purposes and has agreed this with the school, but it is not known whether the student is attending educational provision
- > If the student is currently suspended or excluded from school (and no alternative provision has been made)

Other reasons the school may allow a student to be absent from the school site, which are not classified as absences, include (but are not limited to):

- Attending an offsite approved educational activity, sporting activity or visit or trip arranged by the school
- Attending another school at which the student is also registered (dual registration)
- Attending provision arranged by the local authority
- Attending work experience
- If there is any other unavoidable cause for the student not to attend school, such as disruption to travel caused by an emergency, a lack of access arrangements, or because the school premises are closed.

5.2 Sanctions

Our school will make use of the full range of potential sanctions – including, but not limited to, those listed below – to tackle poor attendance. Decisions will be made on an individual, case-by-case basis.

Penalty notices

The Headteacher (or delegated to staff authorised by them), local authority or the police can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age, by issuing a penalty notice.

If the school issues a penalty notice, it will check with the local authority before doing so and send the local authority a copy of any penalty notice issued.

Before issuing a penalty notice, the school will consider the individual case, including:

- Whether the national threshold for considering a penalty notice has been met: 10 sessions, equivalent of 5 school days of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks). These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.
- The 10 week period can span different terms or school years
- Whether a penalty notice is the best available tool to improve attendance for that student
- Whether further support, a notice to improve or another legal intervention would be a more appropriate solution
- Whether any obligations that the school has under the Equality Act 2010 make issuing a penalty notice inappropriate

A penalty notice may also be issued where parents allow their child to be present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification, during the first 5 days of a suspension or exclusion (where the school has notified the parents that the student must not be present in a public place on those days).

Each parent or Carer who is liable for the student's offence(s) can be issued with a penalty notice, but this will usually only be the parent/parents who allowed the absence.

The payment must be made directly to the local authority, regardless of who issues the notice. If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice.

If issued with a **first** penalty notice, the parent must pay £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days.

If a **second** penalty notice is issued (within 3 years) to the same parent in respect of the same student, the parent must pay £160, if paid within 28 days.

A **third** penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the issue of the first penalty notice. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time within those 3 years, the case may be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Notices to improve

If the national threshold has been met and support is appropriate, but parents do not engage with offers of support, the school may offer a notice to improve to give parents a final chance to engage with support.

Notices to improve will be issued in line with processes set out in the local code of conduct for the local authority area in which the student attends school.

They will include:

- Details of the student's attendance record and of the offences
- The benefits of regular attendance and the duty of parents under [section 7 of the Education Act 1996](#)
- Details of the support provided so far
- Opportunities for further support, or to access previously provided support that was not engaged with
- A clear warning that a penalty notice may be issued if attendance doesn't improve within the improvement period, along with details of what sufficient improvement looks like, which will be decided on a case-by-case basis
- A clear timeframe of between 3 and 6 weeks for the improvement period
- The grounds on which a penalty notice may be issued before the end of the improvement period

6. Strategies for promoting attendance

The school is committed to working with parents and students to improve attendance. Whole school strategies for rewarding, incentivising and improving attendance include:

- Good attendance will be celebrated in weekly year assemblies. Year groups will use an attendance challenge with targeted students.
- Parent and staff weekly newsletters will promote good attendance and recognise best tutors' groups.
- Reward points for 100% attendance will be awarded to student's half termly and contribute to a reward trip at the end of year.
- A prize draws for 100% attendance, most improved attendance and best tutors groups will be promoted and awarded half termly.
- The attendance notice board will display and attendance winners and updated half termly.
- Posters in each classroom will display attendance posters promoting good attendance and the link with good attainment levels

7. Supporting students who are absent or returning to school

7.1 Students absent due to complex barriers to attendance

To support students with complex barriers we offer a range of interventions such as: Reduced Timetables, Study Support sessions, Intervention Centre sessions and access to The Bridge, and may also include attending alternative provisions to engage the student and build relationships with the student and parent.

Pastoral Support Managers attached to each year group offer day to day support to students and their families. They can also help with referrals to a range of agencies including: CAF, 4YP, school nurse, Friends and Networks and mentoring sessions. They can help to signpost parents to other appropriate agencies.

7.2 Students absent due to mental or physical ill health or SEND

Where a student has an education health and care (EHC) plan and their attendance falls, or the school becomes aware of barriers to attendance that related to the student's needs, the school will inform the local authority.

Our SEND team offer meetings with parents when a student passport can be agreed to support students in school.

They can signpost parents and students to our appropriate agencies.

Parents of children with a diagnosed illness (mental or physical) will work with the Pastoral Team and Medical Administrator to create a plan that will be reviewed regularly and inform the staff as appropriate.

7.3 Students returning to school after a lengthy or unavoidable period of absence

A student returning after a lengthy (or unavoidable) period of absence will have a meeting with their parents and the year team, to devise a reintegration plan, which is shared with staff. Tutors have a return to school conversation with students after a lengthy or unavoidable period of absence, each year group has a Pastoral Manager who can work with the student and family to support a student's re-introduction into school.

8. Attendance monitoring

Each student will be monitored fortnightly by the year team. Their attendance over a 6-week period will be monitored and the relevant referrals will be made.

Up to date attendance is available to parents to view via Go4 Schools.

