



# **LISKEARD SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## **PUPIL ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY POLICY**

### **AND RELATED REFERENCES**

**MAY 2022**

**Related policies and documents:**

**Relationships and Behaviour for Learning Policy**

**Health and Safety Policy**

**Achieving High Attendance – Guidance for Schools (2015) and Pupil Referral Units  
Education (Student Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 amended (Sept 2013)**

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2	Major update to style and current numbering system	May 2012	RRQ, DRP	Revision of document including appendices
3	Minor updates	Sept 2013	RRQ, DRP	Clarification and amendments to regulations re holiday absence, home visits and intervention of the EWS
4	Minor updates	Oct/Nov 2014	RRQ, DRP	Update re EWO role in absence of EWO service
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6	Minor updates	Nov 2016	RRQ, DRP	Appendix 1
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9	Minor updates	Nov 2018	ALL, DRP	Revised letters regarding non-attendance (see appendices)
10	Minor updates	June 2021	ALL, ZB	Role title changed from EWO to Education Welfare Officer (EWO). Minor changes to procedures.
11	Update regarding amendments to the Education (Student Registration) (England) Regulations 2006	May 2022	ALL	Revised guidelines regarding all leave of absence requests.
12	Minor update	May 2022	ALL	20 minute lunchtime detention issued for every lateness.

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## Attendance & Punctuality

### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must receive a proper full-time education and it is the parents' responsibility to make sure their child attends school regularly. It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to ensure that parents meet these responsibilities.
- 1.2 This Policy is written in conjunction with Cornwall Council's Partnership Services for the Department for Education's "Achieving High Attendance" Guidance 2015.
- 1.3 The school is responsible for monitoring and controlling school attendance through the maintenance of two registers:
  - 1.3.1 An admission register (known as the school roll – this ensures a child is legally registered at an educational establishment)
  - 1.3.2 An attendance register (which must be taken at least twice a day; once at the start of the morning)
- 1.4 Registers are legal documents which may be required to be produced in a court of law. Additionally, the admission register (1.3.1) and the attendance register (1.3.2) of every school must be available for inspection during school hours by:
  - 1.4.1 Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools
  - 1.4.2 Local Authority officers
  - 1.4.3 Other individuals as appropriate
- 1.5 Liskeard School and Community College uses an e-reg system (Lesson Monitor) to complete both session (legal) registers (1.3.2) and lesson attendance. This means that pupils are registered for every lesson in addition to the two legally required registrations.
- 1.6 To illustrate that Liskeard School and Community College meets its legal obligation, it has a clear policy on attendance, which is known to staff, pupils and parents. The policy is reviewed regularly with relevant stakeholders. Staff, pupils and parents are reminded of this policy's contents and their obligations.
- 1.7 Attendance information for each student is maintained using SIMS Lesson Monitor software. Teachers use this to complete registers and reasons for any absences are stored on the comments log for each student. Therefore, a database showing all session and lesson attendance and a log detailing any absence and the reason is maintained. This ensures that we have up-to-date attendance data to hand to meet our safeguarding obligations.
  - 1.7.1 Each term the school is required to complete a return to the Department of Education (DofE) detailing the level of authorised and unauthorised absence within the school. The school must also report on the level of persistent absence which is currently defined as a student with less than 90% attendance. This information contributes to local and national absence tables and is an indicator of performance used to compare schools. Schools are challenged to ensure that Persistent Absence does not exceed 5% of the student roll.
  - 1.7.2 Every term, attendance figures are provided to parents through the termly Progress Checks. There is particular emphasis on excellent (100%) and good (97%) attendance. Rewards and Certificates are provided to pupils with full attendance each term.
  - 1.7.3 The school maintains a high profile of the importance of attendance for students and the relationship between good attendance and high attainment. Pupil assemblies are used to promote attendance on a regular basis. Each week posters are used to publicise attendance for each tutor group. There are also occasional promotions and prizes given to pupils or tutor groups who achieve good attendance. The school has a dedicated Head and Assistant Head for each year group. These year teams meet every two weeks with the EWO to discuss

students with attendance issues (normally those with attendance below 93%). A course of action to address each case is agreed at these meetings.

