EYFS Sleep and Rest Policy

Scope:	EYFS Department
Release date:	September 2026
Author:	Assistant Deputy Head – Prep School
Reviewer:	Senior Deputy Head – Prep School
Approval body:	Board of Directors *(released pending ratification at Michaelmas Term Edcomm Meeting)*
Review date:	September 2027

Acronyms

SDHP	Senior Deputy Head Prep School
ADHP	Assistant Deputy Head Prep School

Availability

This Policy is available to parents and prospective parents on the School website, and a printed copy may be requested from the School Office / Pupil Services Team.

Definition

Applies to children aged 2–4 years.

This Policy reflects current safer sleep guidance from the Department for Education and The Lullaby Trust (2026) and is written in line with EYFS safeguarding requirements.

Edition Changes

September 2026	New policy

Policy Statement

Wisbech Grammar School Prep is committed to ensuring that all children are provided with a safe, calm and nurturing sleep and rest environment that supports their health, development and wellbeing. Sleep arrangements are treated as a safeguarding matter and are managed in line with current safer sleep guidance and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Legal Framework

This Policy is informed by:

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework,
- Department for Education Safer Sleep Guidance (2026),
- The Lullaby Trust safer sleep advice.

Sleep and Rest Arrangements

Children aged 2–4 years are offered opportunities to rest or sleep according to their individual needs. Sleep is never forced. Children who do not sleep are supported to rest quietly. All sleep systems used are suitable for the age and development of the child.

Safe Sleep Position

Initial sleep position

- Children under 2 (including 2 year olds) must always be placed on their back when put down to sleep.
- This applies at the start of every sleep, including naps.
- If a child rolls themselves onto their side or front during sleep, staff do not need to reposition them, provided they can move freely themselves.

Staff ensure that children's heads remain uncovered at all times during sleep.

Child positioning within the bed

The child should be placed:

- centrally on the mattress,
- with feet free, not restricted,
- with head completely uncovered.

If blankets are used:

- bedding must be firmly tucked,
- positioned below the shoulders.

Children must **not** be tucked tightly or propped.

Sleep Environment and Equipment

Each child has their own separate sleep space. Sleep surfaces are clear, flat and firm, such as a low bed or suitable floor mattress. Sleep spaces contain only a firm, flat, waterproof mattress.

Bedding and Comfort

Lightweight bedding may be used and must be securely tucked below shoulder height. A well-fitted sleep bag may be used in line with manufacturer guidance. Pillows, duvets, loose blankets, toys, sleep pods, beanbags, cushions and soft furnishings are not permitted. Comforters are considered on an individual risk assessment basis.

Temperature and Clothing

Sleep areas are well ventilated and maintained at a comfortable temperature. Children are regularly checked to ensure they are not overheating or too cold. Outdoor clothing is removed before sleep.

Supervision and Sleep Checks

All sleeping children are supervised at all times and are within sight and hearing of staff. Children are checked frequently throughout their sleep period. This is recorded on sleep record sheets.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff are responsible for following this policy and current safer sleep guidance. Staff receive appropriate training and updates. Any unsafe practices or concerns are immediately reported to the ADHP or SDHP.

Partnership with Parents

Information about children's sleep routines is shared with parents and carers. Parents are informed of the setting's safer sleep practices. Individual sleep needs are discussed and agreed in partnership with families.

Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually or following any updates to national guidance.

Aims

This is the Attendance Policy of Wisbech Grammar School.

The School aspires to high levels of attendance from all pupils. Good attendance is essential for all pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, well-being and wider life chances.

The aims of this Policy are as follows:

- To develop and maintain a whole school culture that promotes the benefits of good attendance,
- To ensure, so far as possible, that every pupil in the school is able to benefit from and make their full contribution to the life of the School,
- To prioritise and where possible improve attendance and punctuality across the School, reduce absence and set out the School's approach to the management of absence / non-attendance,
- To recognise the linkages between attendance / absence and pupil wellbeing, specifically ensuring a consistent whole school approach to safeguarding; and
- To help to promote a whole school culture of safety, equality and protection.

