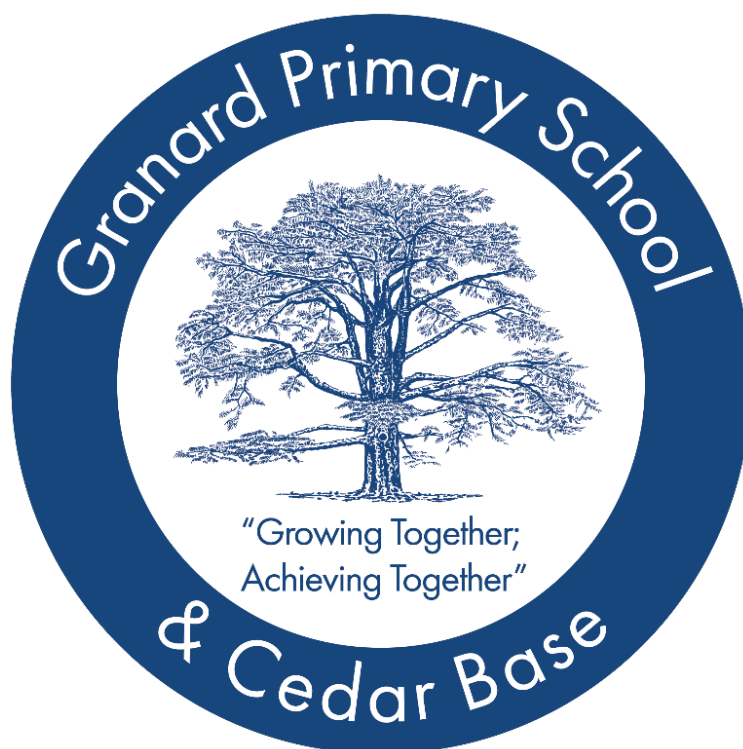


Granard Primary School



Attendance Policy

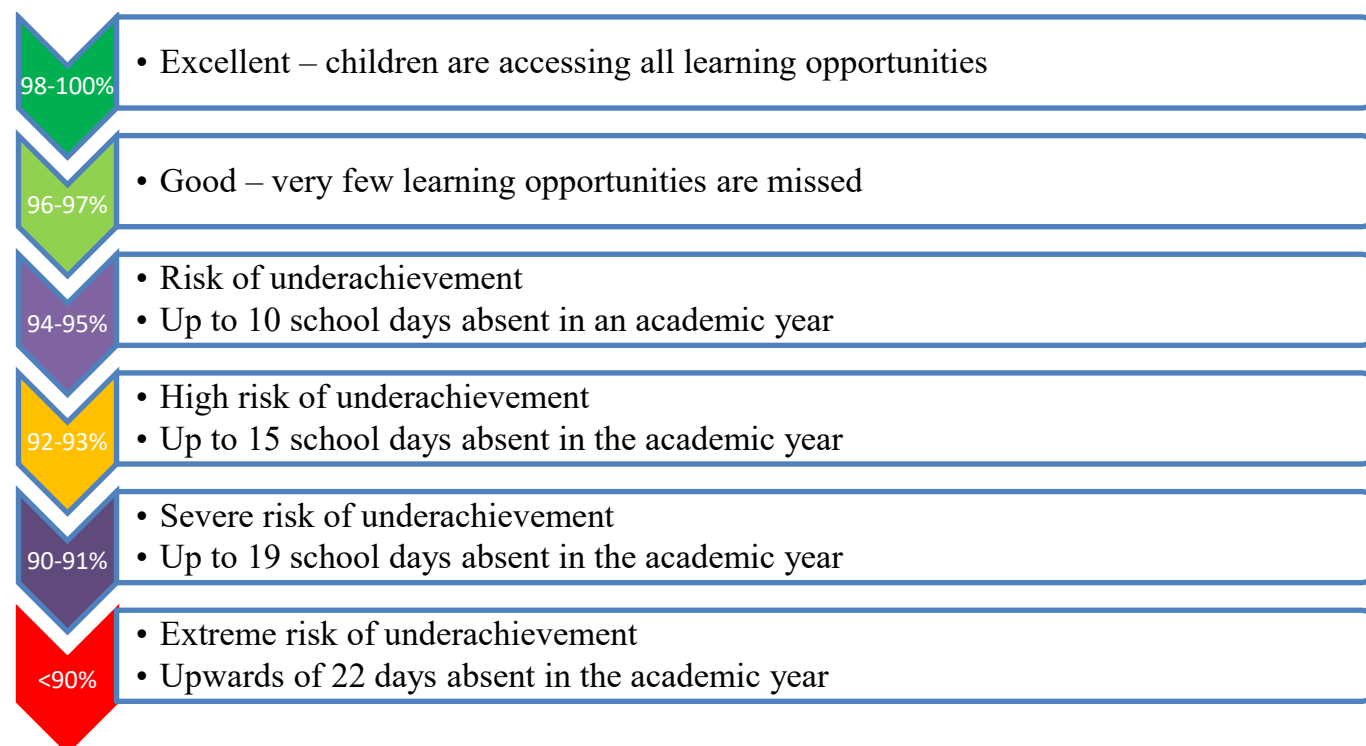
September 2023
Review Due: September 2026

