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CROSBY RAVENSWORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL (3-11 years)
Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 3JJ
Telephone: 01931 715265



ATTENDANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

We educate for life in all its fullness. At Crosby Ravensworth this means:

- A close, cohesive family atmosphere where children are inquisitive, confident in the natural environment to which they are connected and supported as they learn resilience through challenge.
- Widened opportunities for children, alongside adults, to flourish. Cultural capital is prized and we prepare our children for a world of diversity.
- Richness and ambition throughout our academic, creative, sporting, social and spiritual ventures.

Relevant roles held and by whom (correct at the time of publishing)


Safeguarding Governor:

Sylvia Evans

DRAFT Approved by

Name: Duncan Priestley

Position: Headteacher

Signed: 

Name: Barbara Wallis

Position: Chair of Governors on behalf of Full Governing Board

Signed:

Version Date: 30th August 2024

Proposed review date: Autumn 2026

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REVIEW SHEET

Each entry in the table below summarises the changes to this Policy and procedures made since the last review (if any).

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
1	Original based on KAHSC v1	September 2022
2	Adopted WAF model policy to take into account new legislation from 19 th August 2024	30.08.24

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Regular school attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential.
- 1.2 Crosby Ravensworth School believes that regular school attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who can realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.
- 1.3 Crosby Ravensworth School values all pupils. As set out in this policy, we will build strong relationships with families to ensure pupils have the support in place to attend school and identify the reasons for poor attendance.
- 1.4 Crosby Ravensworth School recognises that attendance is a matter for the whole school community. Our Attendance Policy should not be viewed in isolation; it is a strand that runs through all aspects of school improvement, supported by our policies on admissions, safeguarding, anti-bullying, child protection, safeguarding and behaviour and inclusive learning. This policy takes into account the Human Rights Act 1998, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Race Relations Act 2000.
- 1.5 This policy aims to:
- promote good attendance;
 - reduce absence, including persistent and severe absence;
 - ensure every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled;
 - promote early identification to address patterns of absence;
 - promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

2. Legal framework

- 2.1 This policy meets the requirements of the [working together to improve school attendance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting 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 School Attendance \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

[The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

This policy also refers to the DfE's guidance on the school census, which explains the persistent absence threshold.

- 2.2 Legal proceedings are a statutory intervention used by the local authority against the parents and carers of registered pupils who fail to attend regularly at school. Parents and carers whose children are on a school register and fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child(ren), may be guilty of an offence under Section 444(1) or 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996 and the authority may take enforcement action through the courts to secure regular attendance.
- 2.3 Legal proceedings are not used as a punishment to parents and carers for their pupil's absence from school; they are a supportive measure intended to make parents and carers realise the importance of attendance and to avoid further absence from school.
- 2.4 Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act states that parents and carers must ensure that children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. A prosecution can take place against any person who has parental responsibility for the child's education or who has care of the child. Parents and carers have a legal duty to make sure that their children are properly educated. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly and arrive on time. If you allow your child to be absent from school without good reason, the school will not authorise the absence, you may be committing an offence, and you could be issued with a penalty notice or prosecuted.
- 2.5 A child is of Compulsory School Age at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach the age of 16.
- 2.6 Under the Education Act 1996, the local authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that parents and carers secure education for children of compulsory school age and where necessary, use legal enforcement.
- 2.7 The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, require schools to take an attendance register twice a day, once at the start of the morning session and then again during the afternoon session.
- 2.8 The register must record whether the pupil was:
- present;
 - absent;
 - present at approved educational activity; or
 - unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

3. Safeguarding

- 3.1 Every pupil should be able learn in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. We respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn and participate in all school activities in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.
- 3.2 Attending school regularly promotes the welfare and safety of children whilst they are not in the care of their parents and carers. Safeguarding is about offering early help and support to children and families and difficulties with attendance and lateness may be signs that something is worrying the child or

that there are difficulties within the family. Poor or irregular attendance, persistent lateness, or children missing from education may be considered a safeguarding matter if this places a child at risk of harm.

- 3.3. Safeguarding the interests of each child is everyone's responsibility and within the context of this school, safeguarding and promoting the welfare and life opportunities for children encompasses attendance, behaviour management, health and safety, access to the curriculum and anti-bullying, protecting children from abuse and neglect, online safety, radicalisation and extremism, FGM and CSE.
- 3.4 More information on safeguarding and the protection of children can be found in the school's Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Policy.
- 3.5 In order to allow us to safeguard the children in our care it is important that parents and carers provide the school with their current contact details and provide at least three other contact numbers in case of emergency.
- 3.6 It is also important for parents and carers inform the school of any specific vulnerability in relation to their child or home circumstances.

