

Greenford High School

Policy Document



Attendance

Policy

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Governing Committee	Students
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Approved by	FGB

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Attendance Policy

GREENFORD HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNISES THAT:

- Most students attend school regularly to learn, to socialise with friends and prepare themselves fully to take their place in society as well rounded and responsible citizens.
- There is a clear link between students' attendance and their level of achievement at school. We want all the students to achieve the very best they can and for this they need to be in school regularly.
- Late arrival disrupts the education not only of the student who is late but also of others in the class.
- It is the legal responsibility of parents/carers to ensure their children attend the school where they are on roll.
- Some students and their parents/carers may need to be supported at times in meeting their attendance obligations and responsibilities.

GREENFORD HIGH SCHOOL EXPECTS:

All students will:

- Arrive before 8.30am, appropriately prepared for the day, and register.
- Attend school regularly, and for the whole school day.
- Inform a member of staff of any problem or reason that affects their attendance at school.

All our students' parents/carers will:

- Ensure their children attend school every day unless they are too ill to attend or there is an acceptable reason for absence.

- Ensure their children arrive on time, prepared and equipped for the day.
- Inform the school's Absence Line (020 8578 9152) or email attendance@greenford.ealing.sch.uk as soon after 8am, as possible, on the day, if their child is going to be absent.
- Communicate with school about their children's progress and attend meetings such as Parents' Evenings.

Greenford High School will:

- Provide students with appropriate education.
- Respond to concerns raised by both students and parents/carers in a prompt, fair and proper manner.
- Follow the procedures of school and the School Attendance Service in dealing with attendance issues.

PROCEDURES

Clarity about who does what and when is important as this avoids confusion.

Monitoring

Attendance performance throughout the school will be monitored in a number of ways:

- Registration in every lesson.
- Regular review of attendance by Attendance Team.
- Regular reporting of attendance figures to the Governing Body.
- Parents will be updated about their child's attendance through the following forms of communication;
 - Individual students' attendance will be included in reports to parents.

- Weekly update about their child's attendance through the Stachel one app.
- Students will have regular attendance conversations when there has been a day(s) of absence:
 - The Form Tutor is to have weekly conversations challenging absence. They will take ownership for monitoring students in their forms with 90-99.9% attendance and have had a day(s) absence the week before,
 - The Year teams will have weekly conversations when a child's attendance is between 80 - 90%.
 - The Year teams will have attendance conversations when a child's attendance is between 70-80% and raise this with the relevant SLT link.
- The Attendance team will call home for students in Y11 whenever they have a day of absence.

This school Attendance Policy will be reviewed annually by Governors and Senior Leadership Team and amended as appropriate.

Registration

The register provides the daily record of attendance of all students. It contributes to a student's end of term reports, record of achievement and references. It is a legal document that may be required in a court of law as evidence, for example in prosecutions for non-attendance.

Greenford High School uses Lesson Monitor electronic registration system. The main codes used are those laid down by the DfE from September 2024:

/ \ present during registration

B educated off site and taster days and do not fit K, V, P or W codes

K attending provision arranged by the local authority

L arrived after the register has started but before it has closed

P Sporting activity with prior agreement from school

V educational visit or trip

W work experience

See **Appendix 1** for the full list of attendance codes and their meanings.

The school day begins at 08.35 for students. Registration will take place during form time – first 20 minutes of the school day. Where a student arrives after the start of registration, he/she will be marked as late and will be given a 30 minute detention after school on the same day. Students late after 9.30am will be coded as U which constitutes legally an unauthorised absence. It is therefore essential that parents inform the school if a student is late because of attending an urgent appointment such as with dentist or doctor, so that the absence can be authorised.

Registers are also taken in every lesson using Lesson Monitor. Lesson registration enables patterns of internal truancy to be identified which may suggest problems with a particular subject or a wider issue. Students will be spoken to about any such issues and parents informed if this does not resolve the matter.

Follow up on absent students

Only the school can authorise absence, on the basis of information provided by parents/carers. Where explanations are not felt to be acceptable, the absence will remain unauthorised and the parents/carers informed.

If students are absent without their parents/carers' knowledge this is a cause for concern as they may be putting themselves at risk in a number of ways. Communication between home and school is vital in helping to protect them. For this reason we ask that:

- In all cases of absence parents/carers contact the school by email, attendance@greenford.ealing.sch.uk, or on the **Absence Phone line (020 8578 9152)** as soon after 8am as possible to allow the school to record the absence and if appropriate authorise it. Parents/carers should give an indication of the probable length of absence if likely to be longer than one day. If the explanation for absence is not accepted as justifiable, the absence will be marked as unauthorised and the parents/carers informed

Where there has been no contact from parents/carers and the child remains absent without explanation, school staff will make contact with

parents/carers of students to ask the reason for absence. In the first instance contact will be by phone; our automated 'first day of absence' calling system will be used but where parents/carers cannot be contacted this will be followed up in writing. For this reason parents/carers must inform the school immediately if their contact details change.

