



# NESTON HIGH SCHOOL

## Attendance Policy

Policy owners/leads:	LCR
Notes:	
Statutory:	Yes
Website:	Yes
Review period:	2 Years

Date	Action	Comments / Follow Up
Nov 2023	Policy adopted	Next review: Nov 2025
Oct 2024	Reviewed	Next review: Oct 2026

# Contents

Contents .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION AND AIM.....	3
2. PURPOSE.....	3
3. LEGISLATION.....	3
4. INDIVIDUAL STAFF MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES.....	4
5. REGISTERS .....	4
6. PROCEDURE .....	5
7. WHY REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT .....	5
8. ABSENCE MONITORING .....	5
9. EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION.....	6
10. MEDICAL ABSENCE.....	6
11. LATENESS AND PUNCTUALITY .....	7
12. UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE AND FIXED PENALTY NOTICE.....	8
13. PROMOTING AND INCENTIVISING ATTENDANCE.....	8
14. APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES .....	9
15. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE.....	10
16. ENFORCED SCHOOL CLOSURE .....	10
17. IMPACT .....	10
18. GUIDELINES .....	10
19. APPENDIX 1: Cheshire West & Chester -Code of Conduct for Education Fixed Penalty Notice (Unauthorised Leave of absence & Irregular Attendance) .....	13
20. APPENDIX 2: What does 'percentage attendance' mean? .....	14
21. APPENDIX 3: Absence Codes: .....	15

# 1. INTRODUCTION AND AIM

- 1.1 Neston High School recognises the importance of good attendance and the impact it has on children's progress, attainment, enjoyment of learning and relationships within school. Good attendance helps a child to realise their potential and ensure they are motivated, confident and enjoy a diverse range of curricular opportunities and experiences. Our school policy promotes good attendance, which is recognised and rewarded as an achievement. The school monitors attendance and ensures quick and early intervention if a problem is identified. We recognise that whole school preventative and proactive approaches are key to promoting children's wellbeing and attendance. A child must attend school every day that they are required to do so unless an exceptional circumstance applies.
- 1.2 Our policy is accessible to leaders, staff, pupils and parents/carers, and is published on our school website. As the barriers to attendance evolve quickly, the policy should be reviewed and updated, as necessary. In doing so, we will seek the views of pupils and parents. The Attendance & Punctuality Policy is based on the premise of equal opportunities for all.

# 2. PURPOSE

To provide procedures which will help to:

- 2.1 Promote excellent attendance and punctuality through a clear framework of expectations in terms of attendance, which is accepted by parents/ carers, students, staff and Board Members
- 2.2 Engage the support of parents/ carers in ensuring that their children attend school regularly and that they arrive on time
- 2.3 Maintain the highest possible levels of attendance to ensure continuity of education
- 2.4 Keep good electronic records of attendance and take prompt action to follow up absences
- 2.5 Monitor inconsistent patterns which may indicate truancy or other difficulties
- 2.6 Ensure prompt and effective communication with home and outside agencies when attendance levels fall
- 2.7 Monitor closely students with attendance and punctuality issues and to work with parents/ carers and where appropriate other agencies to bring about improvement
- 2.8 Plan and implement structured and rigorous interventions to improve poor attendance.

# 3. LEGISLATION

- 3.1 Regular and punctual attendance at school is a legal requirement. Regular attendance is essential to enable children to maximise their educational attainment, opportunities and further development.
- 3.2 Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that "The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him/her to receive efficient full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise".
- 3.3 Section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1996 states that "if a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school his parent is guilty of an offence".
- 3.4 Section 576 Education Act 1996 - Meaning of "parent"
- 3.5 For the purposes of Education Law, the definition of a 'parent' and who is responsible for ensuring regular attendance to school is:

- 3.5.1 all biological parents, whether they are married or not
- 3.5.2 any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative
- 3.5.3 any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person. This could be one parent, both parents and/or carers.

