



Greenfields School

Attendance and Punctuality Policy

2026-2027

Implemented	By Whom	Last Review	By Whom	Next Review
June 2025	R.Hill	September 2026	Craig Thomas	September 2027

Document History (last 3 versions)			
Date of Issue	Version No.	Person(s) responsible for change	Nature of Change
03/10/25	3	Creslyn Singh	Review and update
12/03/26	4	Creslyn Singh	Reviewed
22/09/26	5	Craig Thomas	Reviewed and updated

This policy aligns with the ALN Code (Wales) 2021, the Equality Act 2010, the UNCRC, the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024

Mission Statement

Preparing learners for the future by providing a sustainable outstanding educational experience where all learners realise, pursue and achieve their full potential, enabling them to thrive as adults.

Current Context

Learners need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves learners vulnerable to falling behind, many of our learners have disrupted prior learning. Learners with poor attendance are likely to achieve less at school. Schools are expected to promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence, ensure every pupil has access to education to which they are entitled and act early to address patterns of absence.

Guardians* are expected to perform their legal duty by ensuring their learner of compulsory school age, who are registered at school, attend regularly and arrive to school on time". *Definition of parent: Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 A parent in relation to any learner or young person, includes any person:- a) all natural guardians, whether they are married or not; b) who is not a parent but who has parental responsibility for him/her; or c) who has care of him/her. Parental partners can be included (whether or not they are married or the natural parent of the learner as they have 'care' of the learner. If a pupil lives with a grandparent or older sibling as their main carer they can also be included as they are the main care provider.

Daily Procedures

Registration Under the 2006 Education Regulations the school is legally required to register learners twice daily. Registers are marked in the morning between 8.50am and 9.30am and in the afternoon between 1.00 and 1.30pm. It is essential that all learners are registered on both occasions.

It is a legal requirement that a register is taken. Not only does the process allow us to monitor attendance but also to act as a learner checklist in respect of health and safety issues – e.g. Fire Drills.

Each year a school calendar is sent out and clearly indicates the days when your learner is expected to be in school. If your learner tells you that school is to be closed on a day not indicated on the school calendar, please check with the school via telephone. Regular attendance at school is the responsibility of guardians and carers. Under the 1996 Education Act guardians commit an offence if the learner does not attend school regularly.

It is the expectation of the school that all learners will achieve at least 85% attendance. There are a variety of reasons for learners missing school. Some are unavoidable but we would ask that you support us in ensuring that your learner's attendance meets both the school and the government's expectations. Any problems with regular attendance are best sorted out by the school, the guardians and the learner at an early stage. We will closely monitor your learner's attendance and alert you if we feel there is an issue. The school undertakes a wide range of measures to support learners where attendance at school is an issue.

Punctuality/Lateness to school

Tutor time begins at 9:00am, where the registers are marked. Pupils arriving after 9:10am will be marked as L (Late). If a learner arrives after 9.30am without any written or verbal confirmation from

guardians/carers to explain their lateness, the school will mark the pupil with the U code. This means that, although the learner is in school, they are marked absent for the entire morning. This will be marked as an unauthorised absence. The 1996 Education Act requires that every learner should attend school and be on time. It is better to be late than not to be in school at all, BUT when learners arrive late it makes it difficult for everyone. The teacher has to stop and wait for the latecomer to settle down, the rest of the class is disrupted, and the latecomer misses the, often vital, first part of the lesson and impacts on the learning.

Reluctance to go to school

Sometimes learners seem anxious about leaving home to go to school. They may tell you that they feel unwell or give another reason to not attend. You may notice that they are worried from things that they say e.g. that they do not want to do particular subjects, feel that they have no friends or are being bullied. If this is the case please contact the school as soon as possible to address the matter.

Absenteeism

The school has a responsibility to reduce the number of learners whose attendance is below 90% over the school year. Learners with attendance below 70% fall into the 'Persistent Absentee' category. A meeting will be held with the Headteacher to address concerning attendance and monitored for improvement. Where medical reasons are provided, these are explored by the school to ensure that the corporate family is receiving the best possible support to encourage attendance.

