

Stepney Primary School



A Small School With Great Expectations

Attendance Policy

At Stepney raising the achievement and basic skills of pupils and ensuring that they reach their full potential is the responsibility of all staff

1. AIMS

To raise awareness amongst pupils, parents, staff and governors of the importance of good attendance and punctuality

- To raise and maintain levels of attendance in school amongst pupils;
- To reduce, to minimal levels, the number of unauthorised absences; including late arrivals after registration has closed;
- To address and reduce the number of pupils with persistent absences.

2. WHOLE SCHOOL POLICIES AND SYSTEMS

We use the computerised registration system*, which ensures we are vigilant with our marking procedures and ensures absences are accounted for. In addition we follow local authority guidelines for absence procedures.

(* From Autumn 2013, classroom staff have completed an electronic register, which is accessed via the schools' internal computer network. This is used for attendance and dinner registers)

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Class Teacher

All teachers are responsible for ensuring:

- the register is marked/entered correctly and reasons for absence noted where possible;
- patterns of absence/lateness are noted and brought to the attention of/discussed with the Attendance Officer/Deputy Head Teacher/Head Teacher;
- pupils in their class are encouraged to maintain good levels of attendance and punctuality at all times. This may involve bespoke rewards and incentives in addition to the whole school incentives systems.

3.2 Head Teacher/Deputy Head Teacher:

Is responsible for:

- overseeing and monitoring overall whole school attendance and punctuality;
- having an overview of children with poor attendance/punctuality (especially persistent absences) and discussing any problems with the class teacher and Attendance Officer;
- having access to SIMS to collect information on whole school, class or individual attendances;
- meeting regularly with the School Attendance Officer (Weekly) and Education Welfare Officer (Fortnightly) to discuss poor attenders;
- developing home school links and meeting with parents if there

- is a concern over a child's attendance;
- reporting levels of attendance to Governors and the Local Authority.

3.3 Office Staff/Attendance Officer:

Are responsible for:

- text/Phoning the homes of pupils on the first day of absence where not otherwise informed;
- liaising with the EWO (Fortnightly) and the Head Teacher/Deputy Head Teacher (Weekly) to discuss pupils whose attendance/punctuality is causing concern;
- producing/collating information on whole school, class or individual attendance as requested;
attending meetings with parents, in conjunction with the Head Teacher/Deputy Head Teacher, when necessary.

3.4 Education Welfare Officer:

Is responsible for:

- meeting fortnightly with the Attendance Officer/Deputy Head Teacher;
- taking referrals for pupils causing concern to the school after discussion with the school;
- making home visits where appropriate;
- giving the school copies of any home visits made

4. PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH ABSENCE/LATENESS

We have a leaflet for parents/carers, which briefly outlines our procedures regarding attendance and punctuality and highlights our demand for high levels of attendance and punctuality. It also emphasises the responsibilities of parents to ensure their children attend school and are punctual, as well as explaining the difference between an authorised and an unauthorised absence (see appendix). A copy of this leaflet has been sent out to all parents/carers and is given to all new parents.

- parents should inform the school on first day of absence and give an expected date of return;
- in the event that school is not informed, then it is up to the parent to inform school of the reason for absence of the first day of return to school (this will also be followed up by a first day absence phone call);
- if no reasonable explanation for absence is provided or the reason cannot be substantiated (i.e. via a Doctors note or prescription or appointment card etc.) this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence;
- where parents wish to take their child(ren) out of school for a holiday, this request must be made in writing to the Head Teacher; although this is unlikely to be granted;

- children who are late before the register closes at 9:15am will still be given their mark; however, those children who are late after the register has closed at 9:15am will be marked as late and this will count as an unauthorised absence;
- persistent poor attendees will be brought to the attention of the EWO and followed up in school by the Attendance Officer/ Deputy Head Teacher. Parents of these children are at risk of prosecution and may be liable for a fixed penalty notice (see below);
- medical absences (including dental or hospital appointments) will be authorised on receipt of an appointment card or letter from the surgery etc. However, parents are advised that their child should only stay out of school for the time of the appointment and be in school either side of the appointment time;
- long-term absence, due to ill-health, will normally be accompanied by a medical certificate and may need to be reviewed in terms of provision for continuing the child's education off-site;
- all authorised/unauthorised absences remain at the discretion of the Head Teacher;
- absences of 10 days (Twenty sessions) or more will automatically generate a warning letter indicating to parents that their child's attendance is a cause for concern; Parents will be given fifteen days in which to improve their child's attendance, if there is no improvement a fixed penalty of £60 will be imposed; Parents will then have 28 days to pay this, if this is not paid within the 28 days a further £60 is added making the total penalty due £120; If this is not then paid within the next 28 days the parents will be taken to court;
- the school will fine parents for pupils taking holidays during term time. There will be a £60 fine per adult per child. This means that if both mum and dad take their child on holiday, the mother will be fined £60 and the father will be fined an additional £60, making £120 per child.

5. REWARDS AND INCENTIVES

As good attendance is regarded as a priority at Stepney Primary, it is given a high profile. This is achieved in a number of ways:

- each week the class with the best attendance will receive a school certificate, and a trophy to keep for the week;
- classes getting 97%-99.9% attendance during a week will receive a voucher for £5 and for those with 100% it will be £10. These may be redeemed during the year to be spent on a treat for the class. In the past, classes have used them for an extra activity in or out of school at the end of the school year;
- each term the class with the highest accumulative attendance will be rewarded with a whole class treat, such as an outing to the cinema or similar;

- each term the children with 100% attendance will receive a certificate from the Head Teacher;
- at the end of each academic year children with 100% attendance for that period will receive a certificate;
- each term we have a prize hamper draw for parents of pupils who have had 97% or better attendance for the term;
- each half term, we have a prize draw for pupils who have had 100% for the half term. The rewards include 'love-to-shop' vouchers.

Various other incentives are organised and offered throughout the year with focuses on punctuality and attendance, these have included 'early bird' raffles etc.

6. COMPUTERISED REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Daily Procedures for Teaching Staff/Admin Staff:

Time	Procedures	Person Responsible
8:45	Doors open	Attendance Officer
8:55	Bell goes for the start of the morning session; Staff take register; Children complete registration/morning activities while teacher or other appointed adult completes electronic attendance and dinner register on the computer network.	Class Teacher
1:10pm	Bell goes for the start of the afternoon session, class teachers complete the registers on the computer network.	Class Teacher

7. REVIEWING THE POLICY

The policy on attendance and punctuality will be reviewed regularly and amended when necessary.

8. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

Please note: When we have updated policies from April 2012 onwards, we have referred to the requirements of the PSED, which state that as part of their statutory duties, schools need to comply with this by 6th April 2012.

The Equality Act 2010 replaced and unified all existing equality legislation such as the Race Relations Act, Disability Discrimination Act and Sex Discrimination Act. It aims to ensure that people have equality of opportunity in accessing and experiencing public services. Schools when carrying out their day to day work should have regard to the following:

- eliminating discrimination
- advancing equality of opportunity and
- foster good relations across all characteristics

Schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Protection is now extended to pupils who are pregnant or undergoing gender reassignment. This means it is now unlawful to discriminate against a transgender pupil or a pupil who is pregnant or recently had a baby.

This policy was reviewed and updated with reference to this duty. The author/s of this document and the Policy Committee of the Governing Body, which checks all policies before publication, considered this policy in the light of these requirements to ensure that Stepney Primary School adheres to these statutory regulations.
PBrowning, Head Teacher (April 2012)

9. PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Updated Autumn 2015
Mr P Browning
To be reviewed Autumn 2016