Aims

To achieve our Aims, we will:

- Work together to follow the procedures as set out in Appendix A the DfE's [“Working together to improve attendance” 2022](#) document
- Make attendance and punctuality a priority for all those associated with the school including pupils, parents, staff and Governors.
- To develop a framework which defines agreed roles and responsibilities which promote consistency in carrying out designated tasks
- To provide support, advice and guidance to parents and pupils
- To develop a systematic approach in gathering and analysing attendance related data, and to address any issues that become apparent, e.g. poor attendance of particular groups/families
- To promote positive communication between home and school and ensure that parents/carers are aware of the school guidance relating to holidays taken in school time to reduce the impact of holidays taken in term time on education attainment
- To implement a system of rewards and sanctions
- To promote effective partnerships with the Education Welfare Service and with other services and agencies
- To recognise the needs of the individual pupil when planning reintegration following significant periods of absence

What we mean by “good attendance”



Why regular attendance is important

Pupils who attend regularly (every day) are more likely to achieve better academic outcomes, are safer from risks in the community, such as exploitation and crime, as well as successfully transitioning from primary to secondary school, secondary school to further education, and the world of work.

Objectives

To improve the overall attendance of pupils at school

- The School Attendance Policy will be applied consistently across the whole school.
- We will establish and maintain a high profile for attendance and punctuality.

To make attendance and punctuality a high priority for all those associated with the school, including pupils, parents, staff and Governors

- Reminders about school attendance, start times, holiday dates etc., will feature regularly in the newsletters.
- Attendance data will be reported back to parents both formally and informally.
- There is an attendance display in a prominent place.
- We will discuss attendance issues with the Education Welfare Service/Children's Specialist Services, and/or in relevant staff/SEN meetings.
- The Headteacher will address good class attendance in a weekly assembly.

To develop a framework which defines agreed roles and responsibilities which promote consistency in carrying out designated tasks

- The school has a designated member of staff with responsibility for attendance. This is Caroline Partridge, Family Liaison Officer. She is supported by the Admin Assistant and the School Based Social Worker.
- We ensure that there are clearly defined late registration procedures:
 - Gates for Reception/KS1 and KS2 open at 8.40 a.m. Gates close at 8.45 a.m. Access to school will then be through the Front Office only.
 - Registration takes place between 8.45 a.m. and 8.50 a.m.
 - If late comers arrive after the gates are closed, they will be marked as 'L' (Late - before registers close)
 - Registers officially close at 9.15 a.m.; children arriving after this time will be classed as an unauthorised absence and will be marked as 'U' (Late - after registers close)
- All members of staff have clearly defined roles and responsibilities within the school. There are specific roles for designated administrative support staff.

Staff Member	Role	Responsibility
Cheryl Grigg	Headteacher	Overseeing school attendance procedures
Caroline Partridge	Family Liaison Officer	Liaising with families re attendance and lateness
Sally Steward	Admin Assistant	Up-dating SIMS, spreadsheets, correspondence
Teaching Staff	Teachers	To ensure registers are administered accurately

- Attendance is reviewed daily by the Family Liaison Officer.
- Attendance is reviewed on a monthly basis between the Family Liaison Officer and Headteacher.

