



Together we grow, achieve and become R.I.C.H.E.R everyday
Respect, Inclusion, Care, Honesty, Empathy, Resilience

Hawthorn Tree Primary School

Attendance and Punctuality Policy

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Control Sheet

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Introduction

1.1 At Hawthorn Tree, we believe that good attendance provides the foundation for educational achievement and future success. We are committed to creating the conditions that enable our pupils to attend regularly, striving for 100% attendance across our school community. We will take every opportunity to ensure that pupils and their parents understand the importance of consistent attendance and punctuality.

1.2 The Senior Leader responsible for the Attendance Strategy at Hawthorn Tree Primary School is:

Name: Sam Jessup

Role: Headteacher

Contact details: enquiries@hawthorn-tree.lincs.sch.uk

1.3 Parents should contact the Attendance and Safeguarding Officer for day-to-day queries or concerns about their child's attendance.

Name: Tracy Bryant

Role: Attendance and Safeguarding Officer

Contact details: attendance@hawthorn-tree.lincs.sch.uk

Aims

2.1 This policy aims to show our commitment to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance, including those laid out in the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on working together to improve school attendance (applies from 19 August 2024), through our whole-school culture that values good attendance, including:

- Setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils
- Promoting good attendance and the benefits of good attendance
Reducing absence, including persistent and severe absence
- Ensuring every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence
- Building strong relationships with families to make sure pupils have the support in place to attend school

We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons

2.2. We will also support parents/carers to perform their legal duty to ensure their children of compulsory school age attend regularly and will promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

Legislation and Guidance

3.1 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 Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (and 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016 amendments)

The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 It also refers to:

- School census guidance
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Mental Health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools

Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. Any pupil's absence disrupts teaching routines so could affect the learning of others in the same class. Ensuring their child regularly attends school is the parents/carers' legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.

4.2. The parents/carers

Where this policy refers to a parent, it refers to the adult, the school and/or local authority decides is most appropriate to work with, including:

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not
- All those who have parental responsibility for a child or young person
- Those who have day-to-day responsibility for the child (i.e. lives with and looks after them)

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality and promote this to the child
- Make sure their child attends every day on time by 8:45am
- Call the school to report their child's absence before 8:45am on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence), and advise when they are expected to return
- Provide the school with more than 1 emergency contact number for their child
- Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day. Keep to any attendance contracts that they make with the school and/or local authority
- Seek support, where necessary, for maintaining good attendance, by contacting our Administration, who can be contacted on enquiries@hawthorn-tree.lincs.sch.uk or 01205 363031.

4.3. Pupils are expected to:

- Attend school every day, unless they are too ill to do so
- Arrive punctually and ready to learn by 8:45am

4.4. School office staff are expected to:

- Take phone calls/emails/in-app messages from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on Arbor
- Transfer calls from parents/carers to Attendance and Safeguarding Officer where appropriate, to provide them with more detailed support on attendance
- Support the Attendance and Safeguarding maintain accurate records and reporting

4.5. The attendance and safeguarding officer is responsible for:

- Ensuring registers have been completed correctly and accurately
- Completing daily attendance checks, including absence and lateness follow up in accordance with the school policy – see appendix 1 First day absence
- Ensuring all home visits are undertaken in accordance with school policy
- Reporting the absence of Children Looked After to the Headteacher
- Ensuring, where necessary, all external partners are informed in a timely manner of pupils' absence
- Ensuring all correspondence related to attendance is sent out in a timely manner and is recorded systematically in Arbor
- Monitoring and analysing attendance data
- Benchmarking attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement by using the DFE attendance data set
- Providing regular attendance reports to school staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the designated senior leader responsible for attendance, and the Headteacher