At Greenfields School, we know that good attendance and punctuality are important in helping learners achieve the best that they can be. Education is important, learners should arrive on time and ready to learn, every day the school is open, unless the reason for absence is unavoidable. All research shows that learners who attend well achieve well.

ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR %	ATTENDANCE RATING	EQUIVALENT TO DAYS ABSENT	EQUIVALENT TO WEEKS ABSENT	EQUIVALENT TO LESSONS ABSENT
100	Excellent	0 days	0 weeks	0 lessons
97	Good	4 days	1 week	24 lessons
95	Satisfactory	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90	Cause for Concern	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85	Unsatisfactory	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80	Serious cause for concern	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75	Serious cause for concern	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70	Serious cause for concern	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons
65	Serious cause for concern	67 days	13.5 weeks	340 lessons

The government has laid down guidelines which they expect learners at secondary school to achieve in terms of attendance.

Schools must enter pupils on the admission register and attendance register from the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed, or been notified, that the learner will attend the school.

Every amendment made to the admission register and the attendance register must include: the original entry; the amended entry; the reason for the amendment; the date on which the amendment was made; and the name and position of the person who made the amendment (DFE guidance – March 2013).

School maintains the blue register along with electronic records on Behaviour Watch that can provide detailed reports for closer monitoring. See Appendix below.

According to Schools attendance codes: guidance (July 2026) by the Welsh Government:

Statistical category	Codes in this category
1. present	Λ and L
2. approved education activity	B, B1, B2, J, P1, P2, V and W
3. authorised absence	C1, C2,C3, C4, F, H, I1, I2, M, S, E, R and T
4. unauthorised absence	N, O, G, U
5. not required to attend	D1, X, Y1,Y2, Z and #

Code	Meaning	Statistical category
Λ	Present at registration	Present
L	Late but arrived before the register closed	Present
B	Educated off-site (not dual registration)	Approved educational activity
B1	Pupil in receipt of online learning provided by a local authority	Approved educational activity
B2	Pupil in receipt of online learning provided by the school	Approved educational activity
J	Interview	Approved educational activity
P1	Approved sporting activity	Approved educational activity
P2	Approved performance	Approved educational activity

Code	Meaning	Statistical category
V	Educational visit or trip	Approved educational activity
W	Work experience (not work based training)	Approved educational activity
C1	Other authorised circumstances (not covered by another appropriate code or description)	Authorised absence
C2	Absence due to a paid performance	Authorised absence
C3	Pupil who is flexi-schooled	Authorised absence
C4	Pupil who is on a part-time timetable	Authorised absence
F	Agreed extended family holiday	Authorised absence
H	Agreed family holiday	Authorised absence
I1	Physical illness	Authorised absence
I2	Non-physical illness	Authorised absence
M	Medical or dental appointment	Authorised absence
S	Study leave	Authorised absence
E	Excluded but no alternative provision made	Authorised absence
R	Day set aside exclusively for religious observance	Authorised absence
T	Traveller absence	Authorised absence

Code	Meaning	Statistical category
N	No reason for the absence provided yet	Unauthorised absence
O	Other unauthorised (not covered by other codes or descriptions)	Unauthorised absence
G	Family holiday (not agreed or sessions in excess of agreement)	Unauthorised absence
U	Late and arrived after the register closed	Unauthorised absence
D1	Dual registered (pupil attending other educational setting)	Not required to attend
X	Untimetabled sessions for non-compulsory school-age pupils	Not required to attend
Y1	Partial closure	Not required to attend
Y2	Whole-school closure	Not required to attend
Z	Pupil not on roll yet	Not required to attend
#	School closed to all pupils	Not required to attend

Vocational Placements

Learners at Greenfields School attend vocational based placements. In these cases, the Careers Co-ordinator will ring the placement school or provider on a daily basis to monitor attendance. School must monitor carefully and share with welfare as requested. Any concerns regarding a learner's attendance will be referred to the Headteacher and guardians/carers will be contacted and a meeting arranged. It is our responsibility to ensure learners attend placements on a daily basis and, if applicable, the school will engage with external agencies as necessary to ensure the learner attends.