If a student is missing from school for some days and parents/carers cannot be contacted, the school's Attendance Team will visit the home address and carry out the process of 'Reasonable Enquiry' to establish whether or not they have moved. If they have moved they will be referred to the Children Missing Education Officer attached to the Ealing Schools' Attendance Service. Where they are non-attenders they will be dealt with, in the first instance, by the School's Attendance Officer who will try to work with the family to break down the barriers to attendance. If the situation remains unresolved the Ealing Schools' Attendance Service will be contacted.

The school expects regular attendance. Regular attendance at Greenford High School is defined as attendance at school on each day the school is open for the pupils, unless there is a legitimate reason to be absent, and in accordance with the registration regulation 2006.

Our expectation is for every student to attend at least 95%, which generally allows for average absence due to illness, unavoidable cause and other absences which can be legally authorised.

If a student is leaving Greenford High School, a Leaver's Form needs to be completed in order for the school and Local Authority to carry out their duties of safeguarding and of tracking your child's education. **(Appendix 2).**

STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT IMPROVED ATTENDANCE

Incentives

Students with 100% attendance for the year are entered into a prize draw and also rewarded with a certificate. There will also be rewards such as invites to a Pizza Party and regular celebrations in assembly and Tutor Time.

Students who achieve 100% attendance for a term will be awarded Character Points and will also receive a letter for their parents/carers.

Attendance is regularly discussed in tutor time as part of our tutor programme. The year teams visit the form who has the highest attendance per half term to recognise their achievement.

Support in school

The school believes firmly in working in partnership with parents to resolve issues. Parents/carers and students must contact the school if they are experiencing problems with attendance. This should be to the tutor, Pastoral Support Worker, Head or Deputy Head of Year, or Attendance Team. Additional support can be provided through the School Counsellor, the Inclusion Team, the Child Protection Team and the Attendance Team.

Links to other policies

In all cases where attendance is a problem, consideration will be given to whether any aspect of one of our other policies such as Anti-Bullying, Behaviour or Special Needs, should be implemented to help support improved attendance, for example, whether the student has an unrecognised special educational need that adds to their reluctance to attend.

Reintegration

We all realise that returning to school following a period of absence can be very difficult for some young people, whatever the reason for their absence. In these situations school staff will plan carefully with parents/carers and student, together with any relevant agencies about how best to support the student's return to school.

In some cases, for a short period, it may be appropriate to start the reintegration gradually, building up to a full-time timetable: this will only be done in discussion with the school, and will be based on the student's individual circumstances. Other support will also be considered, from mentors through to appropriate rewards for improvement and achievement.

Register anomalies

As is the nature of all schools, occasionally students who have been marked present in previous lessons may not be present. This may be for a variety of valid reasons (for example: music lessons, visit to welfare, meeting with year team etc). Occasionally this will be as a result of internal truancy – in any

case teachers are asked to follow these measures when a child, who was previously registered, is missing:

- On taking class register if a teacher identifies a student has been marked present previously in the day, email **missingchild@greenford.ealing.sch.uk**
- The email will go to reception, the Attendance Team and the Welfare Team who will run queries with year teams and each other to locate the student.
- If the student is located an email will be returned to the teacher confirming the student's whereabouts and the register will be changed to reflect this.
- If within 10 minutes of the email being sent the student's whereabouts is not determined a patrol will go out to look for the student by the person on patrol.

Punctuality

If a student arrives at school after 8.35am they will be marked late in the register and given an after school 30 minute detention on the same day. Parent/carer will be notified of the detention by text.

If a student arrives at school after 8.50am they will be required to sign in at the main school reception and will receive an afternoon detention. If they have a legitimate reason i.e. dental/medical appointment, the register will be annotated accordingly and no detention will be given.

A text is sent to the parent/carer on the day of lateness. There is an escalation of sanctions to deal with those students who are persistently late.

Students who continue to be persistently late will be at a disadvantage when a reference for college or employment is required as this will reflect their poor punctuality.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Consistent attendance to school is vital for students to achieve their potential.

Early Intervention

As a school, we believe that early intervention is key when dealing with attendance. The attendance of all our students is regularly reviewed by the Attendance Team who consults with the Year Teams to determine what action to take.

Part of our early intervention strategy is the use of our attendance tracker, which enables form tutors to review their student's attendance on a weekly basis. Any attendance concerns are passed on to the Year Teams and Attendance Team.