8.1 Monitoring attendance

The school will monitor attendance and absence data (including punctuality) half-termly, termly and yearly across the school and at an individual student, year group and cohort level.

The school has granted the DfE access to its attendance management information system so the data can be accessed regularly and securely.

The school's data is collected by the DfE daily and whole-school data is published at national and local authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases. The underlying school-level absence data is published alongside the national statistics.

The school will benchmark its attendance data at whole school, year group and cohort level against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement and share this with the governing body.

8.2 Analysing attendance

The school will:

- Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify students, groups or cohorts that need additional support with their attendance, and
- Identify students whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence
- Conduct thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full-year data to identify patterns and trends
- Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns

8.3 Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

- Develop targeted actions to address patterns of absence (of all severities) of individual students, groups or cohorts that it has identified via data analysis
- Provide targeted support to the students it has identified whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence, and their families (see section 8.4 below)
- Provide weekly attendance reports to the Senior Leadership Team, to facilitate discussions with students and families, and to the governing body and school leaders (including Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Designated Safeguarding Leader and Student Premium Leader)
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place to modify them and inform future strategies
- Share information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, local authorities and other partners where a student's absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe, including keeping them informed regarding specific students, where appropriate

8.4 Reducing persistent and severe absence

Persistent absence is where a student misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence is where a student misses 50% or more of school. Reducing persistent and severe absence is central to the school's strategy for improving attendance.

The school will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence
- Consider potential safeguarding issues and, where suspected or present, address them in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Hold regular meetings with the parents of students who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable or at risk of persistent or severe absence, or who are persistently or severely absent, to:
 - Discuss attendance and engagement at school
 - Listen, and understand barriers to attendance

- Explain the help that is available
- Explain the potential consequences of, and sanctions for, persistent and severe absence
- Review any existing actions or interventions
- > Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance, in conjunction with the local authority, where relevant
- > Consider alternative support that could be put in place to remove any barriers to attendance and re-engage these students. In doing so, the school will sensitively consider some of the reasons for absence
- > Implement sanctions, where necessary (see section 5.2, above)
- > Have a clear persistent and severe absence strategic plan (see Appendix ...)

9. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies: [Policies - King Edward VI School \(king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk\)](https://king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk/policies)

- > Child Protection and Safeguarding policies
- > Behaviour Policy
- > SEND Policy

Appendix 1: attendance codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's [guidance on school attendance](#).

Code	Definition	Scenario
/	Present (am)	Student is present at morning registration
\	Present (pm)	Student is present at afternoon registration
L	Late arrival	Student arrives late before register has closed
Attending a place other than the school		
K	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority	Student is attending a place other than a school at which they are registered, for educational provision arranged by the local authority
V	Attending an educational visit or trip	Student is on an educational visit/trip organised or approved by the school
P	Participating in a sporting activity	Student is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school
W	Attending work experience	Student is on an approved work experience placement
B	Attending any other approved educational activity	Student is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is not a sporting activity or work experience
D	Dual registered	Student is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered
Absent – leave of absence		
C1	Participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad	Student is undertaking employment (paid or unpaid) during school hours, approved by the school
M	Medical/dental appointment	Student is at a medical or dental appointment
J1	Interview	Student has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment

S	Study leave	Student has been granted leave of absence to study for a public examination
X	Not required to be in school	Student of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend
C2	Part-time timetable	Student is not in school due to having a part-time timetable
C	Exceptional circumstances	Student has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
Absent – other authorised reasons		
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	Student is a 'mobile child' who is travelling with their parent(s) who are travelling for occupational purposes
R	Religious observance	Student is taking part in a day of religious observance
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	Student is unable to attend due to illness (either related to physical or mental health)
E	Suspended or excluded	Student has been suspended or excluded from school and no alternative provision has been made
Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause		
Q	Lack of access arrangements	Student is unable to attend school because the local authority has failed to make access arrangements to enable attendance at school
Y1	Transport not available	Student is unable to attend because school is not within walking distance of their home and the transport normally provided is not available
Y2	Widespread disruption to travel	Student is unable to attend because of widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national or international emergency
Y3	Part of school premises closed	Student is unable to attend because they cannot practicably be accommodated in the part of the premises that remains open

Y4	Whole school site unexpectedly closed	Every student absent as the school is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to adverse weather)
Y5	Criminal justice detention	Student is unable to attend as they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In police detention • Remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or • Detained under a sentence of detention
Y6	Public health guidance or law	Student's travel to or attendance at the school would be prohibited under public health guidance or law
Y7	Any other unavoidable cause	To be used where an unavoidable cause is not covered by the other codes
Absent – unauthorised absence		
G	Holiday not granted by the school	Student is absent for the purpose of a holiday, not approved by the school
N	Reason for absence not yet established	Reason for absence has not been established before the register closes
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	No reason for absence has been established, or the school isn't satisfied that the reason given would be recorded using one of the codes for authorised absence
U	Arrived in school after registration closed	Student has arrived late, after the register has closed but before the end of session
Administrative codes		
Z	Prospective student not on admission register	Student has not joined school yet but has been registered
#	Planned whole-school closure	Whole-school closures that are known and planned in advance, including school holidays