- 1.7.4 Parents/carers and/or pupils with poor attendance will be the subject of a range of intervention measures to deal with the issue. Measures include arranging immediate Back to School interviews for pupils returning after an absence. Holding a formal Attendance Concern Meeting in school with the parent/carer/pupil, these are useful in addressing any barriers to individual attendance. Arranged and unannounced home visits are also agreed in some cases.
- 1.7.5 Escalation measures do include undertaking further home visits (by members of the year and pastoral teams – see Appendix 16). Finally, if matters cannot be resolved, the school will follow the authority's legal processes which include the issue of penalty notices or hosting Education Planning Meetings and the progression, if necessary, through the formal legal process which may result parents/carers being required to appear at Court.
- 1.7.6 Parents/carers of pupils with poor attendance will receive specific communication in relation to their child's attendance each term.
- 1.7.7 The school has an annual target for attendance which is above the national average for secondary schools.
- 1.7.8 The school employs an Attendance Officer, who is responsible for the day to day activity to implement this policy. This work is overseen by the school's EWO and a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The school's EWO has overall responsibility for attendance. The EWO also has responsibility for attendance in a number of primary schools under the school's Education Welfare Officer Service Level Agreement.
- 1.7.9 Attendance with alternative providers is communicated between the provider and the school on at least a weekly basis and any urgent concerns addressed daily.

## **2.0 Attendance Policy**

- 2.1 Monitoring good school attendance and punctuality are key elements of our drive towards 'Achieving more together'. Liskeard School seeks to ensure that all its pupils receive an education which maximises opportunities for each pupil to realise his/her potential.
- 2.2 Statement of Intent
  - 2.2.1 The school provides a welcoming, caring environment, whereby each member of the school community is noticed, feels valued for who they are and what they may become.
  - 2.2.2 All staff work with external partners, pupils and their families/carers to ensure each pupil attends school regularly and punctually.
  - 2.2.3 The school has an effective system of incentives and rewards which acknowledges the efforts of pupils to maintain high levels of attendance and punctuality and the efforts of pupils to improve their attendance and punctuality.
  - 2.2.4 Pupils and parents who give a low priority to attendance are challenged and held accountable.
  - 2.2.5 Staff at Liskeard School have established an effective and efficient system of communication with pupils, parents and external partners to provide mutual information, advice and support.
- 2.3 In particular at Liskeard School:
  - 2.3.1 Pupils are registered accurately and efficiently.
  - 2.3.2 Attendance targets are set for individual pupils, year groups and whole school.

- 2.3.3 A special, dedicated telephone line is maintained to allow parents to report any absence 24/7, parents/carers of a pupil who is absent and a reason has not been given will be contacted by the school each day asking for a reason. All reasons for absence are recorded on SIMS Lesson Monitor comments log. Where contact cannot be established each day a voicemail message will be left and a letter will be sent home. Where absence is suspicious, unscheduled home visits will be undertaken to gain further information and to provide appropriate support and advice.
- 2.3.4 School attendance information is reported to all staff each day. Weekly attendance is reported to each tutor group. Detailed reports are published every two weeks to year team staff and members of the school's Senior Leadership Team. A termly report is presented to the governing body.
- 2.3.5 There is particular emphasis on excellent and good attendance (over 97%). Rewards and certificates will also be provided to pupils with full attendance each term. Parents/carers of pupils with persistent absence (less than 90%) will be the subject of a number of intervention measures to deal with the issue. These include attending an Attendance Concern Meeting, home visits and the hosting of Back to School Interviews, Attendance assemblies and surgeries in school for pupils. Parents/carers of pupils with poor attendance will also receive details of their child's attendance each term.
- 2.3.6 Amendments to the Education (Student Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 came into force on 1 September 2013 stating that Headteachers may not grant any absence for holidays during term time. These amendments remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of 10 school days. Headteachers will not be able to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. It is the Headteacher who determines the number of days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted. If parents/carers decide to still take a child out of school, without permission, they will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996.

All leave of absence requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher in accordance with the school's policy and using the school's form (Appendix 13). Wherever possible, a request must be made at least 2 weeks (10 school days) prior to the requested leave of absence. Each separate application from parents for an 'exceptional circumstance' leave of absence during term time will be considered on its own merit. If a child is absent from school without authorisation, parents/carers will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996 and we may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court. Parents should be made aware that any leave of absence which has not been agreed in advance will lead to the student being marked with an unauthorised absence and that this may be referred to the Local Authority for consideration of a Penalty Notice or other action. A letter confirming that the request has been authorised/denied will be sent to the parent. Any child who has 12 sessions (6 days) or more unauthorised absences in one school year will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer who may initiate statutory proceedings against the parent. If a student is taken out of school after their leave of absence has been refused, the parent will be reported to the Education Welfare Officer and a penalty notice may be issued.

- 2.4 Implementation of attendance – guiding principles  
To promote and implement our intention to continually improve school attendance and reduce absence levels, there are ten key principles underpinning the management of attendance. These principles are used by senior managers and governors as evaluation criteria during annual reviews.
  - 2.4.1 To improve the overall percentage attendance of pupils at school
    - i. Set annual targets for attendance.
    - ii. Apply the Whole School Attendance Policy consistently.
    - iii. Establish and maintain a high profile for attendance and punctuality.