- Advising the Headteacher when to issue fixed-penalty notices

4.6. The Governing Body are expected to:

- Recognise the importance of school attendance and promote it across the schools' values and policies, which are regularly reviewed for effectiveness
- Regularly review attendance data, discuss, and challenge trends, and help leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual cohorts or pupils
- Be setting high expectations of all school leaders, staff, pupils and parents
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties, including:
- Making sure the school records attendance accurately in the register, and shares the required information with the DfE and local authority
- Making sure the school works effectively with local partners to help remove barriers to attendance, and keeps them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate
- Recognising and promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies
- Making sure the school's attendance management processes are delivered effectively, and that consistent support is provided for pupils who need it most by prioritising staff and resources
- Making sure the school has high aspirations for all pupils, but adapts processes and support to pupils' individual needs
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on individual pupils or cohorts who need it most
- Working with school leaders to set goals or areas of focus for attendance and providing support and challenge
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school and repeatedly evaluating the effectiveness of the school's processes and improvement efforts to make sure they are meeting pupils needs

- Making sure dedicated training is provided to staff with a specific attendance function in their role, including in interpreting and analysing attendance data
- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy

4.7. The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementation of this policy at the school
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors termly
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- Working with the parents of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with SEND, including where school transport is regularly being missed, and where pupils with SEND face in-school barriers
- Communicating with the local authority when a pupil with an education, health and care (EHC) plan has falling attendance, or where there are barriers to attendance that relate to the pupil's needs
- Communicating the school's high expectations for attendance and punctuality regularly to pupils and parents through all available channels
- Meeting parents
- Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary, and/or authorising the attendance officer to be able to do so.

4.8. The designated senior leader (also known as the 'senior attendance champion') is responsible for:

- Leading, championing and improving attendance across the school
- Setting a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes

- Having a strong grasp of absence data and oversight of absence data analysis
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating progress in attendance
- Establishing and maintaining effective systems for tackling absence, and making sure they are followed by all staff
- Liaising with pupils, parents/carers and external agencies, where needed
- Building close and productive relationships with parents to discuss and tackle attendance issues
- Creating intervention or reintegration plans in partnership with pupils and their parents/carers
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families

The designated senior leader responsible for attendance is Sam Jessup and can be contacted via 01205 363031 and/or enquiries@hawthorn-tree.lincs.sch.uk

4.9 Class teachers are responsible for:

- Recording attendance daily using Arbor
- Promoting good attendance and punctuality with all children
- Communicate concerns with attendance and punctuality with the attendance officer or designated leader

5. Recording attendance

5.1. Schools are legally required to keep an electronic attendance register and place all pupils onto this register. The register will be marked twice a day: at the start of the school day (morning session) and after lunchtime ends (afternoon session).

5.2. We will take our attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session. It will mark, using the appropriate national attendance and absence codes from the

School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, whether every pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

Any amendment to the attendance register will include:

- The original entry
- The amended entry
- The reason for the amendment
- The date on which the amendment was made
- The name and position of the person who made the amendment

See Appendix 1 for the DfE attendance codes.

We will also record:

For pupils of compulsory school age:

Whether the absence is authorised or not

- The nature of the activity, where a pupil is attending an approved educational activity
- The nature of circumstances, where a pupil is unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

We will keep every entry on the attendance register for 6 years after the date on which the entry was made. The school day starts at **8:45am** for all children and ends at **3:15pm**. Pupils must arrive in school by **8:45am** on each school day. The register for the first session will be taken at **8:45am** and will be kept open until **9:00am**. The register for the second session will be taken at **1:00pm** and will be kept open until **1:15pm**.

5.3. Unplanned absence

The pupil's parent must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by **8:45am**, or as soon as

practically possible, by calling the school office, who can be contacted via 01205 363061 or attendance@hawthorn-tree.lincs.sch.uk.

Remember 'not well' is not enough information. Short description of symptoms please. We will mark absence due to physical or mental illness as authorised, unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness. Where the absence is longer than 2 days, or there are doubts about the authenticity of the illness, the school will ask for medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card, which has the pupils name on and dated or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily. If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised, and parents will be notified of this in advance.

5.4. Planned absence

Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised if the pupil's parent notifies the school in advance of the appointment and supplies evidence of the appointment to the school office team.

