

# Kings Furlong Junior School

## Attendance Policy

### Published October 2025



This policy was last reviewed by governors: October 2025  
Due for review on: October 2026

#### **Summary of changes:**

The model policy has been revised to reflect changes to the statutory guidance [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance)

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## 1. Introduction/Aim

At Kings Furlong Junior School, we believe that regular school attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential. We value the attendance of all pupils. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind and can put them at risk of wider harm. There is a [wide range of evidence](#) as to the health and wellbeing benefits of school-age education. [Research](#) commissioned by the Department for Education shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances. As set out in this policy, we will work with families to identify the reasons for poor attendance and try to resolve any difficulties at the earliest opportunity. Our attendance policy aims to give clear guidance to staff, parents, pupils, and governors/trustees to:

- Promote good attendance, enabling pupil's achievement by establishing the highest possible levels of attendance and punctuality.
- Recognise the key role of all staff in promoting good attendance.
- Provide a clear framework for monitoring and responding to pupil absences, acting early to address patterns of absence.
- Building strong relationships with families to ensure pupils have the support in place to attend school.
- Promote positive support systems and advocate multi-agency approaches to improve attendance.
- Make parents aware of their legal responsibilities and ensure their children have access to the education to which they are entitled.

We recognise that attendance is a matter for the whole school community. Our Attendance Policy should not be viewed in isolation; it is a strand that runs through all aspects of school improvement, supported by our policies on safeguarding, prevention of bullying, behaviour, and inclusive learning. This policy also considers the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other relevant legislation.

## 2. Legal Framework

This policy meets the requirements of the [Working together to improve school attendance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act states that parents must ensure that children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability, and aptitude to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. A child is of compulsory school age at the beginning of the term following their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach the age of 16.

The government expects all schools and local authorities to:

- Promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent and severe absence.
- Ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled.
- Act early to address patterns of absence.

Parents are expected to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly.

In accordance with the Education Act 1996, we will work with parents and carers and the Local Authority to ensure that parents and carers are supported to secure education for children of compulsory school age. Where required, we will formalise support and where necessary, work with the LA to use legal measures. A "Parent" is defined as:

- Any natural parent, whether married or not.
- Any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

At Kings Furlong Junior School, we believe that improving school attendance is everyone's business. It is a shared responsibility by governors, all school staff, parents, pupils, the wider school community and multi-agency partners. We aim to always work in partnership with our parents.

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact details</b>
<b>Senior Attendance Lead</b>	Amanda Westaway (Head teacher)	Contact via the school office
<b>Attendance Champions</b>	Sarah Farmer (Home school link worker) Louise Steadman (Behaviour and mental health leader)	Contact via the school office
<b>Named Governor/Trustee for Attendance</b>	Jen Kilford	Contact via the school office

The Governors of Kings Furlong Junior School, recognises the importance of school attendance and promotes it through the school's ethos and across its policies. They may take an active role in attendance improvement by:

- Setting high expectations of all leaders, staff, pupils, and parents so that children attend school every day and are safeguarded.

- Identifying a member of the governing body/trustee to lead on attendance matters and ensuring that there is a named senior manager to lead on attendance.
- Prioritising attendance in strategies, such as raising attainment, behaviour and combatting bullying, special educational needs and disabilities, wellbeing, and safeguarding.
- Ensuring school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties by rigorously evaluating the effectiveness of the school's attendance procedures so that consistent attendance support is provided for all pupils.
- Ensuring the schools' attendance management processes are delivered effectively, and that consistent attendance support is provided for pupils who require it most by prioritising the staff and resources needed. This includes ensuring schools engage and work effectively with the local authority School Attendance Support Team and wider local partners and services.
- Regularly reviewing attendance data, discussing, challenging trends, and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Ensuring high aspirations are maintained for all pupils and processes for support are adapted to the individual needs of pupils including those with long term illnesses, special educational needs and disabilities, pupils with a social worker, those pupils under the Virtual School and pupils from cohorts with historically lower attendance such as those eligible for free school meals.
- Ensuring all school staff receive adequate training on attendance and that relevant staff have access to opportunities to share and learn from good practice in other schools.
- Ensuring that attendance data is shared with the Local Authority or Department for Education in line with statutory reporting deadlines.
- Reviewing the school's Attendance Policy on at least an annual basis, ensuring that the required resources are available to fully implement the policy, which is published and publicised regularly so that it is easily accessible to pupils, parents and staff.

The Senior Management Team at Kings Furlong Junior School will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents.
- Form and maintain positive relationships with pupils and parents.
- Ensure that there is a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance, with good teaching and learning experiences, with a whole school culture that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve.
- Make sure all teaching and non-teaching staff know the importance of good attendance, are consistent in their communication with pupils and parents, and receive the training and professional development they need.
- Have a clear school attendance policy which all staff, pupils and parents understand. Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the Attendance Policy and ensure that the policy is reviewed annually.
- Ensure the school have accurate, complete admission and attendance registers and have effective day to day processes in place to follow-up absence.