School attendance is compulsory but we recognise some families will have greater anxiety about learners attendance at school during this time of uncertainty around the risks of COVID-19. In many cases the anxieties will relate to health vulnerabilities within the household or wider family. In these circumstances, schools and local authorities should work to support a learner to access the curriculum and minimise disruption to the learner's education. The Welsh Government [Learning guidance](#) may be helpful to support this.

Every effort must be made to support families in enabling learners to return to school, and managing possible de-registration due to risks associated with COVID-19. In some circumstances it may be preferable for the school to consider more flexible approaches to supporting learning as an option to avoid de-registration as this can be a valid way to offer educational support to learners and assist transition back into onsite educational provision.

If a learner is unable to attend the physical setting of the school due to self-isolation it is vital the school continues to engage regularly with the learner remotely. [Learning guidance](#) is available to support schools and settings in doing so.

Schools should record attendance and absence in keeping with the codes below. Codes [and ; are temporary codes introduced to respond to the new circumstances and should be applied from November, when they are available.

Guidance on when they should be used follows the summary below.

What code should be used?

Code	Meaning	Statistical category
/	Attending school in the am.	Present
\	Attending school in the pm.	Present
[	Remote learning due to Covid-19.	Not required to attend
;	Illness due to Covid-19.	Authorised absence
Y	School directed absence due to Covid-19.	Not required to attend

All other codes apply as per the guidance on school attendance: gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/guidance-on-school-attendance-codes.pdf

Improving attendance – WHAT GUARDIANS CAN DO:

1. Try to make all appointments (doctors, court, dentist and hospital) out of school time. This is not always possible but in such cases, try to minimise the disruption to the day.
2. Encourage your learner to take responsibility for being on time for school. Try to make sure they have an alarm clock that is reliable. Make sure that they have a realistic bedtime and will not be too tired to get up in the morning for school. Bags, books and other equipment should be prepared the night before.
3. Check with the school's Admin Assistant – Attendance if you have any concerns about whether your learner is present in school. Our Attendance Clerk is Sylvia Joslin School.Admin@caretech-uk.com.
4. Leave of absence during term time is not a parental right. If there are special or exceptional circumstances please contact the Headteacher and a decision will be made as to whether the absence will be authorised or not.
5. Encourage your learner to come to school even if they are feeling slightly unwell. Many aches and pains are forgotten when they are with friends and the school will contact you if it becomes necessary.
6. Talk positively about going to school – “What was good about school today?” “Did anything funny happen?”
7. Monitor your learner's internet and social media use to ensure they are not experiencing any difficulties that may prevent them from wanting to attend school.
8. Take any worries seriously but do not show that you are unduly concerned. Believe that they will be sorted out. Contact the Headteacher or Deputy Head before the concerns escalate.

Improving attendance – WHAT SCHOOL DOES:

1. Mark the registers twice a day in accordance with the law.
2. Informs any guardians who have not contacted the school, of the absence of their learner on a particular day.
3. Maintains records and monitors attendance of learners on a regular basis.
4. Authorises absences in accordance with the government guidelines. Please note that only the school can authorise absence.
5. Contacts guardians / carers when the attendance falls below acceptable levels and / or when particular patterns of absence are causing concerns.
6. Provides access to staff with whom attendance related issues can be discussed.
7. Works with external agencies to maintain good attendance and to support the learner / family with any issues that may affect attendance and punctuality to school.
8. Maintains a range of strategies to encourage good attendance by means of rewards.
9. Works with relevant external agencies if a learners' attendance becomes a concern, ie – Social Care, Virtual Schools etc.
10. The school has produced a new attendance rationale to be introduced as a strategy for improving attendance. The school does challenge absenteeism on a number of levels and provides accurate attendance data analysis, however, these approaches need to be embedded in policy and procedure also.
11. The school's reward system also enables pupils to be awarded points for attending school and lessons on time.

The school has a legal responsibility to promote good attendance. Equally, guardians have a duty to make sure that their learner attend school regularly. Our staff are committed to working closely with guardians as the best way to ensure as high a level of attendance as possible. Your continued support in this matter is essential. Please work with us.

Headteacher:	Craig Thomas	Date:	22 nd September 2026
Proprietor:	Rob McConomy	Date:	22 nd September 2026

BehaviourWatch attendance reporting systems

Attendance Breakdown