- iv. Relate attendance issues directly to the school's values, ethos and curriculum.
  - v. Monitor progress in attendance using measurable outcomes at individual, tutor group and year group level.
- 2.4.2 To make attendance and punctuality a priority for all those associated with the school including pupils, parents, staff and governors
- i. Use staff handbook to clarify staff responsibilities.
  - ii. Produce termly reports to the governors.
  - iii. Hold an induction Year 7 evening for parents/pupils where importance of attendance punctuality is stressed.
  - iv. Make attendance/punctuality and the links to progress and attainment a key element of each student's progress check/report and a feature within the school newsletter.
  - v. Provide training for all staff.
  - vi. Display materials at focal points – tutor rooms etc. Year teams maintain a Year display board containing regularly updated figures.
  - vii. Discuss attendance issues in Heads of Year (HOY) meetings and/or in relevant staff meetings.
  - viii. Implement reward systems, including letters to parents/guardians, certificates, end of year/term incentives.
  - ix. Include attendance in the annual review process as a measurable outcome for HOY.
  - x. Send letter to every parent/guardian of pupils with good and poor attendance each term.
- 2.4.3 To implement a framework which defines agreed roles and responsibilities and promotes consistency in carrying out designated tasks
- i. Maintain unambiguous procedures for statutory registration – staff must be clear who is responsible for what and when.
  - ii. Make telephone/letter contact, using designated school staff, on first day of absence where reason is unknown.
  - iii. Ensure clearly defined late registration procedures and ensure latecomers are dealt with.
  - iv. Respond swiftly to lateness or truanting.
  - v. Define clearly the roles and responsibilities within the school handbook.
  - vi. Timetabled Head of Year (HOY) to meet with the EWO at least once per fortnight.
  - vii. The EWO to raise attendance issues of specific vulnerable students with partners attending the Additional Needs Meeting held each fortnight.
- 2.5 To have clear procedures to address students with poor attendance– threshold figure agreed (93% trigger). Attendance Concern Meetings, Attendance surgeries, etc.
- 2.5.1 To have clear procedures to deal with pupils where action plans have been agreed (targets, dealing with future absence, etc.)
- 2.5.2 Be familiar with the Cornwall Council's Education Welfare Service attendance policy and practices.
- 2.5.3 Encourage partners and school professionals to work closely together (Careers South West Community Hospital Education Service, Caradon Alternative Provision Academy and other alternative providers) working to support pupils with attendance issues.
- 2.6 To provide support, advice and guidance to parents and pupils
- 2.6.1 Highlight attendance via:
- i. PSHE lessons
  - ii. Assemblies/Posters in school/Tutor time
  - iii. School nurse and TICTAC
  - iv. Curriculum areas
  - v. Making use of available resources such as Breakfast Clubs and Homework Clubs and the extended school agenda in general to support improved attendance
- 2.6.2 Private support offered to parents who require it.
- 2.6.3 Set aside area/time for parents to speak to staff.

- 2.6.4 Seek improved communication with parents e.g. when parents ring in, having a named member of staff to deal with all communication.
- 2.6.5 Provide accurate and up-to-date contact information for parents.
- 2.6.6 Involve parents from earliest stage.
- 2.7 The implementation of a systematic approach in gathering and analysing attendance-related data
  - 2.7.1 Standardise recording of:
    - i. authorised/unauthorised absence (two week deadline for receipt of an explanation for absences)
    - ii. lateness
  - 2.7.2 Ensure staff are fully aware of meanings of codes.
  - 2.7.3 Be consistent in the collection and provision of information.
  - 2.7.4 Decide what information, if any, is provided for:
    - i. governors
    - ii. pastoral staff
    - iii. other school staff
    - iv. parents
    - v. pupils (individual or groups)
    - vi. education welfare statutory service agreement
    - vii. use of comments log to record all information on attendance
- 2.8 Identify developing patterns of regular absence and lateness and take strategic action.
- 2.9 To develop positive and consistent communication between home and school
  - 2.9.1 Undertake first-day absence contact for all pupils who are absent
  - 2.9.2 Make full use of computer-generated letters.
  - 2.9.3 Promote expectation of absence information letters/telephone calls from parents
  - 2.9.4 Continue the wide range of opportunities for parental partnerships, i.e. Attendance Concern Meeting (ACM)
  - 2.9.5 Provide information in a user-friendly way (may include languages other than English, and non-written)
  - 2.9.6 Encourage all parents into school promoting a supportive partnership
  - 2.9.7 Contact parents for attendance issues (absences) or marked improvements in attendance.
- 2.10 Implementation of a system of rewards and sanctions
  - 2.10.1 Provide finance for a system of rewards through the school's Pastoral budget.
  - 2.10.2 Actively promote attendance and associated rewards.
  - 2.10.3 Ensure fair and consistent implementation.
  - 2.10.4 Involve pupils, Student Council, in system initiation and evaluation.
  - 2.10.5 Make use of imaginative and immediate sanctions.
  - 2.10.6 Take action which accords with objectives agreed between school, parents and other professionals