- Regularly monitor and analyse attendance and absence data to identify pupils or cohorts that require support with their attendance and put effective strategies in place.
- Share information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, local authorities, and other partners where a pupil's absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe.
- Ensure that there is a named Senior Attendance Champion to lead on attendance and allocate sufficient time and resource.
- Attend the termly school attendance supporting meetings with the local authority, focusing on those pupils with severe absence, making sure a regularly reviewed plan is in place.

All staff at Kings Furlong Junior School will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents.
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents.
- Contribute to a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance; with good teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve.
- Know the importance of good attendance, are consistent in their communication with pupils and parents, and receive the training and professional development they need.

The member of staff responsible for attendance will work to further develop relationships with families to bring about improved attendance. This may involve seeking multi-agency support.

Kings Furlong Junior School requests that parents:

- Take a positive interest in their child's work and educational progress.
- Ensure their child has regular attendance at school.
- Instil the value of education and regular school attendance within the home environment.
- Contact the school if their child is absent to let them know the reason why and the expected date of return, following this with a note wherever possible.
- Avoid unnecessary absences; for example, by making medical and dental appointments for outside of school hours.
- Ask the school for help if their child is experiencing difficulties with any aspect of their schoolwork or home and family life.
- Inform the school of any change in circumstances that may impact on their child's attendance.
- Support the school by becoming involved in their child's education, forming a positive relationship with school, and acknowledging the importance of children receiving the same messages from both school and home.
- Maintain effective routines at home to support good attendance.
- Attend all meetings requested to discuss attendance issues.

Further information can be found at: [Attendance guidance for parents | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/attendance-guidance-for-parents)

Pupils will:

- Be aware of the school's attendance policy and when and where they are required to attend. This will be communicated to them by school staff, parents and through the school timetable.
- Speak to their class teacher or another member of staff if they are experiencing difficulties at school or at home which may impact on their attendance.
- Attend all lessons ready to learn, with the appropriate learning tools requested and on time for the class.
- Bring a note of explanation from their parents or guardians to explain an absence that has happened or is foreseen.
- Follow the school procedure if they arrive late by going straight to the school office and asking an adults to sign them in. This will help the school to monitor attendance and keep accurate records for the child's individual attendance. This is also vital for health and safety in the event of a school evacuation.

## 4. Categorising Absence and Attendance

When marking our registers, we will apply the national codes as outlined and regulated by the Department for Education guidance to accurately record and report attendance.

### 4.1 Leave of Absence

Since September 2013, changes to Government regulations and guidance mean that Headteachers can no longer authorise leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. Generally, the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance. Leave of absence should not be granted for a pupil to take part in protest activity during school hours. All absences associated with a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation during term time will be marked as unauthorised within the register. Any parents known to have removed their child from school for the sole purpose of a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation may be referred to the Local Authority and be issued with a penalty notice fine or referred to the Local Authority to consider prosecution.

We believe that children need to be in school for all sessions so that they can make the most progress possible. However, we do understand that there are times where a parent may legitimately request leave of absence for a child due to 'exceptional circumstances. At Kings Furlong Junior School, leave of absence is only granted at the discretion of the Headteacher and shall not be granted unless there are 'exceptional circumstances. Kings Furlong Junior School will respond to all applications for leave of absence in writing.

Parents wishing to apply for leave of absence during term time must apply in writing to the Headteacher at least a month before the planned leave (see Appendix 1). If a written request for leave of absence is not completed and the leave is taken without

a request being submitted, the leave will not be considered by the Headteacher, and it will be marked as unauthorised. Kings Furlong Junior School will treat each application individually and discuss with you the circumstances of the application before a decision is made. Retrospective requests will not be considered and therefore will result in the absence being categorised as unauthorised.

A penalty notice request or a referral for prosecution may be submitted to the Local Authority should: -

- The parent fails to submit a leave of absence request in advance of taking the leave.
- An application for a leave of absence is not agreed by the Headteacher but is still taken.
- A longer period is taken more than the agreed number of days.

When absence is granted by the Headteacher, the parents will need to agree a date of return. If a pupil fails to return on the expected date and contact is not received from, or made with the parents, school will seek advice from the Local Authority. This could result in possible children missing from education procedures being instigated.

The 1996 Education Act also sets out the circumstances in which a pupil has not failed to attend school regularly and therefore the parent has not committed an offence.

4.2, 4.3, 4.4 are examples of these. The full list is in the Appendix 5.

