

Name of Policy:	Attendance Policy
Applicable to:	Whole School
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NCBIS Attendance Policy

NCBIS Mission Statement

To provide a learning environment that supports academic achievement whilst promoting personal growth through the attributes of the IB Learner profile, within a caring international community committed to the traditional values of honesty, courtesy, respect, integrity and fair play.

Purpose and Scope of Policy

Our Attendance Mission Statement at NCBIS seeks to work with parents and carers to ensure that all children receive an education which maximises opportunities for them to realise their true potential. The school aims to provide a welcoming, caring environment, whereby each member of the school community feels valued and secure. We are proud of our attendance record, which is generally very good, and are grateful to our supportive parents and carers who work with us to promote and encourage good attendance by their children. School staff will work with pupils and their families to ensure each pupil attends school regularly and punctually. Addressing the issues behind non-attendance and persistent absenteeism is a priority for the school. The school expectation is that all pupils will attain at least 97% attendance. It is very important therefore that parents/carers make sure their children attend regularly and this policy sets out how together we will achieve this. Good attendance is important because: Statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and attendance below 95%. Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically. Regular attenders find school routines, school work and friendships easier to cope with. Regular attenders find learning more satisfying. Our school attendance leads are Tracy Connor for the Primary School and Kevin Rossall for the secondary school.

Policy Aims

- To consistently strive to achieve a goal of 100% attendance for all children.
- To promote effective partnerships with parents/carers and provide support, advice and guidance on the importance of regular and punctual attendance of their children.
- To communicate roles and responsibilities of parents/carers and school staff and promote consistency in carrying out designated follow ups to attendance concerns.
- To record/analyse pupil attendance data in a consistent and fair manner.
- To recognise the achievements of pupils who have excellent attendance.

Links to other relevant school policies

- NCBIS Safeguarding Voicing Concerns Guidance
- NCBIS Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Procedures

Registers- All registers are taken and kept electronically. An accurate and consistent registration system using our SIMS data management tool is crucial both to provide a solid foundation for analysis of absence and to support any necessary interventions. The register is a legal document and must be kept accurately. Attendance registers are kept in line with UK legal requirements, UK local authority guidelines and NCBIS school regulations. Registers are required to be taken twice a day; once at the commencement of the morning session and once at the commencement of the afternoon session. The registers are closed at 08.10 am. All parents are asked to contact the school by 8.30am if their child is absent. If no notification is received about a child's absence, then a member of the School's Administration Team will phone the child's parents by 10 O'clock to establish the reason for the absence. Please see appendix 1 for the register codes to be used when completing attendance registers on SIMS and for school procedures and responsibilities for registers.

School Attendance And Safeguarding

When a child is missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. School staff should follow the school's procedures for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future.

Punctuality and Lateness

It is important that children arrive for school punctually to ensure a calm and purposeful start to the day. Where pupils arrive late for school [after the register has closed] this will be marked as unauthorised absence for that session, even though they may arrive later. Upon arrival they will be marked as arriving late.

Authorised and Unauthorised Absence and Leave Of Absence

Parents are advised to make appointments for dentist/doctor or optician outside of school hours where reasonably possible. If the school is satisfied that a pupil is absent as a result of illness, the absence will be treated as authorised. Leave for medical or dental appointments will be authorised where confirmation has been received from the parents (either in person, telephone call or writing.)

Each application for a Leave of Absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits. All leave of absence requests will be unauthorised unless the circumstances are exceptional. A parent/carer should complete an absence request form (available from the Primary and Secondary School Office's) and submit this to the school at least seven days prior to the date required. School will respond to the request within 48 hours. If school is aware of any language difficulties that may preclude a request form being completed, appropriate support will be offered to the parent/carer. Parents/carers may be asked to provide evidence to support their exceptional circumstances and may be required to meet with the Deputy Head Teachers. If the Deputy Head Teachers deems that the reasons for the request are exceptional and authorises the absences, a letter confirming that the request has been authorised will be sent to the parent/carer. If the Deputy Head Teachers deems that the reasons are not exceptional and the leave of

absence will not be authorised, a reply informing the parents of this decision will be sent to each parent. If once notified in writing of the decision to unauthorise the leave of absence, the absence is taken it will be marked as an unauthorised absence on the pupils register. Please see appendix 2 for guidance on what may or may not be authorised.

Monitoring and Reviewing Attendance

Attendance is monitored initially by a member of the schools admin team. The Deputy Head Teachers oversee the monitoring process. Any issues identified concerning absence, illness or lateness will be addressed by letter, telephone or meeting with strategies put in place to improve attendance. The Attendance Registers are marked twice each day, at the start of the morning session and again in the afternoon. Registers are checked by the Office Manager. All absences and persistent lateness are investigated. When the register closes, the Office Manager checks the messages. If a pupil is absent and the school has not been contacted, then the Primary and Secondary office managers will telephone parents to check on why a pupil is not in school. Attendance data is held electronically on our SIMS Management Information System, accessible by the school leadership and administration teams who are able to conduct spot checks on individual children and provide comprehensive attendance records. The Deputy Headteachers monitors the attendance of pupils each week. Where the Deputy Heads feels it appropriate, parents/carers will be notified by letter when their child's attendance drops below the School's target of 97%. If attendance drops below 90% a 2nd letter may be written informing parents/carers and the Deputy Heads may invite the parents to a meeting to discuss ways of improving attendance.