4. Categorising absence

- 4.1 Where pupils of compulsory school age are recorded as absent, the register must show whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.
- 4.2 Absence can only be authorised by the headteacher and cannot be authorised by parents and carers. All absences will be treated as unauthorised unless a satisfactory explanation for the pupil's absence has been received.
- 4.3 Parents and carers must advise the school by telephone/email/Showbie on the first day of absence and provide the school with an expected date of return. This should be followed up in the form of a written note from the parent/carer, though verbal explanations may be acceptable where this is considered appropriate.
- 4.4 Absence will be categorised as follows:
 - 4.4.1 Illness
Parents and carers may be asked to provide medical evidence to allow the headteacher to authorise absence where appropriate. This will usually be in the form of an appointment card, prescription, etc.
 - 4.4.2 Medical/dental appointments
Parents and carers are advised where possible to make medical and dental appointments outside of the school day. Where this is not possible, pupils must attend school for part of the day. Parents and carers must show the appointment card to school.
 - 4.4.3 Other authorised circumstances
This relates to where there is cause for absence due to exceptional circumstances.
 - 4.4.4 Excluded (no alternative provision made)

Exclusion from attending school is counted as an authorised absence. The child's class teacher will make arrangements for work to be sent home.

4.4.5 Religious Observance

Crosby Ravensworth School acknowledges the multi-faith nature of British society and recognises that on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods or weekends and this necessitates a consideration, by written request by the parent/carer, of authorised absence.

4.4.6 Traveller absence

It is expected that Traveller children, in common with all other children, are to attend school as regularly and as frequently as possible.

To protect Traveller parents and carers from unreasonable prosecution for non-attendance, the Education Act 1996, section 444(6), states that a Traveller parent is safe from prosecution if their child accrues 200 attendances (i.e. 200 half days) in the year preceding the absence. To help ensure continuity of education for pupils, when their parent/carer(s) is travelling for occupational purposes in England it is expected that the pupil should attend a mainstream school where their parent/carer(s) is travelling and be dual registered.

Crosby Ravensworth School will be regarded as the base school if it is the school where the child normally attends when they are not travelling. However, the pupil must have attended in the last 18 months. Traveller children can register at other schools temporarily while away from their base school; in such cases, the pupil's school place at Crosby Ravensworth School will be kept open for them whilst travelling. This is to protect them from unfairly losing their place at their school of usual attendance.

Crosby Ravensworth School can only effectively operate as the child's base school if it is engaged in on-going dialogue with Traveller families. This means that parents and carers must advise of their forthcoming travelling patterns before they happen; and inform the school regarding proposed return dates.

Crosby Ravensworth School will authorise absence of Traveller children if we are satisfied that a family is travelling for work or trade purposes and has given indication that they intend to return.

Traveller children will be recorded as attending an approved educational activity when:

- the child is on roll and attending another visited school;
- the child is undertaking supervised educational activity under the jurisdiction of another local authority's Traveller Education Service;

Where Traveller children are registered pupils at a school and are known to be present either at a site (official or otherwise) or in a house and are not attending school, the absence will be investigated in the same way as that for any pupil and appropriate statutory action may be undertaken.

4.4.7 Late arrival

Registration begins at 09:00; pupils arriving after this time will be marked as present but arriving late. The register will close at 09:10; pupils arriving after the close of register will be recorded as late (code U). This is not authorised and will count as an absence for that school session and statutory action may be taken where appropriate.

On arrival after the close of register, pupils must report to the school office to ensure that we can be responsible for their health and safety whilst they are in school.

The absence will only be authorised if a satisfactory explanation for the late arrival can be provided, for example, attendance at a medical appointment.

The absence will be recorded as unauthorised if the pupil has arrived late without justifiable cause.

4.4.9 Unauthorised absence

Absence will not be authorised unless parents and carers have provided a satisfactory explanation and that it has been accepted as such by the headteacher.

4.5 All requests for leave of absence will be responded to in writing outlining the conditions of leave granted.

4.5.1 If a pupil fails to return and contact with the parents and carers has not been made or received, school may take the pupil off the school's roll in compliance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2013. This means that the child will lose their school place.

4.5.2 If the permission to take leave is not granted and the parent/carer takes their child out of school the absence will be unauthorised. In such cases the school may request the local authority issue a Penalty Notice or consider other legal sanctions including prosecution in the Magistrates' court.