Scope and Application

This Policy applies to the whole School, including the Early Years Foundation Stage [EYFS).

This Policy is designed to address the specific statutory obligations on the School to record attendance and absence.

Regulatory Framework

This Policy has been prepared to meet the School's responsibilities under:

- Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014;
- National minimum standards for boarding schools (Department for Education (DfE), September 2022);
- EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (DfE, January 2024);
- Education and Skills Act 2008;
- Children Act 1989;
- Childcare Act 2006;
- Sponsorship Duties (UKVI, May 2025);
- The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024;
- Equality Act 2010; and
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

This Policy has regard to the following guidance and advice:

- Working together to improve school attendance (DfE, August 2024);
- Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance (DfE, August 2024);
- Toolkit for schools: communicating with families to support attendance (DfE, August 2024);
- Guidance for Parents on school attendance (Office of the Children's Commissioner, July 2024);
- 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance (NHS, April 2024);
- Keeping children safe in education (DfE, September 2025);
- Children missing education (DfE, August 2024);
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school (DfE, August 2017);
- Behaviour in schools: advice for headteachers and school staff (DfE, February 2024);
- Mental health and behaviour in schools (DfE, November 2018);
- Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools (DfE, February 2023);
- Support for pupils where a mental health issue is affecting attendance (DfE, February 2023);
- Providing Remote education: guidance for schools (DfE, updated August 2024); and
- SEND Code of practice: 0 to 25 years (DfE and Department of Health, May 2015).

Where the following words or phrases are used in this Policy:

- References to attendance include references to attendance for all or part of the timetabled school day.
- References to the Proprietor are references to the board of Directors.
- References to a Parent means:
  a) all natural parents, whether they are married or not;

b) any person who has parental responsibility for a pupil; and

c) any person who has day to day responsibility for a pupil (i.e. lives with and looks after a pupil).

- References to a pupil includes anyone who is receiving an education at the school except a person who is 19 or over for whom further education is being provided, or a person for whom part-time education suitable for people over compulsory school age is being provided.
- SAC means the School's attendance champion.

Responsibility statement and allocation of tasks

The Proprietor has overall responsibility for all matters which are the subject of this Policy.

The Proprietor recognises that improving attendance is a school leadership issue and has appointed a designated senior leader in both the Senior School and Prep School to have overall responsibility for championing and improving attendance in School, referred to in this Policy as the SAC.

To ensure the efficient discharge of its responsibilities under this Policy, the Proprietor has allocated the following tasks:

Task	Allocated to	When / frequency of review
Keeping the policy up to date and compliant with the law and best practice	SACs	As required, and at least termly
Monitoring the implementation of the policy	SACs	As required, and at least termly
Analysing attendance and absence data	SACs	As required, and at least termly
Seeking input from interested groups (such as pupils, staff, Parents) to consider improvements to the School's processes under the policy	SACs	As required, and at least annually
Formal annual review	Proprietor	Annually

The importance of good attendance

The School recognises the importance of developing good patterns of attendance from the outset. This is an integral part of the School's ethos and culture. In building a culture of good school attendance it recognises:

- The importance of good attendance, alongside good behaviour, as a central part of the school's vision, values, ethos, and day to day life;
- The interplay between attendance and wider school improvement efforts, building it into strategies on attainment, behaviour, bullying, special educational needs support, supporting pupils with medical conditions and / or disabilities, mental health issues, safeguarding wellbeing, and support for disadvantaged pupils;
- The importance of setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils and communicating these regularly and effectively to pupils and parents;
- That attendance is never "solved" and is a continuous process requiring revision and updating of messages, processes and strategies; and
- Children missing education can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues, including neglect, sexual abuse and child sexual and criminal exploitation.

School Responsibilities

The School acknowledges that attendance is the essential foundation to securing positive outcomes for all pupils and that everyone has a responsibility to take proactive steps to manage and improve attendance across the School community.