## 4. INDIVIDUAL STAFF MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 The senior leader responsible for the strategic approach to attendance in school is **Mr L Cray**.
- 4.2 For day-to-day queries about attendance, students and parents/carers should contact the school's attendance officer **Mrs J Cove** via email [attendance@nestonhigh.com](mailto:attendance@nestonhigh.com)
- 4.3 For more detailed support on attendance, students and parents/carers should contact their child's Head of Year.

## 5. REGISTERS

- 5.1 Registers provide the daily record of attendance of all pupils. They are legal documents and the register may be required in a court of law, for example as evidence in prosecutions for non-attendance in school. 'Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006' (section 6)
- 5.2 Schools must take the attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day, morning (a.m.) and once during the second session, afternoon (p.m.).
- 5.3 On each occasion they must record whether every pupil is:
  - 5.3.1 Present
  - 5.3.2 Attending an approved educational activity
  - 5.3.3 Absent
  - 5.3.4 Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.
- 5.4 The school should follow up any absences to:
  - 5.4.1 Ascertain the reason
  - 5.4.2 Ensure the proper safeguarding action is taken
  - 5.4.3 Identify whether the absence is approved or not; and,
  - 5.4.4 Identify the correct code to use before entering it on to the school's electronic register, or management information system as a priority and returned to the school office in a timely manner. This is used to download data to the School Census.
  - 5.4.5 Consider early identification, assessment, intervention and support processes that may need to be implemented.
- 5.5 The register should be marked using the codes as advised by the Department for Education (DfE) 'Working together to improve School Attendance Guidance' (for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities) [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/121212/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024.pdf)

## 6. PROCEDURE

- 6.1 Children are expected to attend school regularly, unless there is good reason for absence. There are two types of absence:
  - 6.1.1 Authorised (where the school approves a pupil absence)
  - 6.1.2 Unauthorised (where school will not approve the absence)
- 6.2 The school has a duty to safeguard all its pupils. If a child is absent, the parents/carers should inform the school on the first day of absence ([attendance@nestonhigh.com](mailto:attendance@nestonhigh.com)) and each following day of absence, stating the reason.
- 6.3 The school office will make contact with home when a child is absent, and the parent/carer has not notified the school of the absence. If no contact can be achieved or the reason for absence is not accepted the absence will be unauthorised.

## 7. WHY REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT

### 7.1 Learning

- 7.1.1 Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. Any student's absence disrupts teaching routines so may affect the learning of others in the same class.
- 7.1.2 Ensuring a child's regular attendance at school is parents' or carers' legal responsibility. Permitting absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.

### 7.2 Safeguarding

- 7.2.1 A child may be at risk of harm if he or she does not attend school regularly. Failing to attend school on a regular basis, depending on the circumstances, may be considered a safeguarding matter and may be referred to the school's safeguarding team.

## 8. ABSENCE MONITORING

- 8.1 School robustly monitor and analyse attendance data to promptly identify and address possible concerns and allow for early interventions to support the child/family's underlying needs. This will include:
  - 8.1.1 Weekly attendance code analysis
  - 8.1.2 Specific cohort and group monitoring – particularly for vulnerable groups
  - 8.1.3 Monitoring of lesson attendance across all subjects
  - 8.1.4 'Welcome back' meeting for all pupils that have been absent with form tutors to check wellbeing and ensure there are no ongoing needs that will impact on attendance.
  - 8.1.5 The school's strategy for using data to target attendance improvement efforts to the pupils or pupil cohorts who need it most.
  - 8.1.6 The school's strategy for reducing persistent and severe absence, including how access to wider support services will be provided to remove the barriers to attendance and when support will be formalised in conjunction with the local authority.