5. **Deletions from the register**

5.1 In accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, pupils will only be deleted from the register when one of the following circumstances applies:

- The school is replaced by another school on a School Attendance Order.
- The School Attendance Order is revoked by the local authority.
- The pupil has ceased to be of compulsory school age.
- Permanent exclusion has occurred and procedures have been completed.
- Death of a pupil.
- Transfer between schools.
- Parent/carer notifies the school in writing they are withdrawing the child to be educated otherwise than at school.
- Failure to return from a period of leave after both the school and the local authority have tried to locate the pupil.
- Where a pupil has been detained under a sentence of detention and there are reasonable grounds to believe the pupil will not return to the school after the period of detention. This will be agreed in discussion with the Youth Justice Service.
- 20 days continuous unauthorised absence and both the local authority and school have tried to locate the pupil and agree to deletion from the register.
- Left the school but not known where he/she has gone after both the school and the local authority have tried to locate the pupil.

- 5.2 Crosby Ravensworth School will follow Westmorland and Furness Council's Children Missing Education Procedures when a pupil's whereabouts are unknown.

6. Roles and responsibilities

- 6.1 The governing board is responsible for:
- Promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos.
 - Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties.
 - Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data.
 - Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school.
 - Making sure staff receive adequate training on attendance.
 - Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.
- 6.2 The headteacher is responsible for:
- 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 pupils.
 - Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies.
 - Leading attendance across the school.
 - Offering a clear vision for attendance improvement.
 - Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes.
 - Having an oversight of data analysis.
 - Devising specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data.
 - Arranging calls and meetings with parents and carers to discuss attendance issues.
 - Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families.
 - Working with the named LA Attendance Support Officer to agree actions for pupils whose attendance is a concern and support strategies are not working.
- 6.3 Class teachers are responsible for recording attendance on a daily basis, using the correct codes, and submitting this information to ScholarPack.
- 6.4 School Business Manager will take calls from parents and carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system.
- 6.5 Parents and carers/carers are expected to:
- Make sure their child attends every day on time.
 - Call the school to report their child's absence before 08:55 on the day of the absence and advise when they are expected to return.
 - Provide the school with more than one emergency contact number for their child.
 - Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day.
- 6.6 Pupils are expected to attend school every day on time.

7. Using attendance data

7.1 The School will:

- Monitor attendance and absence data half-termly, termly, and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil level.
- Identify whether there are groups of children whose absences may be a cause for concern.

Pupil-level absence data will be collected each term and 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 compare attendance data to the national average and share this with the governing board.

7.2 Analysing attendance

The school will:

- Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify pupils or cohorts that need additional support with their attendance, and use this analysis to provide targeted support to these pupils and their families.
- Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns.

7.3 Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

- Provide regular attendance reports to school leaders, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families.
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies.

7.4 Reducing persistent and severe absence

Persistent absence is where a pupil misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence is where a pupil misses 50% or more of school.

The school will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence.
- Hold regular meetings with the parents and carers of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable, or are persistently or severely absent, to discuss attendance and engagement at school.
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance.

8. **Support systems**

- 8.1 Schools recognise that poor attendance is often an indication of difficulties and trauma in a child's life. This may be related to problems at home and/or in school. Parents and carers should make school aware of any difficulties or changes in circumstances that may affect their child's attendance and/or behaviour in school, for example, bereavement, divorce/separation, incidents of domestic abuse. This will help the school identify any additional support that

may be required. It is expected that the child and their family work collaboratively with school to identify the anxiety-based school avoidance resources most appropriate for support and to accept the support that is offered or advised.

- 8.2 Crosby Ravensworth School also recognise that some pupils are more likely to require additional support to attain good attendance, for example, those pupils with special educational needs, those with physical or mental health needs, migrant and refugee pupils and looked after children.
- 8.3 The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance for all pupils. Strategies used will include:
- Escalation of attendance approach/graduated approach.
 - Attendance contracts.
 - Attendance report cards.
 - Referrals to support agencies such as early help or family hubs.
 - Pupil Voice Activities.
 - Anxiety-based attendance avoidance materials.
 - Trauma-informed approaches.
 - Time limited part-time timetables.
 - Inclusion resources.
 - Reintegration support packages.
- 8.4 Where parents and carers fail or refuse to engage with the support offered and further unauthorised absence occurs, Crosby Ravensworth School will consider the use of legal sanctions.

9. Legal interventions

9.1 Prosecution

Where intervention fails to bring about an improvement in attendance, the local authority will be notified and legal action in the Magistrates' Court may be taken. The school will provide the local authority with evidence required for a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 and will appear as a prosecution witness if required by the court. This is to ensure that parents and carers realise their own responsibilities in ensuring attendance at school and most importantly about returning children to education.