However, we encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

The pupil's parent must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence. Go to section 8 to find out which term-time absences the school can authorise.

6. Lateness and punctuality

6.1. Poor punctuality is not acceptable and can contribute to further absence. Good timekeeping is a vital life skill which will help children as they progress through their school life and out into the wider world.

Pupils who arrive late disrupt lessons and, if a child misses the start of the day, they can feel unsettled and embarrassed, miss vital learning

and important messages from their class teacher. Every minute a child is late to school can add up to a lot of learning time over the year!

6.2. The times of the start and close of the school day for all pupils at Hawthorn Tree Primary School are:

- The children can arrive at 8:35am, when the gates open
- The register for the first session will be taken at 8:45am and will be kept open until 9:00am
- The register for the second session will be taken at 1:00pm and will be kept open until 1:15pm
- The end of the school day is at 3:15pm

6.3. How we manage lateness:

The school day starts at 8:45am, when children can begin to come into school

- Registers are taken at 8:45am and your child will receive the appropriate attendance code mark if they are not in by that time
- Children arriving after 8:45am are required to come into school via the school office. They must be accompanied by a parent/carer who must sign them in and provide a reason for their lateness, which is recorded.
- At 9:15am the registers will be closed. In accordance with the Regulations, if your child arrives after that time, they will receive the appropriate attendance mark that shows them to be on site
- The school may contact parents/carers regarding lateness
- From time to time a member of school staff will undertake a 'Late Gate' check, greeting late arrivals at the main entrance to the school

6.4. Unauthorised lateness could result in the school referring to the Local Authority for sanctions and/or legal proceedings. If your child has a persistent late record, you will be asked to meet with Sam Jessup, but you can approach us at any time if you are having difficulties getting your child to school on time. We expect parents and staff to encourage

good punctuality by being good role models to our children and celebrate good class and individual punctuality.

7. Absence Procedures – See Appendix for first day absence

7.1. First day absence A child not attending school is considered a safeguarding matter. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required. If a child is absent, parents/carers must contact the school as soon as possible on the first day of absence. If a child is absent the school will:

- Telephone/email/in-app message the parent/carer on the first day of absence if we have not heard from them – this is because we have a duty to ensure the child's safety as well as their regular school attendance
- If the child is subject to a child protection plan the procedures set out in relation to these children will be implemented immediately
- If school has cause for concern about any unplanned absence for any child, we will undertake safeguarding and welfare checks for the child. This is in line with our statutory duty of care outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025
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7.2. Second day absence – repeat day 1 procedures

If a child is not seen, and contact has not been established with any of the named parents/carers on the second day of absence, we will make all reasonable enquiries to establish contact to establish reason for absence. As with day 1 absence procedures, where the school has cause for concern for the absence, we will undertake the necessary procedures which will include home visits and/or police welfare checks.

7.3. Ten days' absence We have a legal duty to report the absence of any pupil who is absent without an explanation for 10 consecutive days. If the child is not seen and contact has not been established with the

named parent/carer then the local authority is notified that the child is at risk of missing. Children's Services staff will visit the last known address and alert key services to locate the child. This is known as a Child Missing in Education.

7.4. Continued or ongoing absence – Persistent absence

A pupil is defined by the Government as a 'persistent absentee' (PA) when they miss 10% or more schooling across the school year for any reason; this can be authorised or unauthorised absence. Absence at this level will cause considerable damage to any at school is a parental responsibility and allowing absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.

7.5. The headteacher will allow pupils to be absent from the school site for certain educational activities, or to attend other schools or settings. The headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to a pupil during term time if the request meets the specific circumstances set out in the 2024 school attendance regulations.

These circumstances are:

- Taking part in a regulated performance, or regulated employment abroad
- A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable
- Exceptional circumstances

A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher's discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for. Leave of absence will not be granted for a pupil to take part in protest activity during school hours. As a leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and

relevant background context behind the request. Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, at least 2 weeks before the absence, and in accordance with any leave of absence request form, accessible via the school office.