## 9. EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION

- 9.1 Every pupil has a right to a full-time education and Neston High School sets high attendance expectations for all pupils. Neston High School will consider the individual needs of pupils and their families who have specific barriers to attendance and will consider our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 9.2 For any child who is absent from school, it is essential to fully understand the reasons for this so that targeted, evidence-based interventions and support can be put into place. All staff have a part to play in promoting attendance. We recognise the importance of ensuring that key members of staff from across the school, including Form Tutors, attendance, pastoral and SEND staff work in collaboration to consider and identify the holistic needs of the child/young person and to overcome barriers to attendance. In accordance with the principles of early intervention, a graduated approach of assess, plan, do and review will be followed utilising a range of school-based resources, evidence-based interventions and seeking advice and support from external services at an appropriate stage, when needed.
- 9.3 Appropriate assessments will be important to help understand the underlying reasons that may be contributing to attendance difficulties. This may be an assessment that focuses on the individual child's needs such as an SDQ, SEND assessments and wellbeing assessments or may include the holistic needs of the family, such as a TAF assessment. Assessments will include the views of the child/young person as well as parents/carers and identify strengths (what is working well) and needs (what is working less well).
- 9.4 Assessments undertaken may identify that a child/young person is experiencing underlying emotional based needs that are contributing to non-attendance. Cheshire West and Chester Council has developed guidance for schools - Emotionally Based School Non-attendance: Good practice guidance for schools. This is a whole school framework with a graduated approach to support the early identification and intervention of children/young people who may struggle to cope in school/attend school.
- 9.5 Information from assessments will inform a SMART action plan with focussed targets developed in partnership with families, and other services as appropriate. For example, Early Help and Prevention and Social Care may have a part to play in the delivery of support and intervention to promote engagement and attendance. SMART plans should be personalised to effectively meet a child / young person's needs and improve attendance and wellbeing outcomes.
- 9.6 Regular reviews of support and attendance plans are essential to monitor the impact of interventions and to adjust these accordingly. If, despite targeted support and intervention, attendance and wellbeing concerns persist, we may seek further advice and support from external services including mental health services, specialist teaching and education services.

## 10. MEDICAL ABSENCE

- 10.1 Absence due to illness should be reported to the school by phone or using Arbor on the first day of absence and any subsequent days. School will contact parents during the first day if no satisfactory reason for absence has been received. The school will ask about the child's symptoms in order to record their absence accurately.
- 10.2 In the majority of cases, a parent's notification that their child is ill can be accepted without question or concern. Schools should not routinely request that parents provide medical evidence to support illness. Schools are advised not to request medical evidence unnecessarily as it places additional pressure on health professionals.
- 10.3 Only where the school has a **genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity** of the illness should medical evidence be requested to support the absence. In instances of **long-term or**

**repeated absences for the same reason**, however, seeking medical evidence may be appropriate to assist in assessing whether the child requires additional support to help them to attend more regularly, and whether the illness is likely to prevent the child from attending for extended periods. If a parent proactively seeks out a note from a GP, it does not imply a need for absence unless this is explicit in their letter.

- 10.4 If a medical absence is likely to be ongoing or long term, then we will offer support in accordance with the school's policies and statutory guidance relating to Children with health needs.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>.
- 10.5 As a school we need to plan how children can access Education and how and when the child will return to school. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 the school must also demonstrate that reasonable adjustments are made to meet the child's Educational Needs.
- 10.6 For children who have a medical condition and cannot attend school, the school will refer to the Cheshire West and Chester Council's Medical Needs Team.  
<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/documents/education-and-learning/medical-needs-service/medical-needs-policy-latest.pdf>
- 10.7 Their policy states that referrals must come directly from the child's school and must be supported by medical evidence from one of the following health professionals:
  - 10.7.1 consultant paediatrician or adolescent psychiatrist
  - 10.7.2 consultant child psychiatrist
  - 10.7.3 hospital consultant
- 10.8 Supporting evidence from a General Practitioner alone cannot be accepted.
- 10.9 As from 19th August 2024 schools must make a sickness return to the Local Authority and provide the full name and address of all pupils who have been recorded with the code I (Illness) and who the school has reasonable grounds to believe they will miss 15 days consecutively or cumulatively because of sickness. This is to help the school and Local Authority to agree any provisions needed to ensure continuity of education of pupils who cannot attend because of health needs, in line with the statutory guidance on Education for Children with health needs:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

