

[The Langley Academy](#) | Attendance Policy

Academy attendance matters. It is arguably one of the most important indicators of academy success. You cannot learn what you are not there to learn. Students who attend the academy regularly improve their chances of being academically successful. There are obvious exceptions to both sides of the rule. There are a few students deemed academically successful who also have attendance issues and a few students who struggle academically who are always present. However, in most cases, strong attendance correlates with academic success, and poor attendance correlates with academic struggles.

The Academy closes for 70 days of holidays each academic year and we would hope that all parents/carers would take their family holidays whilst the Academy is closed. Any parent wanting to take their child on a leave of absence from the Academy should inform the Principal in the following way:

- Complete the leave of absence form by clicking this link '[Leave of absence request form](#)'
- Parent/carer must complete this form and return to the Principal **at least 2 weeks prior to the leave request date**
- The Principal will look at each application on an individual basis and inform you by letter of the outcome

Requests will not be accepted unless the 'leave of absence' form is completed. Written letters will not be accepted.

The expectation is that students DO NOT take any leave during Term time. If it is an urgent request then please follow the correct procedure.

Any holiday or leave taken without permission will be unauthorised and legal action may be sought from the Local Authority.

Leave of absence is only authorised under very exceptional circumstances.

At The Langley Academy we do not believe that children should be removed from school during term time - losing valuable school time is at the expense of your child's education.

Persistent absence (PA)

From the beginning of the academic year, 2015 to 2016, the government has reduced the persistent absence threshold from 15 per cent to 10 per cent. Therefore, a student is now considered to have persistent absence if their attendance falls below 90%.

This change came about because to have 85% attendance (the previous PA threshold) means a student has to be absent for 56 sessions (28 days) of school. This is a great deal of schooling to miss and, in the government's opinion, setting the bar too low in this respect.

Half term 1	15% 10 or more sessions	10% 7 or more sessions
Half term 1-2 (Autumn term)	22 or more sessions	14 or more sessions
Half term 1-3	30 or more sessions	20 or more sessions
Half term 1-4 (Autumn and Spring term combined)	38 or more sessions	25 or more sessions
Half term 1-5	46 or more sessions	31 or more sessions
Half term 1-6 (Full academic year)	56 or more sessions	38 or more sessions

The DfE and Ofsted continue to have a sharp focus on persistent absence as there is a direct link between persistent absence from school, poor attainment and 'not in employment, education or training' (NEET) status.

Slough Borough Council changes to DfEs rules

- DfE recommendations with regards to the FPN have changed to £120 if fine paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days. There is no longer the lengthy reminder period for payment. This fine is per parent per child.
- **SBC** has reduced the extended leave/unauthorised holiday period to 5 days (10 sessions) unauthorised absence. If a pupil is absent for 5 or more days of unauthorised 'G' the fine will be issued.
- If a pupil has 10 sessions of unauthorised absence over 12 weeks (previously 20 sessions/12 weeks) the FPN warning can be issued.
- Referrals to AIO still stand at 20 sessions of absence with the initial contact raising concern to be made by school.

Slough Borough Council leaflet 'Slough Attendance - a guide for parents' is available to download [here](#)

Please contact Ms Richardson-Blake on 01753 214 475 for further information.