- 2.10.7 To use Patrol and Assistant Head of Year (AHOY) to routinely check in-school truancy through spot checks and apply sanctions as required.
- 2.10.8 AHOY to make regular spot checks of known truancy hotspots on the edge of the school site and the immediate vicinity and apply sanctions as required.
- 2.11 To promote effective partnerships with the Education Welfare Service (EWS) and with other services and agencies
  - 2.11.1 Designated key staff liaise with the school's EWO and other agencies.
  - 2.11.2 Undertake preventative and intervention processes to address attendance issues at the earliest stage (Unscheduled home visits, Assemblies, AHOY interview and Back to School Interviews).
  - 2.11.3 Gather and record relevant information to assist completion of home visits (Appendix 18).
  - 2.11.4 Raise issues at the school's Additional Needs Meeting leading to multi-agency liaison meetings as appropriate.
  - 2.11.5 Establish and maintain a list of named contacts within the local community, e.g. community police liaison officer.
  - 2.11.6 Encourage active involvement of other services and agencies in the life of the school.
  - 2.11.7 Develop understanding of agency constraints and operating environments.
  - 2.11.8 Give careful consideration to Children in Care, children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, young carers and sick children.
- 2.12 To recognise the needs of the individual pupil when planning reintegration following significant periods of absence
  - 2.12.1 Be sensitive to the individual needs and circumstances of returning pupils.
  - 2.12.2 Involve/inform all staff in/or reintegration process.
  - 2.12.3 Provide opportunities for counselling and feedback.
  - 2.12.4 Consider peer support and mentoring.
  - 2.12.5 Involve parents as far as possible.
  - 2.12.6 Agree timescale for review of reintegration plan.
  - 2.12.7 Include parents, pupils and other agencies as appropriate in a reintegration plan.
  - 2.12.8 Utilise access into the Learning Support Department if appropriate.

### **3. Leave of Absence**

- 3.1 It is at the discretion of the Head Teacher to authorise any leave of absence during term time. Permission is usually only granted in exceptional circumstances. As a general rule leave of absence WILL NOT BE GRANTED.
- 3.2 Parents/Carers have no right to demand that absence is authorised.
- 3.3 An absence which has been refused will not be authorised and will lead to a warning/penalty notice being issued.
- 3.4 Each application for leave of absence is treated individually.

- 3.5 The pupil's current and past attendance record will be taken into account along with the necessity of the absence leave requested.
- 3.6 The effect of the pupil's ability to catch up on "lost" learning will also be taken into consideration.

**4. Procedures in the event of an emergency**

In the event of an emergency which requires the building to be evacuated, the Attendance Officer or delegated reserve obtains the most up-to-date registers and distributes them to Heads of Year in the allocated safe area assembly point. Any missing students are then reported immediately to the Head Teacher.

## Appendix 1

(This procedure applies only where an absence has not already been fully explained using the direct telephone line.)

Parents will traditionally use these methods to advise school of the reasons for any absences  
Parents write separate notes or add notes in pupil planners

### Procedure

Action	Internal Action	By
Pupil returns to school after an absence	Tutor discussion with pupil.	Tutor to check
Weekly	An email sent to parents covering any unexplained absence.	Attendance Officer
By following week	Letter with reply slip sent to parents. Reply returned and coded onto SIMS. All remaining absences which are not explained are then subject to individual consideration by the EWO in partnership with the HOY.	Attendance Officer

Register signed off as fully coded.

## Appendix 2

### Attendance Codes

Code	School meaning	Statistical meaning
/	Present (AM)	Present
\	Present (PM)	Present
A	Present in another lesson in school	Present
B	Educated off site (not dual reg)	Approved Educational Activity
C	Other authorised circumstances	Authorised absence
D	Dual registration (attending other estab)	Attendance not required
E	Excluded (no alternative provision made)	Authorised absence
F	Extended family holiday (agreed)	Authorised absence
G	Family holiday (not agreed or days in excess)	Unauthorised absence
H	Family holiday (agreed)	Authorised absence
I	Illness (not medical/dental appointment)	Authorised absence
J	Interview	Approved Educational Activity
L	Late (before registers closed)	Present
M	Medical/dental appointments	Authorised absence
N	No reason yet provided for absence	Unauthorised absence
O	Unauthorised absence not covered by other codes	Unauthorised absence
P	Approved sporting activity	Authorised absence
R	Religious observance	Authorised absence
S	Study leave	Authorised absence
T	Traveller absence	Authorised absence
U	Late (after registers closed)	Unauthorised absence
V	Educational visit or trip	Approved Educational Activity
W	Work experience	Approved Educational Activity
#	Planned whole or partial school closure	Attendance not required
Y	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	Attendance not required
X	Non-compulsory school age absence/Covid related absence	Attendance not required
Z	Pupil not on roll	No mark
-	All should attend/no mark recorded	Unauthorised absence
@	Do not use	Unauthorised absence