The Headteacher may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence. Other valid reasons for authorised absence include (but are not limited to):

- Illness
- Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parent(s) belong(s). If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parent's religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart
- Parent(s) travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh gypsies, Irish and Scottish travellers, showmen (fairground people) and circus people, bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and new travellers. Absence may be authorised only when a traveller family is known to be travelling for occupational purposes and has agreed this with the school, but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision
- If the pupil is currently suspended or excluded from school (and no alternative provision has been made)

Other reasons the school may allow a pupil to be absent from the school site, which are not classified as absences, include (but are not limited to):

- Attending an offsite approved educational activity, sporting activity or visit or trip arranged by the school
- Attending another school at which the pupil is also registered (dual registration)
- Attending provision arranged by the local authority

A child's attendance may affect the learning of others in the same class. Ensuring a child's regular attendance affects pupil's education and we need the full support and cooperation of parents/carers to resolve this.

Some children may have acute health conditions which, despite the best efforts of parents and carers, lead to significant ongoing periods of absence. We will work closely with parents/carers to ensure we develop support systems which enable each child to attend school as often as physically possible.

Children should never be excluded from school or activities on medical grounds unless they are acutely unwell or hospitalised. If acutely unwell, children will access hospital schools supported by their home school as appropriate.

We will maintain close links with children and their families during any sustained periods of absence to ensure continuity of relationships and provision. Children in recovery can be supported by a flexible return to schooling which is manageable for them.

Families of children with acute physical and medical conditions that lead to pervasive absence will not follow the same systems and procedures laid out in this policy.

7.7. Deletion from roll

For any pupil leaving Hawthorn Tree Primary School, other than at the end of Year 6, parents/carers are required to complete a 'Pupils moving from school' form which can be obtained from the school office. This provides the school with the following information: Child's name, class, current address, date of leaving, new home address, name of new school, address of new school. This information is essential to ensure that we know the whereabouts and appropriately safeguard all of our pupils, even those who leave us.

It is crucial that parents keep school updated with current addresses and contact details for key family members in case of emergency. Under

Pupil Regulations 2006, all schools are now legally required to notify their Local Authority of every new entry to the admission register within five days of the pupil being enrolled.

In addition to this, every deletion from the school register must also be notified to the Local Authority, as soon as the ground for deletion has been met in relation to that pupil, and in any event no later than the time at which the pupil's name is deleted from the register. This duty does not apply when a pupil's name is removed from the admission register at a standard transition point – when the pupil has completed the final year of education normally provided by that school.

8. Authorised and unauthorised absence

8.1 Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. Any pupil's absence or late arrival disrupts teaching routines and so

- If there is any other unavoidable cause for the pupil not to attend school, such as disruption to travel caused by an emergency, a lack of access arrangements, or because the school premises are closed

8.2. Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been granted. This type of absence can lead to the school referring to the Local Authority for penalty notices and/or legal proceedings.

8.3. Unauthorised absence includes; however, this list is not exhaustive:

- parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily e.g. because they had a late night or for non-infectious illness or injury that would not affect their ability to learn
- absences which have never been properly explained/evidenced
- children who arrive at school after the close of registration are marked using the most appropriate code'. This indicates that they are in school for safeguarding purposes, however, is counted as an absence for the session
- shopping trips

- looking after other children or children accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments
- their own or family birthdays
- holidays taken during term time without leave, not deemed 'for exceptional purposes' by the Headteacher - may result in school applying to the local authority to issue a penalty notice or if you have previously been issued a penalty notice, the school may request a direct prosecution by the local authority
- day trips
- other leave of absence in term time which has not been agreed

8.4. As of 1st September 2013, there has been a change to The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations Act 2006. Headteacher's may no longer grant a 'Leave of Absence' in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Therefore, any such absences not deemed as exceptional circumstances will be unauthorised. Holidays or overseas trip absences in term time will affect your child's schooling as much as any other absence and we expect parents to help us by not taking students away in school time.

