



Pupil Attendance Policy

Introduction

Regular school attendance is crucial in raising standards in education and ensuring that every child can have full access to the pre-school curriculum and reach their full potential.

Banbridge Nursery School will strive to promote an ethos and culture which encourages good attendance and where each pupil will feel valued and secure.

Mission Statement

At Banbridge Nursery School, we believe that children are competent learners with their own individual ways of learning and the primary role of education is to prepare children to be self-motivated, confident, respectful and resilient lifelong learners. Learning starts from what individual children know and can do and builds on this knowledge and these capabilities.

Our curriculum is flexible, relevant and embedded in real-life experiences, particularly outdoors, in nature. Children have the freedom to follow their interests, to explore these further and to make the necessary adjustments to fit new learning with existing learning. We believe the role of the adult is to respond to individual children's abilities to choose, engage, think, experiment, explore and persist independently and in collaboration with others.

Our learning environment facilitates the reciprocal relationships and communication that underpin successful learning and development in spaces where children feel safe, secure, valued and respected. All our learners, across the generations, are expected and supported to step outside their comfort zones to fulfil their potential; achieve their goals and to play an active and positive role in our community and wider society.

Aims of this Policy

1. To improve/maintain the overall attendance of pupils at Banbridge Nursery School.
2. To develop a framework that defines roles and responsibilities in relation to attendance.
3. To provide advice, support and guidance to parents and carers.

Role of the School

The Principal of Banbridge Nursery School, Mrs Kerry Porter, has overall responsibility for school attendance and teachers / designated staff should bring any concerns regarding attendance to her attention.

The Board of Governors provide support by reviewing school attendance figures and targets ensuring it is placed as an agenda item at each meeting.

Teaching staff record and monitor attendance in a consistent way.

Banbridge Nursery School is committed to working with parents to encourage regular and punctual attendance.

Role of the Parent/Carer

Parents/carers have a duty to ensure their child attends school on a regular basis. It is the parent's/carers' responsibility to inform the school of the reason for a child's absence on the first day of absence. This should be confirmed with a written note when the pupil returns to school.

Children are expected to be in school by 9am. It is the parent's/carers' responsibility to ensure that children arrive at school on time.

If your child appears reluctant to attend school, please discuss the matter promptly with the class teacher or Principal to ensure that both you and your child receive maximum support.

Family Holidays during Term Time

Banbridge Nursery School discourages holidays during term time due to the impact they have on pupil's ability to settle back into school and therefore the impact on their learning and development. Family holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an absence.

Procedures for Managing Non-Attendance

School absence should be avoided wherever possible. Every missed day of school could have a negative impact on a pupil's progress and sometimes attendance statistics can be misleading. While 90% in a test might be considered an excellent score, when it comes to attendance 90% would mean that, over the course of the year a pupil would miss almost 4 weeks of school.

In line with the DFE Guidance for 'Schools Monitoring and Reporting Pupil Attendance Using Absence Tiers' document, Banbridge Nursery School will monitor pupil attendance using the Absence Tier system. When doing so the context of individual absences will be carefully considered. Where there are concerns, the Principal will work with the parents/carers in order to improve the pupil's attendance. If a child is recorded as having an unauthorised absence from school for a period of more than four weeks, the Board of Governors will, in collaboration with the EANI, consider next steps to be taken.

Non-Attendance to school or unauthorised attendance, **can result in safeguarding action**. This is because persistent absenteeism and sudden changes in patterns of attendance and pupil behaviour, are a key indication that something is wrong and could lead to sudden extended absences.