When a student's attendance falls to:

Less than 90%

- The student becomes part of the Year Team's cohort.
- Meeting arranged with parents and student to discuss how to improve.
- An attendance contract could be offered.
- Regular reviews/meetings take place with referrals to other agencies possible.

Less than 70%

- The student is under the care and monitoring of the Attendance Team.
- The student is referred to the Borough Attendance Officer.
- The student is now classified as a "Persistent Absentee".
- Medical evidence is required for any absence to be authorised.
- Possible prosecution and fine from the Borough.

Referral criteria for intervention from the Borough of Ealing's Schools Attendance Service

- Students whose attendance falls below 90% will be monitored by the school Attendance Team. Students will be seen in school and parents/carers will be invited into school to discuss their child's attendance.

- Students, whose attendance falls below 90% and where much of the absence is unauthorised (truancy), will be referred for action by the Borough of Ealing's Schools Attendance Service according to the process outlined above.
- Missing students will be referred to the Borough of Ealing's Children Missing Education Officer once school staff have tried and failed to contact parents/carers.
- If a student falls below 50% attendance, this is defined as severe absence (SA). The Attendance Team will work alongside the Local Authority and any other relevant external agencies involved with the student and the family.
- The Education Act 1996 states that all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16 years) must receive a suitable, full-time education appropriate for the age and ability of the young person. Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child receives this education. From August 19th 2024, it will be possible for schools and local authorities to fine parents if children miss 10 sessions (5 days) of school in 10 weeks. The fine for school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid within 28 days. If a second fine is issued, it will be at the increased rate of £160. Therefore, it will become even more important to ensure your child's attendance and punctuality is good.

Request for leave of absence during term time

- As a school, we are increasingly concerned with the number of holidays / leaves of absence parents are asking to take for their children during term time. This is having a serious impact on our attendance rate; on average 750 days of absence per year are due to these requests. This is having a damaging effect on the education of these children who are missing their schooling.
- Although we sympathise with parents for many of their requests, and understand that our school community, including our staff, have families spread all over the world, the Government has made it very clear to all schools that students, including Post-16 students, should not be taken out of school during term time.

- Any Leave of Absence is granted at the discretion of the Head. Requests for holiday in term time will not be authorised.
- Negotiations for Leave of Absence should be made, by parents, as early as possible; at least 2 weeks' notice is required. They will then be asked to complete a form recording all the necessary details (**Appendix 3**). If parents do not apply for the Leave of Absence in advance the absence will be recorded as unauthorised; Government regulations do not allow schools to give retrospective approval.
- The completed form should be submitted to Mr Balu who will consult with Year Teams, Attendance Officer and the Senior Leadership Team before discussing the matter with parents.
- Figures for leave of absences will be regularly reported to the Governors' Students Committee.
- Once an absence extends over 20 days, the school will remove the student from the roll and offer their place to a student on the waiting list. Any students returning after 20 days will need to formally re-apply for their position at the school. However, parents need to be aware that this place may already have been filled and the child may have to apply to a different school.

POST 16 ATTENDANCE POLICY

The aim is to achieve at least 95% attendance with Y12 & 13. This policy has been designed to ensure that we maximise the learning opportunities and thus achievement for our post 16 students to ensure the highest levels of attendance.

Attendance Level	Action	By Whom	Intervention/Sanction	Monitored/supported by

95% or higher (GREEN)	Discussion with form tutor	Form Tutor	Discussion with Deputy Head of Year (DHoY)	Learning Managers (LM)
85%- 95% (AMBER)	Meeting with Learning Manager (LM)	Learning Managers (LM)	Meet regularly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set targets • 100% Attendance procedure - Students must register with the LM at 08:35 and sign out at 17:00 (2 wks) • LM to send out details of the students on amber to FT and teachers (to ensure closer monitoring) • Phone call home by LM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Year (WES/ OUL) • WES/ OUL to have a weekly meeting with Learning Managers to discuss these students and what intervention has been put into place
75% - 85% (RED)	Meeting with LEI & LM. If persistent, meet with Senior Deputy Headteacher	LEI & LM	Meeting with student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about reasons for the low attendance rate • Set targets of 100% Attendance procedure for 4 weeks • Sanction if required Internal Exclusion (this would be for 'truanting' and defiance) 	LEI - meetings with parents to set agreed targets.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting set up with parents 	
Below 75%	Meeting with Senior Deputy Headteacher	JOH, LEI & Parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion with parents Student on 100% attendance procedure for a half term If a student defies any of the targets, they will receive a consequence day and or FTE If at any point the student does break the rules of this agreement, their ID card must be taken off them and they must return to school with a parent for an urgent meeting. 	JOH and LEI - meetings with parents to set agreed targets.