Remember that any savings you think you may make by taking a holiday/overseas trip in school time are offset by the cost to your child's education. Because of the damage to your child's learning caused by this, we do not authorise any holidays/overseas trips in term time, unless in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Headteacher.

9. Penalty notices and sanctions

9.1. Our school will make use of the full range of potential sanctions – including, but not limited to, those listed below – to tackle poor attendance. Decisions will be made on an individual, case-by-case basis.

9.2. Penalty notices

The Headteacher (or someone authorised by them), local authority or the police can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child

from school, where the child is of compulsory school age, by issuing a penalty notice. If the school issues a penalty notice, it will check with the local authority before doing so and send the local authority a copy of any penalty notice issued. Before issuing a penalty notice, the school will consider the individual case, including:

- Whether the national threshold for considering a penalty notice has been met (10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks)
- Whether a penalty notice is the best available tool to improve attendance for that pupil
- Whether further support, a notice to improve or another legal intervention would be a more appropriate solution
- Whether any obligations that the school has under the Equality Act 2010 make issuing a penalty notice inappropriate A penalty notice may also be issued where parents allow their child to be present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification, during the first 5 days of a suspension or exclusion (where the school has notified the parents that the pupil must not be present in a public place on that day).

Each parent who is liable for the pupil's offence(s) can be issued with a penalty notice, but this will usually only be the parent/parents who allowed the absence. The payment must be made directly to the local authority, regardless of who issues the notice. If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice.

If issued with a first penalty notice, the parent must pay £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days.

If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil, the parent must pay £160 if paid within 28 days.

A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the issue of the first penalty notice. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead.

9.3. Notices to improve If the national threshold has been met and support is appropriate, but parents do not engage with offers of support, the school may offer a notice to improve to give parents a final chance to engage with support.

Notices to improve will be issued in line with processes set out in the local code of conduct for the local authority area in which the pupil attends school. They will include:

- Details of the pupil's attendance record and of the offences
- The benefits of regular attendance and the duty of parents under section 7 of the Education Act 1996
- Details of the support provided so far
- Opportunities for further support, or to access previously provided support that was not engaged with
- A clear warning that a penalty notice may be issued if attendance doesn't improve within the improvement period, along with details of what sufficient improvement looks like, which will be decided on a case-by-case basis
- A clear timeframe of between 3 and 6 weeks for the improvement period
- The grounds on which a penalty notice may be issued before the end of the improvement period

10. Understanding barriers to attendance

10.1. Whilst any child may occasionally have time off school because they are too unwell to attend, sometimes they can be reluctant to attend school. Any barriers preventing regular attendance are best resolved between the school, the parents and the child. If a parent thinks their child is reluctant to attend school, then we will work with that family to understand the root problem and provide any necessary support. We can use outside agencies to help with this, such as the School Nurse, Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing support services, a Child and Family Support Worker or the relevant Local Authority team/s. Where outside agencies are supporting the family, you may be invited to attend a Team Around the Family meeting (TAF) to consider what is working

well and what needs to improve. An individualised early help plan will be agreed and subsequently reviewed.

10.2. Some pupils face greater barriers to attendance than their peers. These can include pupils who suffer from long-term medical conditions or who have special educational needs and disabilities, or other vulnerabilities.

High expectations of attendance remain however; we will work with families and pupils to support improved attendance whilst being mindful of the additional barriers faced. We can discuss reasonable adjustments and additional support from external partners where appropriate.

11. Supporting pupils who are absent or returning to school

11.1. Pupils absent due to complex barriers to attendance Pupils with complex barriers to attendance are supported by our attendance officers. This support includes home visits, timetable adaptations and soft starts, where appropriate.

11.2. Pupils absent due to mental or physical ill health or SEND The school recognises that learners with SEND and/or health conditions, including mental health issues, may face greater barriers to attendance than their peers, and will incorporate robust procedures to support learners who find attending school difficult.