The School will consistently promote the benefits of good attendance, setting high expectations for every pupil and consistently communicating those expectations to pupils and parents.

Where there are challenges to attendance, the School will work effectively and respectfully with pupils, their families and, where appropriate, local authorities to address them.

The School will respond to non-attendance and / or lateness proactively, firmly, consistently and with care, with appropriate reference to this Policy, its safeguarding and behaviour policies and the School's terms and conditions. It will act in a proportionate and targeted way in response to data or intelligence and ensure intervention is regularly reviewed.

The School will have robust systems in place to track and record attendance, reasons for absence and patterns at an individual level and by cohorts or groups in order to identify pupils at risk of non-attendance and those who are persistently absent and it will monitor and analyse this data regularly to facilitate early intervention to address issues.

Staff Responsibilities

The SACs

The Proprietor has appointed a senior member of staff from both Prep and Senior School as SACs. All SACs will be part of the School's Senior Team. The SACs have overall responsibility for championing and improving attendance in their area of the School (Prep/Senior) . Details of the individuals appointed are at the front of this policy and are widely publicised within School.

The SAC's responsibilities are:

- To set a clear vision for improving attendance in their part of the School;
- To establish and maintain effective systems for tackling absence and make sure the systems are followed by all staff;
- To regularly monitor and evaluate progress, including the efficacy of the school's strategies and processes;
- To have oversight of and analyse attendance data; and
- To communicate clear messages on the importance of attendance to pupils and Parents in their area of the School.

Staff with specific responsibilities for attendance[1]:

The staff identified in Appendix 1 of this Policy have day to day responsibility for monitoring and promoting good attendance and punctuality. They should:

- Have a formal routine for registers being taken accurately each morning and afternoon;
- Record all absences promptly and accurately using the processes specified;
- Seek explanations of absences required from pupils on their return to school;
- Make enquiries about unexplained absences, including those within the school day, and follow up with pupil to ensure that an explanation has been formally given to the School;
- Look out for trends or patterns in a pupil's attendance and inform the SAC of any specific concerns;
- Deal with lateness to lessons consistently and promptly;
- Consider appropriate sanctions for pupils who arrive late to a lesson in line with the School's behaviour and discipline policies; and
- Discuss non-attendance and / or lateness with pupils and parents (where possible) and emphasise the importance of punctuality and attendance.

[1] The School should provide information and contact details of the staff who pupils and parents should contact about attendance on a day to day basis (such as a form tutor, head of year etc) and for more detailed support on attendance (such as a head of year, pastoral lead or family liaison officer etc) in Appendix 1

All staff

The School ensures that all teaching and non-teaching staff know the importance of good attendance and are consistent in their communication with pupils and Parents about it.

The School provides appropriate training and professional development for staff consistent with their roles and responsibilities.

School arrangements

The School will accurately complete admission and attendance registers and have effective day to day processes in place to follow-up absence. These registers must be kept electronically. Contact details of relevant staff can be found at the front of the policy and other details about the School's arrangements can be found in Appendices 1-3.

Monitoring attendance

The School will undertake regular data analysis to identify and provide additional support to pupils or pupil cohorts that need it, and to look at historic and emerging patterns across the School and develop strategies to address them. Such analysis may include:

- Monitoring and analysing weekly attendance patterns and trends and provide support in a targeted way to pupils and families;
- Using this analysis to provide regular attendance reports to class teachers to facilitate discussions with pupils and to leaders (including the special educational needs coordinator and designated safeguarding lead);
- Undertaking frequent individual level analysis to identify pupils who need support and focus staff efforts on developing targeting actions for those cases;[2]
- Conducting thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full year data to identify patterns and trends;
- Benchmarking attendance data at whole school, year group and cohort level to identify areas of focus for improvement;
- Devising specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data;
- Monitoring the impact of school-wide attendance efforts, including any specific strategies implemented; and
- Providing data and reports to the Proprietor to support its work.