## 11. LATENESS AND PUNCTUALITY

- 11.1 At Neston High School we will apply a robust day to day process to track and follow up on absence and poor punctuality. We will ensure registers are completed accurately and on time, twice per day, in accordance with the timings set out below. This will indicate which pupils are absent from or are late for school.
- 11.2 The timings are:
  - ✦ School gates and classroom doors open at 8:30am
  - ✦ We expect all pupils to be in their classroom by 8:40am ready for registration. If your child is in class at this time, they will be marked as present.
  - ✦ If your child arrives at school after 8.55am but before 9.15am, they will need to enter the school by the reception area. They will be marked as late and will receive the L code and a break-time detention for lateness unless there is a reasonable explanation or an adjustment has been made.

- ✦ If your child arrives at school after the registers have closed 9.15am, they will be marked as late and will receive the U code and receive an after-school detention for lateness unless there is a reasonable explanation or an adjustment has been made. This is an unauthorised absence for that session.
  - ✦ Afternoon registers will be taken at the start of the pupils' fourth lesson of the day.
- 11.3 In accordance with the 'Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006', if your child arrives after the registers close, they will receive a mark, code U, that shows them to be on site, but this will not count as a present mark and it will mean they have an unauthorised absence. This may mean that you could face the possibility of a Fixed Penalty Notice or other legal action if the problem persists.
- 11.4 Children who are consistently late for school are disrupting not only their own education, but also that of other children. Where persistent lateness gives cause for concern, you will be invited to a meeting to resolve the issues. If there is no improvement following this meeting, further action will be taken which may include referral to external agencies.
- 11.5 You may approach the school at any time for support and advice if you are having difficulty getting your child to school on time or maintaining regular attendance.

## 12. UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE AND FIXED PENALTY NOTICE

- 12.1 An absence may be coded as 'unauthorised' if:
- 12.1.1 no reason for absence has been given
  - 12.1.2 medical evidence is not received when requested
  - 12.1.3 a request for a leave of absence has been unauthorised
  - 12.1.4 a pupil arrives at school after registration has closed at 9:15am.
- 12.2 Parents/carers should be aware that Neston High School may contact the Local Authority if a pupil has 10 or more unauthorised absences in the current term with a view to issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or other legal action.
- 12.3 The first penalty notice issued to the parent for that pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days. Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second notice is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days. A third penalty notice must not be issued within a 3-year period. Therefore, in cases where the threshold is met for a third (or subsequent) times within those 3 years, a penalty notice cannot be issued, and alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions. (see appendix 1 for CW&C Code of Conduct).

## 13. PROMOTING AND INCENTIVISING ATTENDANCE

- 13.1 At Neston High School, rewards, incentives and competitions play an important part when working to improve attendance. The most effective schools consistently promote the benefits of good attendance. Rewards and incentives should be devised with the Children's and families' views at the heart. This will mean that our incentives and rewards are purposeful and meaningful. Schools that have good attendance recognise that it is not a discrete piece of work but rather it is an integral part of the school's ethos and culture.
- 13.2 At Neston High School, we understand that some pupils find it harder than others to attend school. Therefore, it is important that attendance is recognised, celebrated and held in high regard, no



matter how small the improvements might be. Improved attendance or improved punctuality should be recognised and praised, not just 100% attendance. Every child has the right to feel they can achieve and be successful, so any reward/incentive system must be inclusive of those children with additional needs. It is important that pupils see the attendance incentives and competitions as a team effort and not to blame individuals. At Neston High School pupils will be taught about the positive link between attendance and high achievement through assemblies and dedicated PSHE sessions.

- 13.3 Attendance information should be readily available for both children and parents. At Neston High School we will share attendance information in the form of display boards, website, assemblies and information being sent home. Barriers affecting attendance in our school will be explored, taking both the children and parents views into account, so that every staff member is clear about how they can help to improve attendance and/or punctuality. This will be reflected in our rewards and incentives and time will be dedicated to such barriers in order to try to remove them.
- 13.4 Consequences might be used alongside our rewards and incentives.
- 13.5 We are proud to be a Trauma Informed school, and as such, all pupils will be welcomed back to school by form tutors and reasons for their lateness or absence will be explored sensitively by the Pastoral Team with barriers established and the necessary support provided. At Neston High School we recognise that some pupils will require their own individual reward systems.