The school will ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for disabled pupils to reduce barriers to attendance, in line with any Educational Health Care (EHC) plans that have been implemented. The school will secure additional support from external partners to help bolster attendance where appropriate.

Where the school has concerns that a pupil's non-attendance may be related to mental health issues, parents will be contacted to discuss the issue and whether there are any contributory factors to their child's lack of attendance. Where staff have a mental health concern about a pupil that is also a safeguarding concern, they will inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be followed.

If a learner is unable to attend school for long periods of time due to their health, the school will:

- Inform the LA if a learner is likely to be away from the school for more than 15 school days
- Provide the LA with information about the pupil's needs, capabilities and programme of work
- Help the pupil reintegrate at school when they return
- Make sure the pupil is kept informed about school events and clubs
- Encourage the pupils to stay in contact with other learners during their absence

The school will incorporate an action plan to help any learners with SEND and/or health issues cope with the stress and anxiety that attending school may cause them. Such plans will be regularly monitored and reviewed until the learner is attending school as normal and there have been signs of significant improvement. To support the attendance of learners with SEND and/or health issues, the school will consider:

- Holding termly meetings to evaluate any implemented reasonable adjustments
- Use assessment tools to support with identifying possible additional needs
- Identifying learners' unmet needs through the Early Help process
- Using an internal or external specialist
- Enabling a pupil to have a reduced timetable (this is usually a time limited approach)
- Ensuring a pupil can have somewhere quiet to spend lunch and break times
- Implementing a system whereby pupils can request to leave a classroom if they feel they need time out
- Temporary late starts or early finishes
- Phased returns to school where there has been a long absence
- Small group work or on-to-one lessons
- Tailored support to meet their individual needs

11.3. Pupils returning to school after a lengthy or unavoidable period of absence Where pupils have had a lengthy or an unavoidable period of absence our attendance officer, SENCO, and any other relevant agencies working with the family, will support the pupil to reintegrate back into school.

This will include working with the parents, child and class teacher to ensure a smooth transition.

12. Strategies for promoting attendance

12.1. At Hawthorn Tree Primary School, we believe in developing good patterns of attendance and set high expectations for the attendance and punctuality for all our pupils from the outset. It is a central part of our school's vision, values and day to day life. We recognise the connections between attendance, attainment, safeguarding and wellbeing.

12.2. The school will:

- Ensure that all new parents are introduced to the Attendance Policy and information on attendance will be in the school welcome pack.
- Issue an expectations leaflet
- Use the newsletter to update the school community about the week's attendance and promote good attendance.
- Individual parents will be approached where there is concern about their child's attendance or punctuality
- Rewarding all children with 100% attendance in any term with a Headteacher School certificate and celebrated in the newsletter.
- Reward all children with 'most improved' attendance with a certificate during assembly
- Reward the class/es with the highest attendance each week and celebrate in assembly
- Appoint Attendance Ambassadors to promote good attendance and punctuality.

- Weekly raffle prizes for individual pupils who are '**Here Every Day On Time (H.E.R.O prize) – *You have to be in it to win it!*** Drawn during celebration assembly by the Attendance Ambassadors
- Maintain and update records within the Arbor system.
- Use interventions, such as the Individual Attendance Plan to develop strategies and targets for families to improve attend
- Hold regular Attendance Challenge days/weeks- with prizes for Individuals and classes supported by the Attendance Ambassadors

13. Attendance monitoring

13.1. Monitoring attendance

The school will:

- Monitor attendance and absence data half-termly, termly and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil level
- Identify whether or not there are particular 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.

13.2. 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
- Identify pupils whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence

- Conduct thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full-year data to identify patterns and trends
- Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns

13.3. Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

- Develop targeted actions to address patterns of absence (of all severities) of individual pupils, groups or cohorts that it has identified via data analysis
- Provide targeted support to the pupils it has identified whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence, and their families (see section 13.4 below)
- Provide regular attendance reports to class teachers, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families, and to the governing board and school leaders (including special educational needs co-ordinator, designated safeguarding lead and pupil premium lead)
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies
- Share information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, local authorities and other partners where a pupil's absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe, including keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate

13.4. 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.