[2] See paragraph 45 of Working together to improve school attendance 2024

Pupil Responsibilities

School attendance is important to pupil attainment, wellbeing and development. The School therefore has high expectations of pupils as to their attendance and has systems in place to reward good attendance and manage poor attendance.

Pupils should be aware that:

- They are expected to be present in-person for the duration of each School day;
- They are expected to arrive on time and attend all timetabled lessons;
- They should not leave a lesson or the School site without permission or otherwise in accordance with School rules;
- They should engage with the School's arrangements for recording and managing attendance as set out in this Policy;
- Any unexplained absence will be followed up;
- Persistent lateness or non-attendance will result in action being taken by the School. This may take the form of:
    - (a) Offers of support to seek to identify and address any barriers to attendance;
    - (b) Communication with parents;
    - (c) Reporting to other agencies such as children's social care; and
    - (d) Sanctions against them or their parents in line with the School's Behaviour Policies/Parent School Contract.

If pupils are having difficulties that might discourage or prevent them from attending School or specific lessons regularly, they may speak to any member of staff, although the School encourages them to speak to their Form Tutor or those staff identified in Appendix 1 in the first instance. Pupils are entitled to expect this information to be managed sensitively.

Additional needs

The School recognises some pupils may find it harder than others to attend School, and will work with those pupils and parents to try to remove barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and working together to put the right support in place.

The School will make reasonable adjustments[3] where a pupil has a disability that puts them at a substantial disadvantage, in comparison with pupils without a disability, in relation to school attendance.

It will also work with parents, and where appropriate with the local authority, to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities e.g. ensuring the provision outlined in a pupil's education, health and care plan is accessed.[4]

[3] In this case to meet the school's duty to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with a disability under section 20 of the Equality Act 2010.

[4] The Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools states in the non-statutory summary of responsibilities document that 'in many cases the school may be able to agree with parents / carers adjustments to its policies and practices that are consistent with the special educational provision set out in the EHC plan. In other cases, additional or different attendance support identified may require the LA to review or amend an EHC plan.'

Where a pupil has an education, health and care plan the School will communicate with the local authority where the pupil's attendance falls or the School become aware of barriers to attendance that relate to the pupil's needs.

Suitable strategies and support will also be considered for pupils with any social, emotional or mental health issue that is affecting their attendance[5].

Where barriers are outside of the School's control, the School will work with parents and pupils to identify alternative sources of support or consider, where appropriate, making a referral for early help.

The School will make a sickness return to the local authority if a pupil is recorded in the attendance register as absent using the national absence code I (unable to attend because of sickness) and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil will have to miss 15 consecutive or cumulative school days or more for illness or the pupil's total number of school days missed during the current school year because of illness (whether consecutive or cumulative) will reach or exceed 15 school days.[6]

[5] See Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools which includes a Summary of responsibilities where a mental health issue is affecting attendance and Support for pupils where mental health is affecting attendance: effective practice examples

[6] See paragraph 57 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024

Parent / Carer Responsibilities

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education.

This means pupils must attend every day that the School is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the School.

The School will help parents to understand what is expected of them and why attendance is important to their child's attainment, wellbeing, and wider development and provide clarity on the short and long term consequences of poor attendance.

Expectations the School places on parents can be found in Appendix 1 of this Policy.

Parents are bound by the terms relating to conduct and attendance in the parent school contract and failure to ensure a child's attendance or engage with the School about it could amount to a breach of contract or a finding that the parent is treating the School unreasonably.

Training

Staff

The School ensures that regular guidance and training on attendance is arranged on induction and at regular intervals thereafter so that staff and volunteers understand what is expected of them by this policy and have the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out their roles. As a minimum this will include all staff understanding:

- The importance of good attendance and that absence is almost always a symptom of wider circumstances; and
- The School's strategies and procedures for tracking, following up and improving attendance.

Dedicated attendance training is provided to any member of staff with a specified attendance function in their role, including administrative, pastoral or family support staff and senior leaders. This should include:

- The law and requirements of schools including on the keeping of registers;
- The process for working with other partners to provide more intensive support to pupils who need it;
- The necessary skills to interpret and analyse attendance data; and
- Any additional training that would be beneficial to support pupils and pupil cohorts overcome commonly seen barriers to attendance.