## 14. APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 14.1 As of 19th August 2024, the law ceases to include a leave of absence for a family holiday. A leave of absence should not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance. Head Teachers are only empowered to approve a leave of absence when it is requested in advance by the parent or carer with whom the child resides and when circumstances of the requested leave are 'exceptional'.
- 14.2 The Head Teacher and the Board of Trustees will determine what constitutes an exceptional circumstance on an individual basis. If parents/carers need to request Exceptional Leave of Absence, they must complete an 'Exceptional Leave of Absence' form available from the school office. It should be noted that if any application is declined and absence occurs of a consecutive 5 or more unauthorised days, then school may apply to the Local Authority for a Fixed Penalty Notice to be issued to each parent/carers.
- 14.3 The following will not be deemed to be exceptional circumstances:
  - 14.3.1 Family holiday
  - 14.3.2 Availability of less expensive holiday
  - 14.3.3 Availability of holiday accommodation
  - 14.3.4 Parent/carers' working commitments
  - 14.3.5 Holiday pre-booked by another family member
  - 14.3.6 Holidays due to siblings or family in other schools having different term times.
- 14.4 A child's absence during term time seriously disrupts their continuity of learning. Not only do they miss the teaching on the days they are away but are less prepared for the lessons building on that teaching when they return to school. There is a consequent risk of under achievement, which we must seek to avoid.
- 14.5 The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring any attendance issues are dealt with in line with school policy.

## 15. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

- 15.1 We recognise that some pupils may need to participate in days of religious observance. Where a day of religious observance:
- 15.1.1 falls during school time and
  - 15.1.2 has been exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil belongs
- 15.2 We ask that parents/carers notify Neston High School in writing in advance where absence is required due to a religious observance.

## 16. ENFORCED SCHOOL CLOSURE

- 16.1 If Neston High School was forced to close for a period of time, we have the facility to set online learning. The expectation is children will still engage with ALL activities when work is set. Procedures for online learning will be sent to parents as and when required.

## 17. IMPACT

- 17.1 All pupils will achieve well by developing knowledge and skills on their journey through school. Due to robust monitoring of attendance, all pupils, including vulnerable children and children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), will have fair and equitable access to school in order to achieve the best possible outcomes. Pupils will leave Neston High School ready for a successful transition to further education or employment.

## 18. GUIDELINES

### 18.1 Whole school guidelines:

- 18.1.1 The school will acknowledge, celebrate and reward excellent and significantly improved attendance via communication with parents/ carers, student certificates and badges, and a range of prizes awarded to those with the best or most improved attendance.
- 18.1.2 Tutors will promote good attendance by celebrating success and improvement in attendance. Tutors will monitor the attendance of students in their tutor groups and communicate with the relevant Pastoral Team where there are concerns that a student's attendance is starting to fall below 96%.
- 18.1.3 Tutors will take accurate and prompt registers during daily tutor time at 8.40am.
- 18.1.4 In the case of a student's attendance, tutors will have a conversation to ensure that their reintegration back to school is as smooth as possible and that all barriers to attendance have been explored.
- 18.1.5 Where there is no improvement in attendance following the Tutor's intervention, the Head of Year, in consultation with the Attendance/Pastoral Learning Mentor Team, where appropriate, will trigger written communication with home to offer support in improving the student's attendance levels.
- 18.1.6 Should attendance continue to fall following this written communication, the Year Team will be responsible for inviting the parent/ carer to a meeting in school to discuss the concerns and offer a structured plan of support. This meeting should be led in consultation with school's Attendance Team, who can offer support and advice, and support the formulation of a plan in the cases of persistent, unauthorised absence from school.