Reducing persistent and severe absence is central to the school's strategy for improving attendance.

The school will: Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence Consider potential safeguarding issues and, where suspected or present, address them in line with Keeping

Children Safe in Education Hold regular meetings with the parents of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable or at risk of persistent or severe absence, or who are persistently or severely absent, to:

- Discuss attendance and engagement at school
- Listen, and understand barriers to attendance
- Explain the help that is available
- Explain the potential consequences of, and sanctions for, persistent and severe absence
- Review any existing actions or interventions

Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance, in conjunction with the local authority, where relevant. Consider alternative support that could be put in place to remove any barriers to attendance and re-engage these pupils. In doing so, the school will sensitively consider implement sanctions, where necessary (see section 5.2, above).

Attendance data will be monitored daily and reviewed weekly by the school's designated Attendance Officer.

Patterns of absenteeism or irregular attendance will be flagged for early intervention. Attendance Letters will be sent out promptly when attendance falls, indicating the school's concern and offering an opportunity for discussion. If attendance continues to decline, a formal meeting will be arranged. The meeting will be attended by the parent/carer, Attendance Officer, to establish the root cause of absenteeism and develop a support plan. Attendance rates will be tracked against school targets and national expectations.

14. Further information

14.1. Home Education

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from school in favour of home education. Parents must inform the school of their decision to home educate in writing. Once the school receives this notification, they will then inform the local authority and take the child off of their roll. It is

important that the decision to home educate is discussed and considered carefully. Talk to the school about any difficulties your child may be having; once your child has been taken off roll their place will be allocated and may not be available to your child if you change your mind later.

14.2. Part-time timetables

All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs. A part-time timetable must only be in place for the shortest time necessary and not be treated as a long-term solution. Any pastoral support programme or other agreement should have a time limit by which point the pupil is expected to attend full-time, either at school or alternative provision.

There should also be formal arrangements in place for regular reviews with the child and their parents. In agreeing to a part-time timetable, a school has agreed to a pupil being.