The School maintains written records of all staff training.

Information sharing

Personal information on attendance will only be shared in line with legal obligations and having regard to government guidance on attendance, safeguarding and children persistently missing education.

The School, local authorities and other local partners should work jointly and share data on individual cases where it is of benefit to a pupil (e.g. health services where there are medical conditions or the police where there are risks outside the home).

Where appropriate the school will attend regular targeting support meetings.[7]

[7] Targeting support meetings are meetings local authorities have with schools to discuss attendance data and identify pupils and cohorts at risk of poor attendance and agree targeted actions and access to services for those pupils. See chapter 4 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024.

The School is legally required to share information from the registers with the local authority. As a minimum this includes:

- New pupil and deletion returns;
- Attendance returns[8];
- Sickness returns.

The law allows local authority officers access to the attendance and admission registers of all types of schools to carry out their functions under the Education Acts to support joint working between schools and local authorities. These officers are also permitted to take digital or physical extracts of the School's registers.

The School must provide specific pupil information on request to the Secretary of State. The School meets this requirement by having an electronic management information system – SIMS - containing the required information that can be accessed by the DfE[9]. The School also uses this tool to monitor pupil level attendance and understand trends in attendance patterns.

Where appropriate, the School is expected to inform a pupil's social worker and/or youth offending team worker if there are unexplained absences.

[8] Schools are required to provide attendance returns to the local authority with the names and addresses of all pupils of compulsory school age who fail to attend school regularly or have been recorded as absent for a continuous period of ten school days where their absence has been recorded with one or more of the national attendance codes (G, N, O, and/or U). Individual local authorities must agree the frequency that attendance returns are to be provided with all schools in their area. This should be no less frequently than once per calendar month - see chapter 2 and content on sharing information in the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024

[9] Local authorities may seek, and schools are expected to provide, more frequent or comprehensive sharing of data than the statutory minimum where it is essential to fulfilling their obligations under the Education Acts and expectations set out in chapter 4 of the Working together to improve school attendance 2024 guidance. To avoid any unnecessary burdens for schools this should always be automatic from school registers and not require additional manual data collection/returns (see paragraph 50 of the guidance). Independent schools should note that they are not required to provide the specific pupil information on request to the Secretary of State relating to sharing daily pupil attendance data (see paragraph 52 of the guidance). We recommend independent schools consult their information management system providers for more details about the relevant permissions and accessible data..

Record keeping and confidentiality

All records created in accordance with this Policy are managed in accordance with the School's policies that apply to the retention and destruction of records.

The information created in connection with this Policy may contain personal data. The School's use of this personal data will be in accordance with data protection law. The School has published privacy notices on its website which explain how the School will use personal data.

Appendix 1 - School Arrangements[10]

Managing attendance

The School monitors, records and shares data about pupil attendance and as part of its duty to safeguard and protect pupils and promote attendance. It accurately completes admission and attendance registers[11] as required by law and set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 respectively. The admission and attendance registers must be kept electronically and retained by the School for the relevant time period as stated by law.

The School expects all pupils to be present at School for the whole of the School day, usually from registration at 0830 to close at 1610 (Senior School) and 1530 (Prep School), but this period may be extended, for example for out of school clubs, sports fixtures or school trips.

The role of parents / carers

The School expects all parents to:

- Make any application for an authorised leave of absence at the earliest opportunity;
- Notify the School of any absence or delay as soon as reasonably possible in accordance with this Policy and when doing so, give an accurate explanation for this; and
- Cooperate with the School to explore possible barriers to attendance and to improve it where attendance has been raised as an issue.

Parents of day pupils should ensure their child attends School by 0830 for morning registration.

Parents of boarding and homestay pupils should ensure their child returns to their boarding accommodation or homestay placement by 2130 on Sunday before the beginning of the school week. The School has a reporting duty to UKVI as outlined on pages 64-73 of their student sponsorship guidance Sponsorship Duties or if, due to continued absence, the School suspects that a pupil will not be able to successfully complete their studies at Wisbech Grammar School.