- 18.1.7 Heads of Year and where appropriate, Pastoral Learning Mentors, and the attendance officer, will meet fortnightly to monitor attendance levels and patterns of absence within the year group. This will enable effective interventions to be implemented to address poor attendance. The actions set at these meetings should ensure that these key staff members have structured plans in place to address deteriorating attendance. Actions for each student should be recorded clearly and regularly by the Head of Year on the school's attendance tracking document.
- 18.1.8 The Attendance Officer will maintain regular telephone and face-to-face contact with Parents/ carers of students whose unauthorised absence remains a cause for concern. As well as contributing to the recognition and reward of students maintaining high or improved levels of attendance, the Attendance Officer will be responsible for implementing a four-week action plan and review process, ensuring that support is targeted to meet the needs of the individual student concerned. The Head of Year will also collaborate with pastoral staff on Support Plans and Team Around the Family (TAF) processes where attendance is one of the key concerns. Where appropriate to support the family, home visits will also form a key part of the work of the Attendance Officer.
- 18.1.9 Where reasons for absence are not known, the Attendance Officer will make the initial contact with parents/ carers to investigate. Where this proves unsuccessful in establishing the cause of the absence, the Head of Year can initiate more formal communication with home, liaising with the Pastoral Learning Mentors as appropriate.
- 18.1.10 Truancy of a lesson will result in a sanction being issued to the student, and persistent truancy will lead to parents/ carers being invited into school to meet with the relevant staff to discuss the school's concerns.
- 18.1.11 The school will ensure that parents are fully informed of the regulations referring to attendance. This can be done via newsletters, the website, and parent information evenings.
- 18.1.12 The primary responsibility for ensuring that a student attends school lies with the parent/ carer. Persistent unauthorised absence from school will result in fixed penalty notices for irregular attendance being pursued in consultation with the Local Authority where the avenues above have been explored and have proved unsuccessful.
- 18.1.13 Students in Years 7-11 are not permitted to leave the premises during the school day unless parents / carers make a written request to the student's Head of Year. If permission is granted following such a request (e.g. medical appointment), students must sign out at reception and sign in again on their return. This is an essential safeguarding measure. Students must not call home on their own devices to ask to be picked up during the school day.
- 18.1.14 Where concerns regarding attendance persist despite all of the interventions outlined above, Heads of Year should liaise with the member of the Senior Leadership Team linked to that Year group. In the first instance they can seek support, if required, from the member of SLT with responsibility for whole-school attendance.

## **18.2 Additional points relating to Sixth Form attendance only:**

- 18.2.1 Sixth Form students are expected to attend all lessons, unless absence is authorised. Students are expected to arrive at tutor bases by 8:40 a.m. and must register for p.m. registration either with their class teacher if they have a lesson, or by swiping in at one of the electronic registration points if not.
- 18.2.2 Parents/carers will be notified if a student misses a timetabled lesson. Repeated incidents of missed lessons will result in students being asked to attend an additional study period 3:15 to 4:15 on the day of the missed lesson.

- 18.2.3 If a member of staff is absent, students must swipe in at one of the electronic registration points and complete the work set, which should be completed within the designated lesson time.
- 18.2.4 Students can apply for study leave in the lead up to external examinations and will be granted on an individual student basis following consultation with teaching staff. Parents/carers will be notified prior to examinations if study leave is to be granted.
- 18.2.5 Students can take driving lesson during the school day, but they must not be organised during a timetabled lesson.
- 18.2.6 Students are permitted to leave site after 12:30 on the condition that they have completed their final lesson of the day and that they sign out at reception using their ID cards
- 18.2.7 If students wish to leave site before 12:30 for any reason, they must seek permission from the Sixth Form team who will check circumstances and grant permission.
- 18.2.8 Whilst we will take each student's circumstances into consideration, any student whose attendance falls below 85% without a valid reason will be charged for examination entries and may forfeit their place to continue studies into Year 13.

