

Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE POLICY

REVIEWED: September 2018

Date of Policy: 23rd October 2018

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Goole Academy

- We work in partnership with parents
- We have inclusive principles
- We work in an atmosphere of mutual respect and consideration

In our Academy there is the right to:

- **Learn** in an encouraging environment
- Feel **safe** and cared for in the Academy
- **Achieve** the best qualifications possible
- **Enjoy** time in the Academy
- **Know** that any adult in the Academy can be approached for help, advice or guidance

For students to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they accept our minimal expectations which are:

- **Attend the Academy regularly**
- Are **punctual**, arriving to the Academy and lessons on time
- Have the correct equipment and attitude for learning

WHY REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's education and regular absence will seriously affect their learning. Any student's absence disrupts teaching and learning routines, so may affect the learning of others in the same class.

Ensuring regular attendance is a parent's legal responsibility and permitting absence from the Academy without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.

PROMOTING REGULAR ATTENDANCE

Helping to create a pattern of regular attendance is everybody's responsibility, parents, students and all members of staff.

There is a clear understanding by all staff of the links between behaviour, attendance and student progress and attainment.

TO HELP US ALL FOCUS ON THIS WE WILL:

- Report to parents half-termly on attendance and punctuality
- Celebrate and reward good attendance in a number of ways
- Work and meet with parents to raise attendance levels across the Academy
- Support and guide parents with any issues

UNDERSTANDING TYPES OF ABSENCE

Every half day absence from the Academy has to be classified by the Academy (not by the parents), as either **AUTHORISED** or **UNAUTHORISED**. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required, preferably by telephoning the Academy on the first day of absence, or a note from parent/carer. **Please note that the Academy does have an answer machine service so that messages can be left out of Academy hours.**

Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from the Academy for a reason like illness, medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall in Academy time. Any other unavoidable causes are at the discretion of the Academy in line with government legislation to authorise. However wherever possible appointments should be made out of Academy hours or towards the end of the Academy day in order to

prevent loss of learning. The Academy can and does request medical evidence to support such appointments or absence if they are made on a frequent basis and will unauthorise if it is not received. Illness of over 2 days may not be authorised without medical evidence.

During an academic year, when a student has had three separate illness related absences, any subsequent absence may not be authorised unless evidence is provided. This could be in the form of a date stamped compliment slip confirming your visit, or prescription or medicine bottle. Please note that the Academy is not asking any parent to incur a charge for such information and will not be liable for the cost.

Unauthorised absences are those which the Academy does not consider reasonable and for which no "leave" has been given. This type of absence can lead to the Local Authority using sanctions and/or legal proceedings. This includes: (Please note this list is not exhaustive)

- Parents/carers keeping children off from the Academy unnecessarily
- Truancy before or during the Academy day
- Absences which have never been properly explained
- Students who arrive in the Academy too late to get a mark
- Shopping, birthdays, hair appointments or looking after other children or family member.
- Day trips and holidays in term time.
- Not having the correct school uniform
- Visits from relatives

If your child is reluctant to attend the Academy, or is having any problems with irregular attendance then this is best sorted out between the Academy, the parents and the child.

We do request that parents do not keep their child off with minor ailments such as a headache, period pain or slight cold.

If there are any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact Miss Smith, Attendance Leader, or your child's Learning Manager who will be pleased to help.

PERSISTENT ABSENCE (PA)

A student becomes a 'persistent absentee' when they miss 10% or more of their attendance across the academic year for whatever reason. Absence at this level is doing considerable damage to any young person's educational prospects. As an Academy we need parents' full support and co-operation to tackle this.

Absence is monitored thoroughly. Any case that is seen to have reached the PA mark or is at risk of moving towards that mark, parents/ carers will be immediately informed.

PA students are tracked and monitored carefully through our attendance system and we also combine this with academic tracking as absence affects progress and attainment. An Action Plan is completed for each student.

All our potential PA students and students with less than 90% attendance are automatically made known to the Local Authority every term

ABSENCE PROCEDURES

If your child is absent you must:

- Contact the Academy by 8.15am on the first day of absence and any subsequent days they are absent. This can be either by phone 01405 768621 option 2 (we do have a voicemail), email (info@gooleacademy.org.uk) or using the Academy text message service.

If your child is absent and we have not received a reason we will:

- Telephone or text on the first day of absence.
- Make a home visit

EDUCATION PENALTY NOTICES

From September 2018 our attendance procedures are changing in line with the Local Authority. Education Penalty Notices (EPN)'s can now be issued for irregular attendance.