Registration and attendance checks

Morning registration is at 0830. The registers will remain open for 10 minutes after the start of morning registration.

Afternoon registration will be at 1340 (Senior School) and 1245 (Prep School).

Once the morning and afternoon registers close, a pupil will be recorded as absent if not present in the classroom/lesson.

If a pupil is absent when the register has started being taken but arrives before the register is closed they will be recorded as a late arrival (code L).

[10] The School should tailor this section to ensure that its arrangements are set out clearly
[11] Boarding schools without day pupils are not required to keep an attendance register. Schools with a mixture of day pupils and boarders must keep an attendance register for the day pupils.

If a pupil arrives after the register has closed but before the end of the session without a satisfactory explanation e.g. because of an unavoidable cause, then this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence (code U) and the reasons given/not given will be recorded.

Senior School Registers will also be called at the beginning of each lesson in order to identify and follow-up on absences from lessons that might occur after morning or afternoon registration.

The School uses SIMS[12].

Reporting absence

If a pupil is to be absent from school for any reason, the parent / carer should contact the School via the following means; the parent portal / email / telephone by 0830 on first morning of absence.

Where a pupil is ill, the School should be notified of the nature of the illness.

Arrangements for reporting subsequent absence

Absence will be recorded on the Attendance Register as set out in Appendix 3.

Managing absence

Attendance at Wisbech Grammar School may be managed through any of the following strategies, though the school's response to each case of absence will be personalised to the pupil and circumstances:

- Phone calls home from Tutor/Class Teacher/Head of Year/ Senior Team;
- Sending letters to parents or carers via Heads of Year and Senior Team;
- Fortnightly Attendance reports;
- Fortnightly Lateness Reports;
- Meetings with Pupil and their family;
- Appropriate sanctions - under the behaviour policy with pupils or consultation with parents;
- Returning Pupils will be supported by their Tutor/Class Teacher/ Pastoral Team to ensure they manage their workload and maintain their attendance.

Authorised absences

Authorised absence means that the School has either given approval in advance for a pupil to be away (granted an authorised leave of absence) or has accepted an explanation offered afterwards as justification for absence.13

[12] There is no requirement for the policy to specify which systems it uses, however we have retained this wording should schools wish to include this level of detail.
[13] A leave of absence may be granted by the Head or other person the authorised to do so by the proprietor. While the guidance is not specific on this point we recommend it is a member of the school leadership team

Applications for an authorised leave of absence

Applications for authorised leaves of absence during the School day will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and will only be permitted if made in writing to the Senior Deputy Prep and Headmaster/Senior Deputy in the Senior school at office@wisbechgrammar.com

The School will consider each application for an authorised leave of absence individually, taking into account the specific facts and circumstances, the pupil's past attendance record and the relevant background context behind the request.

Apart from illness or where there are additional needs, no pupil should be away from School without prior permission from the Headmaster/appropriate Senior Deputy Head (Senior/Prep)

Dental or medical appointments should be made where possible during School holidays or after the school day except in cases of emergency when office@wisbechgrammar.com should be informed.

If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the Headmaster or appropriate Senior Deputy to grant permission to determine the length of the time the pupil is or was permitted to be away from School. It will be recorded as an authorised absence. See section 3 of Appendix 3 for more details.

A leave of absence will usually be authorised for religious observance if the day concerned is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which parents and pupils belong. Parents are expected to make a request for this type of leave of absence in advance.

Term dates are published in advance in order that holidays can be arranged without disrupting a pupil's education. Please note that Directors' will not allow holidays to be taken during term, unless there are exceptional circumstances

Reporting duties

The School has statutory reporting obligations if a pupil fails to regularly attendance their absence is unauthorised. The School must report unauthorised absences for a continuous period of 10 days or more to the local authority.