## **Appendix 3**

### **Late Procedure**

- If students arrive after the 8.45 am bell, they must sign in with the Attendance Officer
- The Attendance Officer will register the student and provide him/her with an acknowledgement slip
- If student arrives late to Period 1 without a slip, subject teacher must send him/her back to student Reception
- Every lateness results in a 20 minute lunch-time detention
- Persistent excessive lateness, i.e. pupils regularly arriving after 9.15 am will be followed up by the EWO/Attendance Officer with parents/carers for safeguarding reasons

## Appendix 4

### Letter sent where pupils have an unacceptable level of lates (reviewed every half term)

«address\_block»

Date

Dear «salutation»

Late arrival at School –«forename» «surname» «year\_reg»

According to my records «forename» has arrived late for school on «total\_lates\_both» occasions over the year.

Pupils who arrive late for school not only miss part or some of their lessons, they also cause disruption and inconvenience to other pupils and their teachers. This is also a potential safeguarding issue.

**«forename» should attend school regularly and punctually.**

As responsibility to ensure regular and punctual attendance is achieved lies with parents, I would appreciate your co-operation in this matter. Should you wish to discuss the matter further, then please contact me or «forename»'s Head of Year.

Yours sincerely

Zaida Rey Blasco  
Education Welfare Officer

## Appendix 5

**Email sent to parents/carers on the first day of absence where contact has not been made and follow up letter sent if no reply to email.**

«salutation»

«address\_block»

Date

Dear «salutation»

Non-attendance at School – «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname»

I wish to bring to your attention that «chosen\_forename» has been absent from school today.

On occasions where absence is unavoidable (for example – where your child is too ill to come in) we should always be advised of this daily by 9.00 am if possible.

On this occasion it appears that no information about this absence was received.

As you will appreciate, education is vitally important in helping to optimise «forename»'s opportunities in later life. To ensure this is achieved, it is essential that regular attendance at school is maintained.

For your information, «chosen\_forename»'s attendance for this year to date is «percentage\_attendance»%.

I would be grateful if you could contact me at the school (Direct Line 01579 325730) and complete the section below to provide the reasons for the above absence.

Dates	Add the <b>Reasons</b> against each date

**Your Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return this letter to the school Attendance Officer when completed.***

I regret having to bring this matter to your attention by letter; however, the school did endeavour to call you to discuss this matter earlier in the day without success.

Yours sincerely

Zaida Rey Blasco  
Education Welfare Officer

## Appendix 6

### Attendance below 93%

«salutation»  
«address\_block»

Date

Dear «salutation»

«chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname»  
Attendance Matters

- «chosen\_forename»'s attendance is just «percentage\_attendance»% so far this year up until .....
- «chosen\_forename» has missed more school than the average for «his\_her» peers this year.

Average number of days missed per student in «chosen_forename»'s year group	Number of days «chosen_forename» has missed

### Students fall behind.....

- Students fall behind when they miss school whether the reasons for missing school are authorised or not:

Regardless of ability, students who...
Never miss school have an 80% chance of getting 5 or more good GCSEs
Miss up to 10 days per year have a 70% chance of getting 5 or more good GCSEs
Miss 19 days or more have a 36% chance of getting 5 or more good GCSEs

You can have a big impact on «chosen\_forename»'s attendance and achievements...

### What we would like you to do next....

- Keep any absences to a minimum.
- If «chosen\_forename» is not quite right send «him\_her» in, we will call if «he\_she» gets worse.
- Make medical appointments before/after school.
- Tell «chosen\_forename»'s Head of Year, «head\_of\_year» if there are any other issues which could affect «him\_her» being in school.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that regular and punctual attendance is achieved.**

**Attendance matters. Thank you for your help.**

Yours sincerely

For Senior Leadership Team



## Appendix 7

### First warning letter

«salutation»

«address\_block»

Date

Dear «salutation»

#### **WARNING TO PARENTS** **Attendance of «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname».**

Section 7 of The Education Act 1996 places a duty on the parents of a child of compulsory school age to make sure that the child receives efficient full time education.

I am writing to advise you that the attendance of «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname», (Date of birth «date\_of\_birth»), at Liskeard School, currently as of ..... is just «percentage\_attendance»%. Please ensure that in future your child, «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname» attends school regularly and punctually in order to avoid criminal proceedings # being taken against you.

The Education Authority may, instead of, or as well as taking criminal proceedings consider it appropriate to apply for an Education Supervision Order in respect of your child.