- 9.1.1 Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 states that if a parent fails to ensure the regular school attendance of their child if he/she is a registered pupil at a school and is of compulsory school age, then they are guilty of an offence.
- 9.1.2 A parent found guilty of this offence can be fined up to £2,500 and/or be imprisoned for a period of up to three months.
- 9.1.3 Alternatives to Section 444 prosecution are Attendance Contracts, Penalty Notices or an Education Supervision Order.

9.2 Attendance contracts

An attendance contract is a voluntary agreement between school and the parent, it can also be extended to include the child and any other agencies offering support to resolve any difficulties leading to improved attendance.

9.2.1 The contract will outline attendance targets and will detail agreed actions that will help to achieve the target. The contract will be reviewed regularly.

9.2.2 The contract can be used as evidence in a prosecution should parents and carers fail to carry out agreed actions.

9.3 Penalty Notices

Penalty Notices will be considered when:

- A pupil is absent from school and the absence has not been authorised by the school.
- A pupil has accrued unauthorised absence without reasons provided and/or accepted as exceptional by the headteacher/principal.

9.3.1 A Penalty Notice gives the parent the opportunity to discharge themselves of their legal responsibility if a £160 fine is paid within 28 days. There is usually the opportunity to pay a reduced amount of £80 if paid within 21 days of the date the Notice was issued.

9.3.2 Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

9.3.3 Penalty Notices will be used in accordance with Westmorland and Furness Council's Penalty Notice Code of Conduct.

Table 1: DfE School Attendance Codes

Code	Definition	Scenario
Attending School		
/	Present (am)	Pupil is present at morning registration
\	Present (pm)	Pupil is present at afternoon registration
L	Late arrival	Pupil arrives late before register has closed
B	Attending any other approved educational activity	Pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is not a sporting activity or work experience
D	Dual Registered	Pupil to be registered at more than one school and is absent with leave to attend other school
K	Attending a place other than the school	Pupil is attending a place, other than the school or any other school at which they are a registered pupil, for educational provision arranged by a local authority
J	Interview	Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment
P	Sporting activity	Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by school
V	Educational trip or visit	Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised, or approved, by school
W	Work experience	Pupil is on a work experience placement
Absent - Authorised absence		
C	Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance	All schools are able to grant a leave of absence at their discretion
C1	Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence to undertake employment (paid or unpaid) during school hours
C2	Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable	In a pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs
E	Suspended or permanently excluded	Pupil has been excluded but no alternative provision has been made
I	Illness	School has been notified that a pupil will be absent due to illness
J1	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for	Where an application has been made in advance by the parent/carers and the leave is to enable the pupil to attend an interview for employment or admission to another educational institution.

	admission to another educational institution	
M	Medical/dental appointment	Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment
Q	Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements	Pupil is unable to attend the school because a local authority has a duty set out in regulation 10(12) or (13) to make access arrangements to enable the pupil's attendance at school and have failed to do so.
R	Religious observance	Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance
S	Study leave	Pupil is on study leave during their public examinations
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	Pupil is a mobile child and their parent(s) is travelling in the course of their trade or business and the pupil is travelling with them
X	Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school	Pupil not of compulsory school age to attend school part-time.
Y1	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available	Pupil is unable to attend because the school is not within walking distance of their home and the transport to and from the school that is normally provided for the pupil by the school or local authority is not available
Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel	Pupil is unable to attend the school because of widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national, or international emergency
Y3	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed	Part of the school premises is unavoidably out of use
Y4	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed	Where a school was planned to be open for a session, but the school is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to adverse weather)
Y5	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention	Pupil is unable to attend the school because 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	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law	Pupil's travel to or attendance at the school would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contrary to any guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of infection or disease published by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (or the equivalent in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), or • prohibited by any legislation relating to the incidence or transmission of infection or disease.
Y7	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause	An unavoidable cause, that is not covered by one of the other 'unable to attend' codes detailed above, is preventing the pupil from attending the school.

Absent - unauthorised absence		
G	Unauthorised holiday	Pupil is on a holiday that was not approved by school or in excess of the period authorised by the school
N	Reason not provided	Pupil is absent for an unknown reason (this code should be amended when the reason emerges, or replaced with code O if no reason for absence has been provided after a reasonable amount of time)
O	Unauthorised absence	School is not satisfied with reason for pupil's absence
U	Arrival after registration	Pupil arrived at school after the register closed
<u>Administrative Codes</u>		
Z	Prospective pupil not on admission register	To enable schools to set up registers in advance of pupils joining the school to ease administration burdens.
#	Planned school closure	Whole or partial school closure due to half-term/bank holiday/INSET day/use as a polling station