

School Attendance Procedures 2016/2017



St Mary's Church of England Primary School
Established 1845

For a child to reach their full educational achievement a high level of school attendance is essential. It is our ethos to work with families to achieve a good attendance (above 96%) and therefore develop good habits for life.

Daily registration

The attendance register is taken prior to teaching sessions in the mornings and afternoons. The register remains open until 9.20am in the mornings and 1.20 in the afternoons. Marks are entered onto the Management Information System (Scholar Pack) using the symbols set out by the Department of Education.

Absences

Our secretary (ES) will contact parents /carers on the morning of any absence. Unexplained absences are referred to the Principal. ES & PK are in the School Office from 8.15 to receive phone calls. Staff are informed of absences prior to school starts.

Monitoring of Attendance Registers

The Principal (Designated Safeguarding Lead) monitors attendance on a daily basis. Disadvantaged (Pupil Premium) children are monitored especially closely, as statistically it is these children who significantly underachieve in the Midlands Region. Any concerns about attendance are discussed with Lead Teachers at weekly Tuesday Staff Meetings. This may result in a meeting with the Parent/Carer.

Persistent Absence

After ten days there is a legal duty to report the non-attendance of any pupil who is absent without explanation. If the child is not seen and contact has not been established with the named parent/carers then the Local Authority will be notified, as this child is 'at risk'. MASH will be contacted and Children's Services Staff informed of the last known address.

Truancy

Truancy is not a major issue as we are a small school. Lead Teachers have access to the daily register (ScholarPack) and there are only a few lessons when the Lead Teachers are not in front of the class.

Missing Pupils

This is a safeguarding issue and a statutory duty of the Local Authority. The school will inform MASH of concerns. In practice inter-agency (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) work is not always as efficient as we would hope for. Persistence is often required.

Common Transfer Files

Are produced by our Management Information System (Scholar Pack). On moving schools CTF's containing the required data is sent electronically to the new school. CTF files are also received from previous schools. St Mary's school will contact the new school at the time of transfer. We will also make an additional contact a few weeks after they have started to check all is well.

Flexi-Schooling

These are children whose parents have decided to part Home School. A half termly contract is drawn up with families and care is taken to ensure the child/children are receiving suitable education. Absence on the agreed days is marked with a 'C' in the register. 'C' meaning other authorised absence.

Changes in School Admission Register

The school will notify the LA within 5 days of changes made to the Admissions Register. At the end of Primary phase of education Year 6 CTF will be electronically forwarded to the relevant Secondary Schools.

Incentives for good Attendance

Class weekly incentives are given if they achieve 100% attendance. This takes the form of a break extension and celebration cookies. Pupils who have 100% attendance throughout the year are also awarded a certificate and a much prized gold badge.

Signing in/out Log

There is a log on a clip board in the Office where a record is kept of children leaving during the school day.

Holiday Requests

Applications for Holidays are made on Holiday Forms. Each application is made to the Principal who will consider each application in accordance with the 'Family Holidays during Term Time' Policy' (5a). If the application is acceptable the form is signed by the Principal and placed in to pupil's files.

Fixed Penalty Notices

Penalty Notices will only be issued for persistent poor or non- school attendance if it can be effective in helping to get the child back into school. Our first response is to meet and discuss the child's attendance with the parents/carers. However, a penalty notice may be issued in exceptional circumstances.

This policy takes into consideration;

- Section 436A of the Education Act 1996.
- Pupil Registration Regulation 2016.
- Children Missing in Education (CME) statutory guidance September 2016.

These procedures should be read in conjunction with:

- School Attendance Policy 5.
- Schools Policy 36 Family Holidays

Both available on the website.

Useful Contacts

Herefordshire In Year Transfers
Andy McInnes amcinnnes@herefordshire.gov.uk

Herefordshire CSE Operational Group
Anstey, Liz (MASH Education Officer) Liz.Anstey1@herefordshire.gov.uk

School Admissions Officer (Reception) 01432 260926
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Herefordshire Schools CME co-ordinator.
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