15. Monitoring arrangements

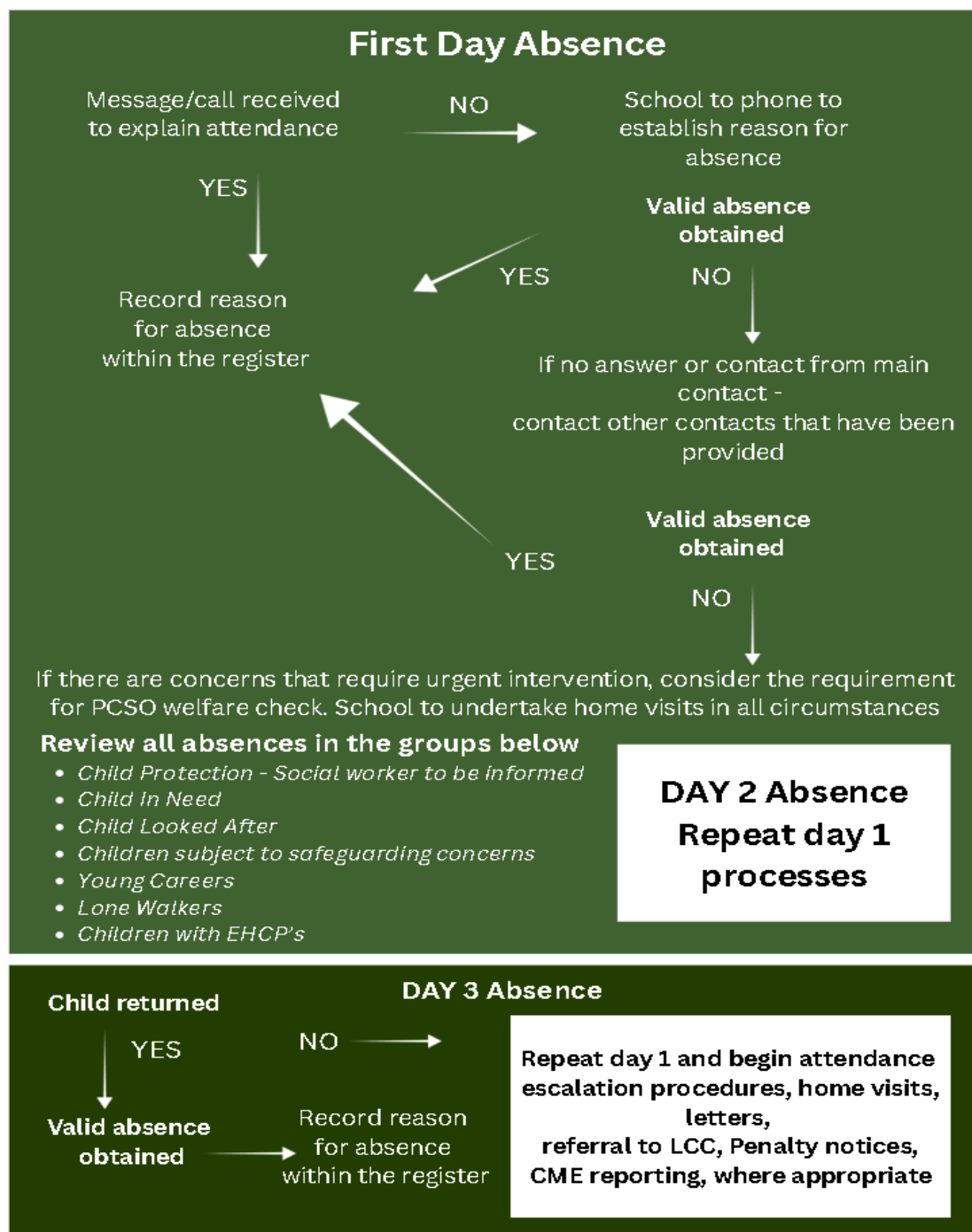
15.1. It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to monitor overall attendance. They request a termly report from the Headteacher. The Governing Body also has the responsibility for this policy, and for seeing that it is carried out. The Governing Body will, therefore, examine closely information provided for them and seek to ensure that attendance figures are as high as they should be. The school keeps accurate attendance records through a computerised registration system (Arbor). The rates of attendance are reported in the school prospectus and in the annual governors' report.

16. Links with other policies

16.1. This policy links to the following policies:

- Child protection and safeguarding
- Relationships and Belonging Policy
- Children not attending school due to Medical Needs

Appendix A – First Day Absence Procedures



Appendix B -Register Coding:

Code	Title	Scenario
#	Planned or partial school closure	
/	Present at School	
B	Off-educational activity	

C	Leave of Absence authorised by the school	
C1	Authorised Regulated Performance	
C2	Temporary reduced timetable	
D	Dual Registered – at another education establishment	
E	Excluded but no alternative provision made	
G	Holiday not authorised by the school	
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointments)	
J1	Interview (employment or educational)	
K	Alternative Provision (LA arranged)	
L	Late before register is closed	
M	Medical or dental appointment	
N	Reason for absence not yet obtained	
O	Unauthorised absence	
P	Approved sporting activity	
R	Religious Observance	
S	Study Leave	
T	Traveller Absence	
U	Late after register has closed	
V	Educational visit or trip	
W	Work Experience	
X	Non-compulsory school age absence	
Y1	Unable to attend (normal transport not available)	
Y2	Unable to attend (widespread disruption to travel)	
Y3	Unable to attend (part of school closed)	
Y4	Unable to attend (whole school closed)	
Y5	Unable to attend (sentence or detention)	
Y6	Unable to attend (absence in accordance with public health advice)	
Y7	Unable to attend (any other avoidable cause)	
Z	Student not on roll	