In the event that a pupil holding a Student or Child Student visa sponsored by the School under the Points Based System goes missing[14], the School will report to UKVI if the pupil misses ten consecutive expected contact points.

Each time the School's attendance register is completed it is treated as a contact point for these purposes.[15]

The report will be made by the School's Level 1 user via the Sponsor Management and in accordance with prevailing UKVI guidance.

[14] Children being absent from school, particularly repeatedly and / or for prolonged periods and children missing education, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding issues, including exploitation. Exploitation can affect any child, however international students may be at greater risk than other children. UKVI's Student Sponsor Guidance states that a school must have appropriate policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety, wellbeing and protection from exploitation of the children whom it sponsors to study in the UK under the Child Student route.

[15] The School may wish to insert its own definition of contact points e.g. just morning registration

Action will also be taken in accordance with the Missing Persons Policy and Missing Child Policy (Prep) and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy if any absence of a pupil from the School gives rise to a concern about their welfare.

Appendix 2 - Admission Register

Admission register

In accordance with the requirements of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 the School will:

- Maintain an admission register of all pupils (of both compulsory and non-compulsory school age) admitted to the School (also known as the school roll); and
- Inform the local authority of any pupil who is going to be added to or deleted from the School's admission register at non-standard transition points.

The admission register must be kept electronically and a back-up copy of the register is made at least once a month in the form of an electronic or printed copy.

The School must ensure that every entry in the School's admission register is preserved for six years beginning with the day on which the entry was made; and every back-up copy of the register is preserved for six years after the end of the school year that it relates to.

The admissions register contains specific personal details of every pupil in the School, including their date of admission, information regarding parents and carers and details of the school they last attended and in the case of boarding schools whether each pupil of compulsory school age is a boarder or day pupil.[16]

A pupil's name can only be deleted from the admission register for a reason set out in regulation 9 of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. When any of the situations set out in regulation 9 occurs, the pupil's name must be deleted.[17]

Where the School notifies the local authority that the pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register, the School must provide it with the following information:

- The full name of the pupil;
- The address of the pupil;
- The full name and address of any parent the pupil normally lives with;
- At least one telephone number of any parent with whom the pupil lives or can be contacted in an emergency;
- The pupil's future address, the full name and address of the parent who the pupil is going to live with, and the date the pupil is expected to start living there, if applicable;
- Name of the pupil's other or future school and pupil's start date or expected start date there, if applicable.
- The ground (prescribed in regulation 9) under which the pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register.

[16] Regulation 8 of The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 specifies what information must be included in the admissions register. See also chapter 7 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024

[17] Schools must refer to regulation 9 of The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 for full details of the legal grounds for deleting a pupil from the registers. See also chapter 7 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024.

Appendix 3 - Attendance Register

Attendance register

The School records and monitors the attendance of all pupils (both of compulsory and non-compulsory school age) including boarders in accordance with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) (Regulations) 2024.[18]

The School uses the appropriate national attendance and absence codes system to enable it to record and monitor attendance and absence in a consistent way which complies with regulation 10 of the Attendance Regulations.

The attendance register is kept electronically and a back-up copy of the register is made at least once a month in the form of an electronic or printed copy.[19]

The School will also use these records to identify patterns of poor attendance (at individual and cohort level) and work with pupils and parents to resolve any issues before they become entrenched.

The School is required by law to take attendance registers twice daily - once at the start of the morning session and once during the afternoon session.

On each occasion it will be recorded whether every pupil with the exception of a pupil who is a boarder is:

- Physically present in school when the attendance register begins to be taken; or
- Absent from the school when the attendance register begins to be taken but attends before the taking of the register has ended; or
- Attending a place other than the school; or
- Absent.

The circumstances in which a pupil may be recorded as attending a place, other than the School, can include:

- Attending educational provision arranged by a local authority;
- For an educational visit or trip arranged by or on behalf of the school and supervised by a member of school staff;
- Attending a place for an approved educational activity that is a sporting activity;
- Attending an approved educational activity that is work experience provided under arrangements made by the school as part of the pupil's education;
- Attending a place for any other approved educational activity.