Strategies For Promoting Attendance

At NCBIS the staff and Board endeavour to support parents in the responsibility of attendance by:

- Providing an environment in which pupils feel welcomed and valued. The school's ethos demonstrates that pupils feel that their presence in school is important, that they will be missed when they are absent/late and that follow up action will be taken
- Making every effort to match learning tasks to pupils' needs
- Collating attendance data weekly and termly and annually and analysing it in order to help identify patterns, set targets, correlate attendance with achievement, and support and inform policy/practice
- Reminding parents regularly (via newsletters, parent handbooks, parents' evenings and workshops etc) of the importance of good attendance

Attendance incentives

Primary Students with 100% attendance for a whole term will have a star placed on the attendance board in the Primary School Foyer and will receive a certificate of recognition. Students with 100% attendance through the whole school year will receive a certificate and book voucher. In the Primary School, the class with the best attendance will receive a special reward such as a recreational day trip out of school in the last week of term.

Please ensure to read the following pages for the listed appendices

Appendix 1 doc

NCBIS School procedures for maintaining registers

Procedure	Person Responsible
1. Registers must be taken at the start of the morning session and once during the afternoon session	Class/Form Tutors
2. On each occasion school must record whether a child was present or absent.	Class/Form Tutors
3. Pupils should only be marked present if they are in the room when the register is called	Class/Form Tutors
3. Spaces must not be left in the register	Class/Form Tutors
4. Informing office manager of parental communications providing reasons for absence	Class/Form Tutors to forward all such communications to the Office Managers daily.
5. Additional requirements about times, school procedures etc.	7.50am registration opens 8.10am registers close 12.20pm registers open 1.30pm registers close
6. Identifying and following up on unexplained absences daily	Primary and Secondary Office Managers

Appendix 2 NCBIS SIMS codes- Key

<u>SIMS Codes</u>		
Code	Description	Meaning
/	Present (AM)	Present
\	Present (PM)	Present
B	Bereavement	Death in the family
C	other authorised circumstances	authorised absence
D	unauthorised by DHT	unauthorised absence
E	Excluded	authorised absence
F	Present in school but off timetables	
G	Security concern	
H	Annual family holiday (agreed)	
I	Interview	
L	Late	
M	Medical/ Dental	
N	No reason yet provided for absence	
O	Off site education	Approved Education Activity
P	ISAC, MUN, CIBSA, Visa for School Trips, Enforced closure	
R	Religious/ Cultural	
S	Study leave	
T	Evacuation and emergency travel	
V	Visa and Embassy	
W	Work Experience	
X	non-compulsory School age absence	
-	all should attend/ no mark record	

Appendix 2 Doc

Leave of absence in exceptional circumstance

School Leadership may only grant leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. The following are examples of agreed exceptional circumstances to guide the Leadership Team when considering leave of absence requests.

Before deciding whether to authorise leave of absence the leadership team will consider:

- The impact on the student's academic progress of any absence.
- The pupils attendance over the academic year.
- Whether the leave falls within any assessment cycles.

Examples of exceptional circumstances where leave may be granted during term time:

- Funeral of parent, grandparent or sibling – The Leadership Team should use their discretion having heard from parents about travel and funeral arrangements and taking into account the distance to be travelled.
- Sudden loss of housing through family circumstances
- Serious illness of a close relative.
- Out of school programmes such as music, arts or sport operating at a high standard of achievement.
- Religious observance – “on any day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the student's parents belongs”. This would include the Islamic Eids, as well as religious observance days of the orthodox Christian, Jewish and other religions.
- Weddings of parents and siblings – weddings can be arranged at weekends or during school holidays; however we acknowledge that there are times when the dates are dependent on other factors. Leave should only be authorised for this purpose when a The Leadership Team is satisfied that there is a persuasive reason for holding the wedding during term time.
- In difficult family situations The Leadership Team may use their discretion in granting leave, for example where natural parents are separated. Each case should be addressed on its individual merits, taking into account the overall welfare of the child.

Examples of circumstances NOT considered as exceptional:

- Holidays abroad for the purpose of visiting a sick relative, excepting where that person is seriously ill. Medical evidence may be requested.
- Pilgrimages by parents (eg. Hajj). These are rare but can result in children being away from school for significant periods of time (at least 5 days). They are not regarded as exceptional as children themselves do not perform Hajj, but tend to travel with their parents when they go.
- Holidays taken in term time due to lower cost/parental work commitment