#### **Take Notice**

If your child, «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname» is absent through sickness and criminal proceedings # were taken against you, it would be necessary for you to provide evidence that your child was absent for that reason. It is therefore advisable that you provide a medical certificate for the Head Teacher on each occasion that your child is absent because of sickness.

You do not have to respond to this letter and may well wish to seek the advice of a solicitor. Any response that you do make may be given in evidence if the matter comes before the court.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Lingard  
Head Teacher

# For an offence under the Education Act 1996 Section 444 (1) the maximum fine is £1,000. For an offence under the Education Act 1996 Section 444 (1A) the maximum fine is £2,500 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months. Alternately, a penalty notice may be issued under section 444A and 444B of the Education Act 1996. This carries a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the penalty notice may result in court action.
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## Appendix 8

### Letter of confirmation that an Attendance Concern Meeting has been arranged

«salutation»

«address\_block»

Date

Dear «salutation»

#### **Attendance Concern Meeting «forename» «surname».**

Further to our telephone conversation, I wish to invite you and «forename» to a meeting to discuss the issues concerned.

This meeting will be held at Liskeard School and Community College, Luxstowe, Liskeard at "time" on "date". The meeting has been arranged to discuss a number of issues relating to «forename»'s level of attendance at school. A member of the pastoral team and I will be present.

#### **Our major concerns**

For your information, as of ....., «forename»'s attendance is just «percentage\_attendance»%. This equates to missing xx days of school each week, «forename» last completed a full week at school on xxx. «forename» has been late at registration on «total\_lates\_both» occasions this year. I enclose a detailed registration certificate.

The meeting will give «forename» an opportunity to address any issues, set targets and generally get back on track leading to improved attendance.

**I look forward to seeing you at the meeting, I must advise, however, that failure to attend this meeting will lead to the school taking decisions in your absence which may have consequences on you. Clearly, the current situation cannot continue.**

Yours sincerely

Zaida Rey Blasco  
Education Welfare Officer

cc HOY/SLT link

## Appendix 9

### EPM invite letter post first warning letter

«salutation»

«address\_block»

Date

Dear «salutation»

**Student «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname», Date of birth «date of birth»**  
**Attending Liskeard School and Community College**  
**Attendance is «percentage\_attendance»%, currently as of .....**

**I am writing to advise you that «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname»'s school attendance is still not satisfactory and continues to give cause for concern. We have therefore arranged for an Education Planning Meeting to be held on XX at XX. The meeting will be held at Liskeard School and Community College.**

#### **TAKE NOTICE**

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the reasons for «chosen\_forename»'s poor attendance and to agree how this can be addressed to enable this to improve.

At the meeting you will also be made aware of your legal responsibilities as a parent/carer and information will be given as to what legal action could be taken should «chosen\_forename» not attend school regularly in the future.

One of the legal actions under consideration at the Education Planning Meeting will be whether or not the Local Education Authority should apply for an Education Supervision Order in respect of «chosen\_forename». As we are required by law to consult with Social Services before applying for an Education Supervision Order, a representative from the department has also been invited to attend.

In addition or as an alternative to applying for an Education Supervision Order, discussion will also take place as to whether or not the Local Education Authority should proceed with prosecution against you if «chosen\_forename» does not attend school regularly in the future.

It is very important therefore that both you and «chosen\_forename» attend this meeting in order that you can contribute to the discussion. Please note that the Education Planning Meeting is likely to proceed even if you do not attend.

Please contact the Education Welfare Officer, Zaida Rey Blasco, at the above address if you wish to discuss the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Lingard  
Head Teacher

## Appendix 10

### Post EPM final warning letter

«salutation»

«address\_block»

Date

Dear «salutation»

#### **FINAL WARNING TO PARENTS** **Attendance of «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname».**

Section 444(1) of The Education Act 1996 states that if a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly and punctually at that school, the parent of the child shall be guilty of an offence.

Further, Section 444(1A) provides that if the parent knows the child is failing to attend regularly and punctually at the school and fails without reasonable justification to cause the child to do so, the parent shall be guilty of an offence.

#### **TAKE NOTICE**

The Education Authority considers that you may be guilty of an offence in that despite a previous warning, your child «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname», («date\_of\_birth»), has failed to make regular and punctual attendance at Liskeard School and Community College. You are therefore liable to be prosecuted under the Education Act 1996 \*.

This warning is issued in the hope that there will be no need to take criminal proceedings against you. You are hereby warned that if your child «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname» does not attend Liskeard School and Community College regularly and punctually in the future, proceedings may be taken against you.

You do not have to respond to this letter and may well wish to seek the advice of a solicitor. Any response that you do make may be given in evidence if the matter comes before the court.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Lingard  
Head Teacher

## Appendix 11

### Prosecution letter

«salutation»

«address\_block»

Date

Dear «salutation»

**WARNING TO PARENTS**  
**Attendance of «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname»**  
**(«date of birth»)**

Parents are responsible, under the 1996 Education Act, for making sure that their child attend(s) the school they are registered at regularly.