They can be issued if the child has had a 4 or more sessions of absence in a period of no more than 6 weeks and meets the terms of a prosecution under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 and the school/Council has previously issued a warning letter giving the opportunity to improve attendance over a 15 day period.

The child has 4 sessions of unauthorised leave of absence in term time and the Principal has advised the parent in writing that the leave of absence does not constitute the Principals view of an exceptional circumstance.

The child has taken leave of absence in term time without parents requesting authorisation from the Academy.

Exclusion has taken place and the parent has allowed the child to be present in a public place during school hours, without reasonable justification, during the first five days of a fixed or permanent exclusion.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

There are times when we need to contact parents/carers about lots of things, for example if your child is unwell or we need to make contact if your child has an unexplained absence, so we need to have your up to date contact numbers at all times.

Please note: no student is sent home unwell without making contact with a parent or carer. We expect all students to be collected by an adult when they are unwell.

CONCERN WITH ATTENDANCE

If we have a concern regarding your child's attendance, we will:-

- Contact with you either via phone
- Send out a letter
- Make a home visit

If attendance continues to decline, we will invite you into the Academy to complete an Attendance Support Plan. Your child will then be placed on an Attendance Support Plan, which will be monitored on a weekly basis by one of the attendance team. Following any further unauthorised absences, the Academy will send out an Education warning letter. If following this letter your child has any further time of from the Academy which is unauthorised, a referral will be made to the Local Authority for statutory intervention. This could mean either an Education Penalty Notice or prosecution.

LATENESS

Poor punctuality is not acceptable. If your son/daughter misses the start of the day they can miss work and do not spend time with their Form Tutor getting vital information and news for the day. Late arriving students also disrupt the learning in lessons. It can be embarrassing for the child and can encourage absence. We expect all students to be on site at 8:15am.

How we manage lateness:

The Academy day starts at **8.25am** and we expect all students to be in class at that time. If a student arrives into the Academy after **8.25am** they **MUST** report to Student Reception to sign in.

Students who are late to the Academy after **8.25am** will be issued with an hour's detention. A detention sticker will be given to the student to put in their planner, If the student already has a detention for that particular day, then it will be re-arranged for the next available day depending on whether they have detentions already.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

In line with the Governments new legislation effective from 1st September 2013 no requests for holidays can be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.

For the Academy to consider exceptional circumstances a leave of absence form must be submitted at least four weeks before the proposed start of the holiday and booking the holiday. For the Academy to consider exceptional circumstances the request must be put in writing together with any supporting evidence. A meeting or phone call will then take place to discuss the request.

All holidays will be classed as unauthorised, unless you receive confirmation in writing from the Academy that the holiday has been authorised. There are no exceptions.

All holidays that are unauthorised will be referred to the Local Authority to issue an Education Penalty Notice. When an Education Penalty Notice is issued, the penalty is £60 per child, per parent/carer when the payment is made within 21 days, after 28 days it will increase to £120. Failure to pay within 28 days will result in a summons to appear before the Magistrates Court on the grounds that the parent/carer has failed to secure their child's regular attendance at the Academy. Please note that a separate **Education Penalty** Notice will be issued to each parent for each child and all monies are payable to the Local Authority.

Please also be aware that any subsequent unauthorised leave of absence may not be subject to a penalty notice as it would be classed as an aggravated offence and East Riding of Yorkshire Council may use a caution of prosecution for a repeat offence.

ACADEMY TARGETS

The Academy has targets to improve attendance and you have a vital part to play in meeting these targets. Whilst we strive for every student to achieve 100% attendance the minimum level of attendance for this Academy is **97%** attendance and we will keep you updated regularly about progress to this level and how your daughter's/son's attendance compares.

Our target is to achieve better than this however, because we know that good attendance is the key to successful education.

Through the academic year we monitor absences and punctuality to show us where improvements need to be made.

Those people responsible for attendance matters in this Academy are:

Attendance Leader: Laura Smith (first point of call)

Year 7	Mrs Sandra Shaw	Year Leader
Year 8	Mrs Lesley Appleyard	Year Leader
Year 9	Mrs Sarah Champion	Year Leader
Year 10	Mrs Joanne Pepper	Year Leader
Year 11	Mrs Mandy Raspin	Year Leader

Vice Principal Graeme Levitt

SUMMARY

Parents have a duty to make sure that their children attend school.

All Academy staff are committed to working with parents and students as the best way to ensure as high level of attendance as possible.