To provide support, advice and guidance to parents and pupils

- We will highlight the importance of good school attendance in:
 - Fortnightly Newsletters
 - Weekly, half-termly and end of year assemblies
- We will advise parents through discussion/letters if a pupil's attendance is causing concern.
- We communicate with parents when attendance issues arise.

To develop a systematic approach in gathering and analysing attendance related data, and to address any issues that become apparent, e.g. poor attendance of particular groups/families

- Staff have been given guidance on completing the SIMS registration.
- SIMS is up-dated regularly to ensure accurate information.

- Decisions on whether absence is authorised or not will be made within ten school days of absence. In extreme cases, the advice of the EWS will be sought, which may extend the period of time.
- Through analysis of attendance data at cohort, group and individual pupil level, and regular monitoring, we will be able to identify patterns of irregular attendance and lateness, and take appropriate action to address these.
- Robust school systems provide useful data at cohort, group and individual pupil level to give us an accurate view of attendance, reasons for absence and patterns amongst more vulnerable groups, such as:
 - children who have a social worker, including looked-after children
 - young carers
 - children who are eligible for Free School Meals
 - children who speak English as Language
 - children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

To promote positive communication between home and school and ensure that parents/carers are aware of the school guidance relating to holidays taken in school time to reduce the impact of holidays taken in term time on education attainment

- We will aim to ensure that all parents feel comfortable when invited into school and are able to listen to any concerns raised.
- Parents are reminded through newsletters and phone calls/discussions to:
 - Make a telephone call to the school reception on the morning of the first day of absence. Written confirmation will also be accepted. This will not automatically mean the absence is authorised by the school – this will be determined by family circumstances and history.
 - Make medical/dental appointments after school time wherever possible or at the beginning or end of the day to limit the time out of school. These appointments must also be confirmed by parents providing evidence so the absence can be authorised as ‘M’ (Medical/Dental appointment) in the register.
 - Be aware that the school has a very strict policy on family holidays during term time and unless there are exceptional circumstances, the absence will be unauthorised. There will be a risk of being issued with a Penalty Notice by the EWS.
Information about the Council’s Code of Conduct on Penalty Notices can be found here:
[Penalty Notice Leaflet](#)
[Wandsworth Code Of Conduct](#)
- If contact has not been made by the parents, the school will begin to attempt to communicate, following the procedures in Appendix B.

To implement a system of rewards and sanctions

- We actively promote attendance and reward good school attendance both at individual and group levels. The following are examples:
 - The ‘Traffic Light’ system is used to monitor attendance across the whole school. A monthly monitoring system will identify children whose attendance is below 95%. Families of concern will be written to, to inform them of their child’s attendance level, and may be invited to attend a meeting and appropriate action will be decided from there.
 - Each week, the class with the highest percentage are presented with Betty the Bird in assembly and will have an extra 5-minute play time.
 - There is a half termly £10 WHS gift voucher draw for children with 100% attendance.

To promote effective partnerships with the Education Welfare Service and with other services and agencies

- The Family Liaison Officer is the designated member of staff for liaison with EWS and other agencies.
- We will be guided by advice from EWS regarding possible legal action to support improved school attendance where necessary.

- Where an Early Help Plan, or voluntary parenting contract has not been successful, an Education Supervision Order (ESO) may alternatively provide formal legal intervention without criminal prosecution.
 - ESOs are made through the Family or High Court, rather than Magistrates Court. They give the Local Authority a formal role in advising, helping and directing the pupil and parent(s) to ensure the pupil receives an efficient, full-time, suitable education. For the duration of the ESO, the parent's duties to secure the child's education and regular attendance are superseded by a duty to comply with any directions given by the Local Authority under the ESO.
 - The order initially lasts for one year, but extensions can be secured within the last 3 months for a period of up to 3 years at a time.
 - The supervisor of an ESO will usually be a professional already working closely with the family – or member of school staff.

To recognise the needs of the individual pupil when planning reintegration following significant periods of absence

- We will be sensitive to the individual needs and circumstances of pupils returning from long periods of absence.
- We will involve/inform key staff in the reintegration process and agree timescales for the review.
- We involve parents at every opportunity.