The Local Authority is responsible for making sure that parents fulfil this responsibility; «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname»'s, attendance at Liskeard School has not improved to a satisfactory level despite the advice and support given. For the academic year xx, «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname» has an attendance of «percentage\_attendance»%, currently as of .....

I am writing to advise that I have asked the Education Welfare Service to proceed to prosecution. The papers for court will now be prepared and placed before the Local Authority's solicitor for consideration.

If «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname»'s level of attendance improves significantly from the date of this letter the need for prosecution will be avoided.

Please contact me if you have any queries about this letter or if you would like further advice, information or support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Lingard  
Head Teacher

For an offence under the Education Act 1996 Section 444 (1) the maximum fine is £1,000. For an offence under the Education Act 1996 Section 444 (1A) the maximum fine is £2,500 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months. Alternately, a penalty notice may be issued under section 444A and 444B of the Education Act 1996. This carries a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the penalty notice may result in court action.

## Appendix 12

### 95+% attendance letter and lateness where appropriate

«salutation»

«address\_block»

Date

Dear «salutation»

**«forename» «surname» «year\_reg»**

I would like to take this opportunity of writing to you to congratulate «forename» who has achieved **«percentage\_attendance»%** attendance for the Autumn Term to [date of end of term].

This is an impressive achievement and «forename» will be presented with a certificate soon. Please congratulate «forename» on their resilience and commitment to school.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Lingard  
Head Teacher

## Appendix 13

### Leave of absence request form

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_

About the absence you are requesting:

I request absence -From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

My child will return to school on \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for absence \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### What happens next?

- Please return this form when completed to Reception OR the Attendance Officer.
- The Head Teacher will consider this request making a decision in accordance with the current policies and procedures of the school. This decision is made quickly, normally within five days. We will advise you of the outcome by letter.
- You can check the progress of your application by contacting the Attendance Officer (01579 325730).
- Please do not make any bookings until you have received a reply.

#### Things you need to know about requesting leave

- Please provide a minimum of 10 days' notice to the school for each leave request.
- The law does not grant parents/carers an automatic right to take their children out of school during term time. If the request is for an absence in term time you must have Parental Responsibility and be the parent/carer with whom the child normally lives. Permission must be sought in advance. If the circumstances relating to this request are considered exceptional and the absence is authorised by the school, the authorising of the absences will be conditional on the child(ren) attending satisfactorily up to the date covered by this request.
- Please note leave will NOT normally be granted for any student attending year 10 or year 11. Leave will also not be considered for students due to, undertaking or preparing for External Examinations in Year 9.
- Leave of absence is normally refused for students who have unacceptable attendance.

#### WARNING

If a request for leave is refused and you still take your child/ren out of school this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. The reply letter will constitute a formal warning to you.

Any further absences which are then taken which have not been authorised by the school may result in you being issued with a penalty notice. Failure to pay this may result in legal action being taken against you.

#### FOR OFFICIAL USE

Att Level	DTTY	App	By
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## Appendix 14

### Leave of absence approved

«salutation»  
«address\_block»

Date

Dear «salutation»

**Student Name «chosen\_name» «chosen\_surname»**

Thank you for your leave of absence request form dated xx.

I have pleasure in advising you that the Head Teacher has taken account of the special circumstances which you describe. Accordingly, your application for xx days' leave of absence between the xx and xx (dates inclusive) has been approved.

«chosen\_forename»'s attendance record will be updated accordingly.

Should your plans change at any time, I would be grateful if you could advise me of this.

Yours sincerely

For Senior Leadership Team



## Appendix 15

### Leave of absence request has been refused

«salutation»

«address\_block»

Date

Dear «salutation»

**Student Name «chosen\_forename» «chosen\_surname»**

Thank you for your leave of absence request form dated xx.

To confirm, your leave request is for xx days between the xx and xx (Dates Inclusive).

Unfortunately, I regret to advise you that the Head Teacher is unable to approve your application for leave. The reasons for this are as follows;

Currently, Government rules dictate that leave of absence can only be approved in special circumstances and then only for a short period with the prior approval of the Head Teacher. Your request does not meet this criteria.

The examination process has changed significantly. Many subjects now involve the completion of course work throughout the year. Accordingly, the school no longer authorises any avoidable leave of absence for year 10 or 11 students.

«chosen\_forename» has already had xx days leave of absence this year and we are only prepared to approve x days of your request. If you wish to go ahead with your planned absence, can I request that you consider obtaining some work for «chosen\_forename» so that this may be completed during this period, this will ensure that «chosen\_forename» does not miss out too much on work at school.

«chosen\_forename»'s level of attendance is below an acceptable figure, further absence may impact on your child's learning opportunities in the future.