### **18.3 Subject staff**

- 18.3.1 Subject Staff should complete their lesson registers promptly (within the first 10 minutes of a lesson) and accurately and alert the Attendance Officer of any lesson-to-lesson discrepancies. This is a vitally important mechanism in safeguarding our students. Subject staff will update previously saved registers if a student arrives late to a lesson for any reason to ensure all registers are accurate.
- 18.3.2 Subject staff will monitor patterns of attendance and absence within their lessons, rewarding good attendance and reporting to the respective Curriculum Leader where there is cause for concern.
- 18.3.3 Where students are withdrawn from their lesson for any form of intervention (pastoral or academic), the member of staff leading the withdrawal is responsible for ensuring that the student is accurately coded on the register.
- 18.3.4 Staff leading Educational Visits should ensure that lists are provided at least 48 hours in advance of the visit to the Attendance Officer, so that attendance can be credited accordingly. If a student due to take part is absent on the morning of the visit, a message must be communicated to the Attendance Officer to confirm this.
- 18.3.5 Curriculum Leaders will induct trainee staff in the registration procedures for the duration of their stay at Neston High School. The member of staff responsible for cover will induct all cover staff in the same procedures.

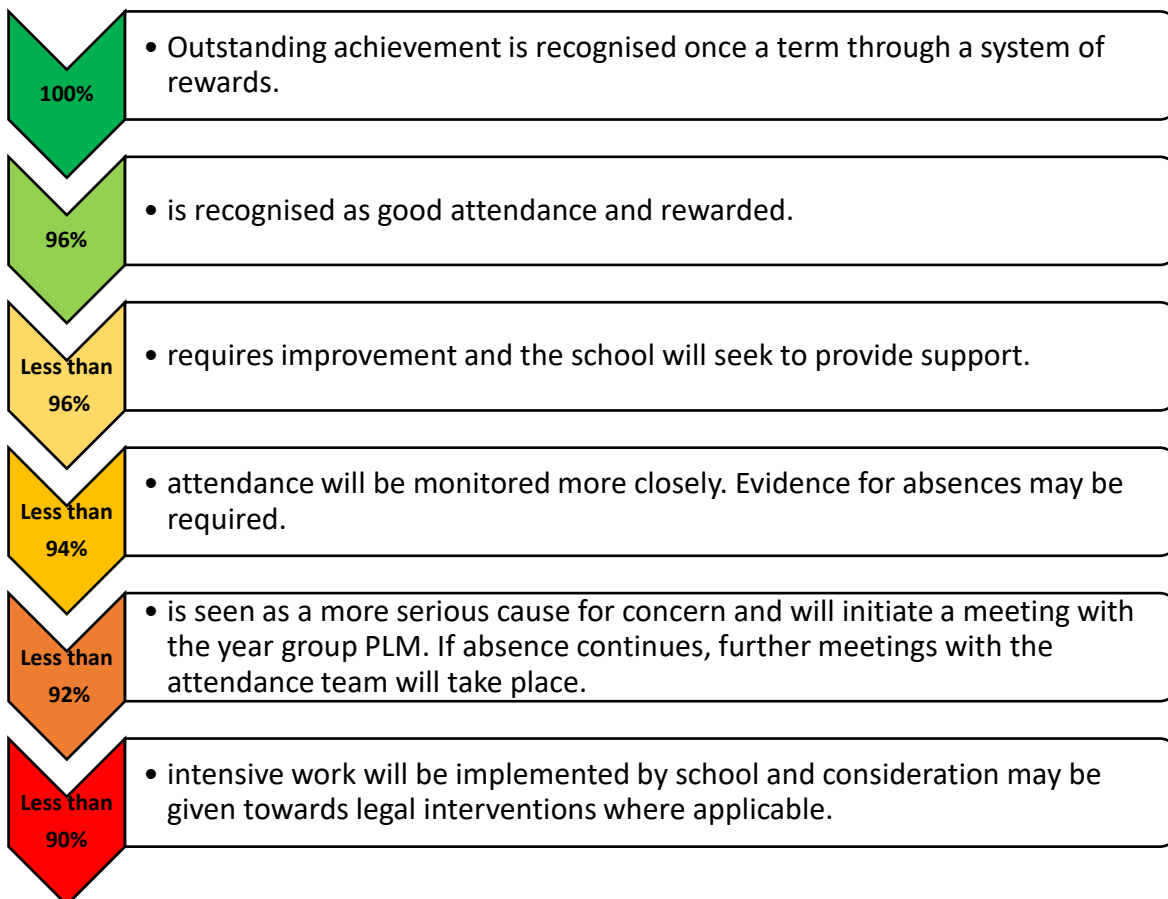
## 19. APPENDIX 1: Cheshire West & Chester -Code of Conduct for Education Fixed Penalty Notice (Unauthorised Leave of absence & Irregular Attendance)

