
Pupil attendance

Governing Bodies and Academy Trustees - Expectations

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DfE Guidance on pupil absence

- Revised DfE guidance – September 2022;
 - Working together to improve school attendance - Guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities
 - Section 3: Expectations of academy trust boards and governing bodies of maintained schools
 - Supported by:
 - Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance
 - Sections in table for parents, schools, governing bodies, LA

DfE - expectations

- Take an active role in attendance improvement, support their school(s) to prioritise attendance, and work together with leaders to set whole school cultures
- Ensure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties
- Ensure school staff receive training on attendance, cont.

From the table

- Regularly review attendance data and help school leaders focus support on the pupils who need it.
- Pupils at risk of becoming persistently absent
- Persistently absent pupils (missing 10% or more of school sessions)
- Severely absent pupils (those missing 50% or more of school sessions)
- Support for cohorts of pupils with lower attendance than their peers
- (Review school attendance policy)

Ofsted

- Schools that improve attendance from a low baseline, maintain high levels of attendance and minimise persistent absence all have different starting points and take slightly different approaches. However, these approaches tend to have a number of features in common.
- They can best be summarised as ‘Listen, understand, empathise and support – but do not tolerate’.

Ofsted -The role of governors

- It is not uncommon for governors to look only at the overall attendance figure for a school to consider where this sits in relation to national averages. But that figure can disguise variations in the attendance of groups, and sometimes real issues.

Monitoring

- Ofsted considers governing bodies' efforts as part of inspections.
- DfE Regions Group considers multi academy trusts' efforts on attendance as part of decision making.

ATTENDANCE LINK GOVERNOR

DfE guidance refers to the option of having a link governor or trustee who focusses on attendance.

Attendance Link Governor JD

Data – latest published

Autumn and Spring 2021/22

Primary	Overall absence %	Authorised absence %	Unauthorised absence %	Persistent Absence %
National	6.2	5.0	1.2	18.2
Leicester City	6.2	4.5	1.7	19.3
Secondary	Overall absence %	Authorised absence %	Unauthorised absence %	Persistent Absence %
National	8.6	6.3	2.4	26.7
Leicester City	7.5	4.9	2.6	22.8

Questions?

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