As you are aware, the school places particular emphasis on full and regular attendance at school. Young people progress best when learning has the minimum of disruption. Under the circumstances I would be grateful if you would reconsider your plans in the light of this letter.

#### **Important please note**

If you decide to take the above leave of absence this letter will constitute a formal warning. Any further absences which are taken which are not approved beforehand by the school may result with you being issued with a penalty notice, failure to pay this could result in legal action being taken against you.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

For Senior Leadership Team

## **Appendix 16**

### **Procedure to be followed for home visits**

#### **PRIOR TO VISIT**

Wherever possible make an appointment beforehand with parent/guardian.

1. Make parent/guardian aware of the purpose of a home visit and who you wish to see.
2. Advise parent/guardian of who will be attending (If possible)
3. A minimum of 2 people must attend (only one of whom should be from the core year team previously involved with the case/family), should there be any staff welfare concerns
4. Link Head/HOY to be aware of the details of the visit beforehand.

#### **THE VISIT**

1. Staff attending to wear current photo ID, and have mobile phone.
2. If access has not been possible a visit attempt letter must be left detailing response arrangements.
3. Make parent/guardian aware of the purpose of the visit and remind them of the process, procedure which will be followed.
4. You must see the people you wanted to see, for safeguarding purposes you normally must see the student involved.
5. Notes of the visit must be taken to include
6. Visual appearance of dwelling, parent/guardian, student and any other relevant safeguarding factors.
7. Staff to complete a visit report note (Follow framework) and action plan sending copies to Link/HOY, any referred agencies and upload copy onto student file.

#### **POST VISIT**

1. Follow up action plan
2. Monitor the plan against the milestones set
3. Liaise with parent/guardian as appropriate

## Appendix 17

### Avoidable absence in term-time – information that goes out with the warning letter

**IMPORTANT:** Please read carefully the information below.

**WARNING:** If you allow your child to miss school in term time for an avoidable reason without obtaining the prior approval of the school, you may be issued with a Penalty Notice\* per parent per child, or made the subject of court proceedings under section 444 Education Act 1996.

As a parent/carer, you can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not allowing your child to miss school for anything other than an exceptional and unavoidable reason.

THE FACTS	THE LAW
<p>School aged pupils in Cornwall maintained schools are expected to attend punctually on the 190 days that the school is open. Whilst there are a number of unavoidable reasons why a pupil might be away from school (illness, medical appointments, exclusions, etc), the legislation is clear that any avoidable absence may only be authorised by a school if there are exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>WHAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER</p> <p>Research suggests that children who are taken out of school may never catch up on the learning they have missed. This may affect test results and can be particularly detrimental if the child is studying for final year examinations.</p> <p>Children who struggle with English or Mathematics may also find it even harder to cope when they return to school, while younger children may find it difficult to renew friendships with their classmates.</p> <p>If the school is unable to authorise the absence and the child is still taken out of school, this will be recorded as unauthorised absence and you may receive a £60* fine per parent for each child.</p>	<p>The law allows schools to consider individual requests to authorise a future avoidable absence. However, before the school can authorise any such requests, they must satisfy themselves that there are exceptional circumstances which justify such a decision. It is entirely the responsibility of the parent submitting the request to provide sufficient information/evidence in order to establish this fact. The request for leave must come from a parent with whom the child normally resides</p> <p>If a child then stays away from school for more than the authorised period this must be recorded as unauthorised absence and could be quoted in a prosecution for poor attendance.</p> <p>If the child is away from school for a total of four weeks or more, the school may have the option to take the child off roll subject to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006.</p> <p>In the case of unexpected extended absence, it is advisable that the parent fully informs the school as to the reasons. If a child is removed from roll, there is no guarantee that the child will regain a place at the school.</p>

<p>Unavoidable absence from school will be authorised if it is for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genuine illness</li> <li>• Unavoidable medical / dental appointments (but try to make these after school if at all possible)</li> <li>• Days of religious observance</li> <li>• Seeing a parent who is on leave from the armed forces</li> <li>• External examinations</li> <li>• When Traveller children go on the road with their parents</li> </ul>	<p>Other examples of absence from school that <u>will not</u> be authorised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any type of shopping</li> <li>▪ Looking after siblings or unwell parents</li> <li>▪ Minding the house</li> <li>▪ Birthdays</li> <li>▪ Resting after a late night</li> <li>▪ Relatives visiting or visiting relatives</li> </ul>
<p>The law requires parents to ensure their children receive an efficient full time education, and every minute of every day is important. Please help them not to miss any of this valuable time.</p> <p>We hope that when you have read this leaflet you will consider that your child's education is too important to allow them to miss school for avoidable reasons.</p>	

\*Penalty Notice £60 if paid within 21 days, increasing to £120 if paid after 21 days and before 28 days