[18] Regulation 10 of The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 specifies what information must be included in the attendance register. See also chapter 8 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024

[19] Registers are legal records and the School must preserve every entry in the attendance or admission register for 6 years from the date that the data was entered.

Recording absence

Absence will be recorded in accordance with the national absence codes set out in regulation 10 of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) (Regulations) 2024 and statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance relating to:

- Leaves of absence;
- Other authorised reasons;
- Unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause;
- Unauthorised absence.[20]

Remote education

The School is required to record all absence from in-person lessons.

The School may, in limited circumstances, provide remote education to enable pupils, who are well enough to learn but unable to attend the School site, to keep pace with their education.

In the limited circumstances when the School decides to use remote education for individual pupils when they are absent, the following will be considered:

- Ensuring mutual agreement of remote education by the School, parents or carers, potentially pupils, and if appropriate a relevant medical professional. If the pupil has an Education, Health and Care plan or has a social worker, the local authority should also be involved in the decision;
- If remote education is being used as part of a plan to reintegrate back to school, putting a formal arrangement in place to review its efficacy regularly, alongside identifying what other support and flexibilities can be put in place to help ease the pupil back to school at the earliest opportunity;
- Setting a time limit within which the period of remote education provision should be reviewed, with the aim that the pupil returns to in person education with the required support in place to meet their needs.

Pupils who are absent from school and receiving remote education still need to be recorded as absent using the most appropriate absence code. The School will keep a record of, and monitor pupil's engagement with remote education, but this is not formally tracked in the attendance register. Where appropriate, this information may be used to make plans for a pupil's reintegration to school.

The School will utilise a digital education platform that will be kept up-to-date and keep pupils safe. Staff will remain trained and confident in its use.

[20] Schools should refer to regulation 10 of The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 to ensure they are correctly recording reasons for absence and the applicable commentary in chapter 8 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024.

Unauthorised absence

The "unauthorised absence" code will be used when prior permission for absence has not been given and where the School is not satisfied with the explanation given for absence or delayed attendance or where no explanation has been given meaning that the code for "unable to attend due to an exceptional circumstance" is not appropriate. Examples include:

- Holiday has not been authorised by the School or is in excess of the period determined by the Head/ Senior Deputy Head authorised to grant permission];
- The reason for absence has not been provided;
- A pupil is absent from school without authorisation;
- A pupil has arrived in school after registration has closed and without reasonable explanation.

Appendix 4 – Attendance letter template to parents

(Date)

(Branding)

(Salutation)

At WGS we recognise the importance of regular attendance at school and understand that this is inextricably linked to academic success.

The School's expectation is that all pupils achieve a minimum of 95% attendance. We would remind pupils and parents that 90% attendance, whilst it may sound positive, is actually the equivalent to missing one day per fortnight, which equates to missing half a year of education during the course of 1st- 5th Form. If this figure falls to 80%, this is the equivalent to missing one full year during the course of a pupil's compulsory schooling.

Whilst we appreciate that some absence through illness is unavoidable, we would ask all parents to be aware of their responsibilities in encouraging regular attendance wherever possible. In addition to this we would be grateful if you could ensure that your child arrives at school punctually and prepared for the school day. If your child is absent or is due to arrive late to school for any reason, please complete the Absence Request Form on MySchoolPortal by 08:30 on each day of absence. We would ask that parents try, wherever feasible, to book any medical appointments outside of school hours, however we do understand that this is not always possible.

We understand that it may be tempting for parents to take advantage of cheaper holidays during term-time, however we strongly discourage this to avoid disruption to their child's education. We would advise parents instead to take advantage of the weeks outside of state school holidays, where prices remain lower. Please note that recent changes to government attendance codes mean that we are only able to authorise holidays taken during term time in exceptional circumstances. If you have any questions or require any further support surrounding attendance or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me on TWCalow@wisbechgrammar.com.

We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that {Students:{FirstName}|, | and } attends school regularly and on time.

Yours sincerely,

(signature)