Reviewed: September 2023

Review Due: September 2026

Approved by: Governor:

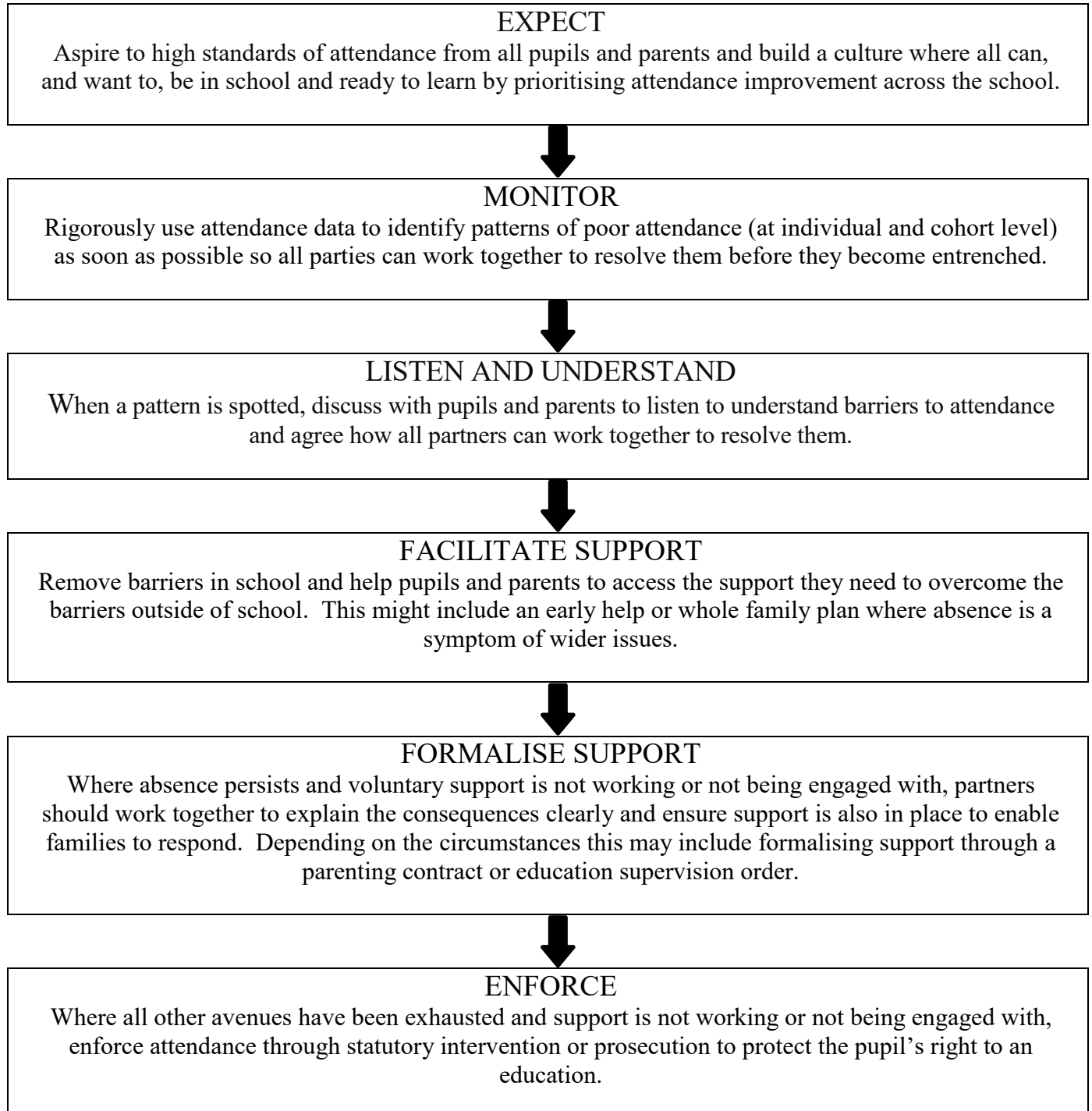
Name: Date:

Headteacher:

Name: Date:

Working together to improve Attendance

Successfully treating the root causes of absence and removing barriers to attendance, at home, in school or more broadly requires schools and local partners to work collaboratively with, not against families. All partners should work together to:





If a child is absent and no reason has been provided ...

Once the registers are complete, the classes are individually checked.