- 19.1 A Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) can only be issued in cases of unauthorised absence.
- 19.2 The first penalty notice issued to the parent for that pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- 19.3 Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second notice is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.
- 19.4 A third penalty notice must not be issued within a 3-year period. Therefore, in cases where the threshold is met for a third (or subsequent) times within those 3 years, a penalty notice cannot be issued and alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.
- 19.5 A FPN may be issued per parent per child. Penalty Notices may be considered appropriate if:
  - 19.5.1 Unauthorised absences of at least 10 consecutive school sessions (five school days).
  - 19.5.2 Sessions either side of a weekend or school holiday will be counted as consecutive school days.
  - 19.5.3 For poorly attending learners, at least 10 sessions (five school days) lost due to unauthorised absence during a school term. These do not need to be consecutive.
  - 19.5.4 For poorly attending learners, persistent late arrival at school in a term. Persistent means at least 10 sessions of late arrival.
  - 19.5.5 The presence of an excluded child in a public place in the child's first five days of exclusion (N.B. points 2 to 4 do not apply where a FPN is issued for an excluded pupil in a public place.)
- 19.6 The school must notify parents of the Attendance Policy and clearly state that parents may receive an FPN for an unauthorised leave of absence relating to holiday in term time.
- 19.7 Schools and the Education Welfare Services will take into account any exceptional circumstances when determining whether to issue a FPN.

## 20. APPENDIX 2: What does 'percentage attendance' mean?

Parents/carers should be advised that from September 2015 the Government have categorised those pupils who have attendance of 90% and below as 'Persistent Absence' pupils (P.A.). RSA will be specifically targeting this cohort of pupils, in an effort to improve their attendance in the future. The table below shows the learning time lost against percentage attendance figures.

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	18 Sessions	1.4 Weeks	45 Lessons
90%	19 Days	38 Sessions	3.4 Weeks	95 Lessons
85%	29 Days	58 Sessions	5.4 Weeks	145 Lessons
80%	36 Days	72 Sessions	7.1 Weeks	180 Lessons
75%	48 Days	96 Sessions	9.3 Weeks	240 Lessons



## 21. APPENDIX 3: Absence Codes:

According to the DfE guidance the following codes are used on the register. New Attendance Codes from 19th August 2024

**Attending a place other than the school** - These codes are classified for statistical purposes as attending an approved educational activity.

Code K	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority
Code V	Attending an educational visit or trip
Code P	Participating in a sporting activity
Code W	Attending work experience
Code B	Attending any other approved educational activity
Code D	Dual registered at another school

**Absent leave of absence** - These codes are classified for statistical purposes as authorised absence.

Code C1	Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad.
Code M	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending a medical or dental appointment
Code J1	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution
Code S	Leave of absence for the purpose of studying for a public examination
Code X	Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school
Code C2	Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable
Code C	Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance

**Absent - other authorised reasons** - These codes are classified for statistical purposes as authorised absence.

Code T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes
Code R	Religious observance
Code I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)
Code E	Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made

**Absent - unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause.** - These codes are classified for statistical purposes as not a possible attendance

Code Q	Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements
Code Y1	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available
Code Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel
Code Y3	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed
Code Y4	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed
Code Y5	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention
Code Y6	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law
Code Y7	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause

**Absent - unauthorised absence** - These codes are classified for statistical purposes as unauthorised absence.

Code G	Leave of absence not granted by the school
Code N	Reason for absence not yet established
Code O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances
Code U	Arrived in school after registration closed