

Autumn Term 1 Attendance Newsletter 24/25

Attendance, everyone's responsibility

Useful Contacts:

Academy Attendance Manager: a.reynolds@fulwoodacademy.co.uk

Tel: 01772 719060 **Option 1**

At Fulwood Academy, we believe that regular school attendance is vital for academic success and personal development. The government has introduced new attendance legislation this year, and it's essential for all of us—pupils, parents, and staff—to work together to ensure our school community thrives.

The New Attendance Legislation: What You Need to Know

The new guidelines from the Department for Education (DfE), as outlined in the "Working Together to Improve School Attendance" guidance, aim to support schools in promoting regular attendance and tackling absenteeism more effectively. Here's what this means for us at Fulwood Academy:

- **Attendance Monitoring:** Schools are now required to have more robust attendance monitoring systems. We will be tracking attendance daily and working closely with families to ensure pupils attend regularly.
- **Early Intervention:** Schools must intervene earlier when a pupil's attendance becomes a concern. We are committed to identifying issues as they arise and providing support as quickly as possible.
- **Increased Accountability:** Parents and carers are now more accountable for their child's attendance. The government stresses that it is the legal responsibility of parents to ensure their children attend school every day. This includes working with the school if any barriers to attendance arise.
- **Support and Guidance:** Schools are required to provide tailored support for pupils with persistent absenteeism. Fulwood Academy is dedicated to offering practical solutions to overcome barriers, whether academic, social, or emotional. We will be working with families to ensure that every pupil can succeed.
- **New Penalty Rates:** Penalty notices issued for offences that occur after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. However, if paid within 21 days, the penalty can be reduced to £80.
- **Second Penalty Notices:** Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be charged at £160, to be paid within 28 days, with no option for a discounted rate.
- **Threshold for Penalty Notices:** The threshold for considering a penalty notice is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school-week period. This may include absences due to arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- **Limit on Penalty Notices:** A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period. For the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s), another course of action will need to be considered, such as prosecution or another attendance legal intervention.
- **Effective Date:** Only penalty notices issued for absences occurring after 19 August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.

Attendance at Fulwood Academy: Where Are We Now?

Our current overall attendance is 94.44%. This is below our target, and we need your help to improve! The national expectation is for every pupil to have an attendance rate of at least 97%, and our goal is to meet or exceed this.

We are incredibly proud of the 488 pupils who achieved 100% attendance this half term! Well done to all of you for your dedication and commitment. Keep up the fantastic work, and let's continue to strive for even higher attendance across the academy. **We would also like to congratulate Year 7, who have the highest attendance this term at 96.83%.** Brilliant effort—let's keep building on this momentum!

Poor attendance impacts pupil performance, with evidence showing that those with lower attendance rates are significantly less likely to achieve good GCSE results. We want to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

New Registration Policy: A Key Change to Note

We would like to remind all pupils and parents that the morning register closes promptly at 9.05am. Any pupil arriving after this time without a valid reason will be marked with an unauthorised absence for the morning session. This policy aligns with the new attendance legislation and reinforces the importance of punctuality. Please ensure your child arrives on time to avoid an unauthorised absence for the morning.

How You Can Help as a Parent or Carer

Here are some steps parents and carers can take to support better attendance:

- **Establish a Routine:** Help your child develop a consistent routine for school days. Ensure they have a regular bedtime and wake-up time to avoid being late or absent.
- **Communicate with Us:** If your child is struggling to attend school regularly, let us know. Early intervention is crucial, and we can offer support, whether it's through academic help or pastoral support.
- **Stay Informed:** Be aware of the importance of attendance. If your child misses school, they miss vital learning opportunities that can be difficult to catch up on.
- **Avoid Term-Time Holidays:** Please ensure that family holidays are taken during school breaks. Unauthorised term-time absences can lead to fines and disrupt your child's education.

Get in Touch

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's attendance, or if you require any support, please don't hesitate to contact the school's attendance team at attendance@fulwoodacademy.co.uk. We're here to help!

Medical Appointments.

All appointments, where possible, must be arranged after school. Parents should provide advance notice by way of a medical card and/or letter for any time off school required for medical appointments. Time away from school as a result of an appointment must be kept to a minimum – children should not be absent for the whole day/whole morning/whole afternoon. Pupils will not be allowed to leave the school during school hours unless they are collected by a parent.

Getting your child to school really matters **Fulwood**
academy



Did you know?

In a school year, if your child is late every day by...

Your child would have lost approximately...

Or they would have missed approximately...

5 minutes	3.5 days from school	20 lessons
10 minutes	7 days from school	41 lessons
15 minutes	10 days from school	55 lessons
20 minutes	14.5 days from school	82 lessons
30 minutes	22 days from school	123 lessons

Please encourage punctuality to maintain attendance



ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY



Did you know?

If your child's attendance during the school year...

Your child would have lost approximately...

Or they would have missed approximately...

was 95%	9 days from school	50 lessons
was 90%	19 days from school	100 lessons
was 85%	29 days from school	150 lessons
was 80%	38 days from school	200 lessons
was 75%	48 days from school	250 lessons

Please encourage punctuality to maintain attendance