Systems/Routines:

- Data Manager to produce weekly data by Monday 9am for students at the different thresholds.
- LM to visit all forms across the week to support Form Tutors with students with 95%.

- P16 administrator and Head of Post 16 to chase up teachers who have not completed registers, repeat offenders (three times or more) to be chased up by the DHT.
- Head of Years to set up weekly meetings with the LMs to discuss the students they are focusing on that week and strategies that need to be put into place.

Culture/Ethos:

- Assembly focusing on attendance (at least once a half term).
- Form time activity with Y12 & 13 focusing on routines and drawing up a timetable for the week, which includes evenings and weekends.
- Mailshot to parents.

APPENDICES

1. DFE Attendance Codes, Descriptions and Meanings
2. Leaving School Form for completion by parent/carer
3. Parental Request for Leave of Absence Form

APPENDIX 1

School attendance codes

Present codes

/ \ present during registration

B educated off site and taster days and do not fit K, V, P or W codes

K attending provision arranged by the local authority

L arrived after the register has started but before it has closed

P Sporting activity with prior agreement from school

V educational visit or trip

W work experience

Authorised absences

C exceptional circumstances

C1 in a regulated performance/undertaking regulated employment abroad

C2 absent due to part-time timetable

D dual registered

E suspended or permanently excluded

I illness (not medical or dental appointments)

J1 job/school/college interview

M medical or dental appointment

Q unable to attend because of a lack of access arrangements

R religious observance (only 1 day allowed, any more coded as C if agreed)

S study leave

T parent travelling for occupational purposes

X non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school

Y1 unable to attend due to transport provided not being available

Y2 unable to attend due to widespread transport disruption

Y3 unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed

Y4 unable to attend due to whole school closure

Y5 unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention

Y6 unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law

Y7 unable to attend due to other avoidable cause (must affect the pupil NOT the parent)

Unauthorised absence

G holiday (not agreed)

N reason for absence not yet established (must be corrected within 5 days)

O absent in other or unknown circumstances

U late after register has closed

Z pupil not yet on register

planned whole school closure (eg holidays, insets and polling station days)

APPENDIX 2



LEAVING SCHOOL FORM FOR PARENTS

If your child is leaving school fill in this form AND RETURN IT

TO THE

SCHOOL OFFICE. If you are not sure of the details of your move, please let us know as soon as possible, but fill in this form as fully as you can before you leave.

SCHOOL NAME _____

Why you need to complete this form:

- Your current school is expected to transfer information to the new school.
- The School and Local Authority have a duty to track your child's education.
- If you fail to provide details to either the school/local authority further checks will be carried out to determine your child's new educational provision which may include contacting Social Services and the police.
- These checks will be undertaken in the interest of safeguarding and to ensure every child is receiving suitable education as legally required by the Education Act 1996.

PUPIL DETAILS		
NAME:	DOB: / /	YEAR GROUP:
NAME:	DOB: / /	YEAR GROUP:
NAME:	DOB: / /	YEAR GROUP:
NAME:	DOB: / /	YEAR GROUP:
REASON FOR LEAVING		

<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Address	Address Line 1 _____ Address Line 2 _____ Address Line 3 _____ County _____ Post Code _____ Local Authority _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Country	Address Line 1 _____ Address Line 2 _____ Address Line 3 _____ Country _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, give details	

PARENT CONTACT DETAILS	
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Father/Carer Name	
Mother/Carer Name	
Mobile Number/s	
Landline Telephone	
Email	

EXTRA CONTACT DETAILS PLEASE COMPLETE	
<i>We will only contact them if we need information and cannot contact you about your child's new school. Please choose a friend or relative who you will be staying in touch with and who is not expected to move in the near future.</i>	

Friend/Relative Name	
Relationship to You	
Mobile Number/s	
Landline Telephone	
Email	

SIGNATURE	
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Parent/Carer Name	
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Signature	
Date	

ANY OTHER DETAILS

Please provide any other information if appropriate. For instance if you have applied for or accepted a new school place in your new area.

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APPENDIX 3

PARENTAL REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Complete & return to reception, for the attention of Mr Balu who will arrange an interview time to discuss your request.

STUDENT'S NAME:	
Form:	Date:
Reason For Request:	
Date Of Departure:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date Of Return:	No. Of Days Absent: <u>(max 3 days)</u>
Contact No:	
Parent/Guardian's Name:	
Relationship To Child: Father <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Specify.....	
Signature:	
<u>SCHOOL ACTION</u>	
Date of Interview:	

Other comments:

Please note : Only emergencies or exceptional circumstances will be considered. Supporting documentation will be required. A Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of £120 will be issued by the LEA . If the FPN remains unpaid after 28 days you may be prosecuted for your child's absence from school.