## **4.2 Medical Appointments and absence due to illness**

Parents should try to make appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. Where appointments during school time are unavoidable, we ask that parent notifies the school in advance of the appointment wherever possible. The pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment. In most circumstances, a child should not miss a whole day at school for an appointment. If a pupil must attend a medical appointment during the school day, they must provide evidence of the appointment to a member of the office team and be signed out by an adult. No pupil will be allowed to leave the school site without parental confirmation.

In line with Department for Education guidance, if we do have a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness, we may ask the parent to provide medical evidence, such as a prescription, appointment card, or other appropriate form of evidence. If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Where a child has an emerging a pattern of non-attendance, we will discuss the reasons for absence with the child's parent. We will invite parents to attend a support meeting as an appropriate early intervention strategy. As part of this support, we may seek consent from parents and the pupil as appropriate to make a referral to the School Nursing Team and/or to liaise with the child's healthcare professional.

Where a pupil has a verified and chronic health condition, we will aim to work with parents to ensure children have access to education and provide appropriate support in line with [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#) and Hampshire policies regarding supporting children with health issues, [Behaviour and attendance resources for schools | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#). We will also consider whether an Individual Healthcare Plan is required.

### 4.3 Pupil Absence for the purposes of Religious Observance

Kings Furlong Junior School acknowledges the multi-faith nature of British society and recognises that, on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods or weekends and is recognised as such by a relevant religious authority. Where this occurs, the school will consider either authorising the pupil absence or making special leave for religious observance. Parents are requested to give advance notice to the school.

[Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) page 86

### 4.4 Parent travelling for occupational purposes

The pupil is a mobile child and their parent(s) is travelling in the course of their trade or business and the pupil is travelling with them. A mobile child is a child of compulsory school age who has no fixed abode and whose parent(s) is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as to require them to travel from place to place.

To ensure we can effectively support all our pupils, we ask that parents:

- Advise the school of their forthcoming travelling patterns as soon as these are known and before they happen; and
- Inform the school regarding proposed return dates.

### 4.5 Unauthorised Absence

Absence will not be authorised unless parents have provided a satisfactory explanation, and it is accepted as such by the school. The decision to authorise absences is at the discretion of the Headteacher. Examples of unsatisfactory explanations include but are not limited to:

- A pupil's/family member's birthday.
- Shopping for uniforms.
- Arrangements or appointments for cutting the pupil's hair.
- Closure of a sibling's school for INSET (or other) purposes.
- An unwillingness to attend school, or inability to attend owing to inadequate personal/family organisation.
- A refusal to attend school on health grounds but where the pupil is considered well enough to attend.
- Absences taken without the authorisation of the school.

## 5. Our Procedures

### 5.1 Register Keeping and Recording

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, as amended by 2016 regulations, require schools to take an attendance register twice a day, once at the start of the morning session and then again during the afternoon session. For the purpose of this policy, the school defines:

“Absence” as:

- Arrival at school after the register has closed.
- Not attending school for any reason.

“Regular” attendance as:

- Attendance at every session the school is open to pupils unless their absence has been authorised.

Pupils must arrive in school by 8:40am on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 8:45am and will be kept open until 8:48am The register for the second session will be taken at 1:00pm and will be kept open until 1:05pm

Registers are legal records, and all schools must preserve every entry in the attendance or admission register for 6 years from the date the data was entered. As the attendance register is a record of the pupils present at the time it was taken, the register should only routinely be amended where the reason for absence cannot be established at the time it is taken and it is subsequently necessary to correct the entry. Where amendments are made, all schools must ensure the register shows the original entry, the amended entry, the reason for the amendment, the date on which the amendment was made, and the name of the person who made the amendment. On each occasion the register is taken the appropriate national attendance and absence code must be entered for every pupil (of both compulsory and non-compulsory school age) whose name is listed in the admission register at the time. The codes enable schools to record and monitor attendance and absence in a consistent way and are used to collect statistics. The data helps schools, local authorities, and the government gain a greater understanding of the delivery of education and the level of, and reason for, absence.

#### **Reporting to parents**

The school will regularly inform parents about their child’s attendance and absence levels in the October and February parent evenings and in the summer term via their child’s end of term report.

## 5.2 Late Arrival at School

At Kings Furlong Junior School all pupils are expected to arrive on time for every day of the school year. The school day begins at 8:45am. We advise all parents to ensure their child is on site prior to this. School gates open at 8:40am to allow time for children to walk to class. The school register will be taken at 8:45am. All pupils arriving after this time are required to report to the main office with their parents, who will be expected to sign them and provide a reason for their absence. If their arrival is before 9:15am it will be recorded as late - L code (Late before the close of register).

The school register will officially close at 9:15am. All pupils arriving on or after this time will be marked as having an unauthorised absence for the session - U code (Late after the close of register). This is categorised as an unauthorised absence for the session. Parents will be contacted to discuss any patterns of late arrival. Repeated arrival after the close of registration will result in appropriate interventions being instigated and may also result in a penalty notice being issued or prosecution.

## 5.3 Expected absence procedure for parents:

A parent has a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly. If a child is unavoidably absent from school parents are expected to contact school by telephone call on the morning of the first day of absence and on each subsequent day, identifying the reason for absence and the expected date of return. If no contact is received, then absence protocols will be instigated.

If a child is absent, the following actions will be initiated by the school:

1. The first day calling procedures will be activated for all pupils who are not in school after close of register at 9:15am and where no reason for absence is known.
2. If there is still no contact made from the pupil's parents, a further telephone call home will be made again that morning. If no response can be gained, the child's named emergency contact will be telephoned.
3. If school cannot contact a parent a home visit may be carried out.
4. If there is no response from any of the contacts (point 2) by 11am, the office will leave another message on contacts with parental responsibility stating: The time is xxx and if we don't hear from you by xxx (allow 20mins) we will be required to raise this as a safeguarding concern with the Police and/or Children's Services (depending on the child's circumstances).
5. If there is no response from any of the contacts with parental responsibility, this will be highlighted to DSLs (on the same day) and a record made on CPOMS.
6. If the child continues to be absent, the office will continue to attempt communication with parents/carers and other contacts on a daily basis, in line with Hampshire's policy for Children at Risk of Missing Education (see below).
7. School will telephone home if a pupil leaves the school without permission.

In certain circumstances the school may also:

- Visit the home of the pupil.
- Write to the parents of a pupil to highlight attendance or punctuality issues.
- Invite parents to discuss how school can support the family to make improvement.
- Refer to Inclusion Support Service for support, guidance, and advice.
- Refer to the Local Authority for joint enquiries to be made to establish the whereabouts of the child through [Inclusion Support Service \(ISS\) | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/inclusion-support-service) and [Behaviour and attendance resources for schools | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/behaviour-and-attendance-resources-for-schools)
- Refer to the Local Authority to consider issuing a penalty notice or to consider prosecution when all other interventions have failed, or an unauthorised leave of absence has been taken.
- Refer the matter to an appropriate external agency for multi-agency support, such as implementing a Family Support Plan or consulting with the Children's Social Care or the police, where there are safeguarding concerns.

## 5.4 Attendance Interventions

At Kings Furlong Junior School, we encourage regular attendance by:

- Providing a welcoming atmosphere and a safe learning environment.
- Responding promptly to a child or parent's concerns about any issues in school or with other pupils.
- Celebrating good and improved attendance.
- Providing support to families to improve persistent absence.
- Liaising with the Locality Team when all prior attempts to improve attendance are unsuccessful.

### **Monitor and Analyse attendance**

Kings Furlong Junior School will:

- Monitor and analyse weekly attendance patterns and trends and deliver intervention and support in a targeted way to pupils and families. This should go beyond headline attendance percentages and should look at individual pupils, cohorts and year groups (including their punctuality) across the school.
- Use this analysis to provide regular attendance reports to class teachers or tutors to facilitate discussions with pupils and to leaders (including any special educational needs coordinators, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium leads).
- Undertake frequent individual level analysis to identify the pupils who need support and focus staff efforts on developing targeted actions for those cases.
- Conduct thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full year data to identify patterns and trends. This should include analysis of pupils and cohorts and identifying patterns in uses of certain codes, days of poor attendance and where appropriate, subjects which have low lesson attendance.

- Benchmark attendance data (at whole school, year group and cohort level) against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement.
- Devise specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data.
- Monitor in the data the impact of school wide attendance efforts, including any specific strategies implemented. The findings should then be used to evaluate approaches or inform future strategies.
- Provide data and reports to support the work of the board or governing body and local authority when appropriate.

At Kings Furlong Junior School, we will investigate any pupils who are on track to be persistently absent (PA) and will not wait until attendance is below 90%.

“Persistent absenteeism” (PA) as:

- Missing 10% or more of schooling across the year for any reason.

“Severe absence” (SA) as:

- Missing 50% or more of schooling across the year for any reason.

## 5.5 Support Systems

At Kings Furlong Junior School, we recognise that poor attendance can be an indication of difficulties in a family’s life. This may be related to problems at home and or in school. Parents are encouraged to inform school of any difficulties or changes in circumstances that may affect their child’s attendance and/or behaviour in school, for example: bereavement, divorce/separation, emerging health concerns. This will help the school identify any additional support that may be required.

We also recognise that some pupils are more likely to require additional support to attain good attendance. The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance based on the individual needs and circumstances of the child. Strategies we may use to support you include:

- Individual reward charts
- Support from the school’s Home School Link Worker – this may include parent Thrive sessions (with their child) or 1-1 ELSA

To plan the correct support, we will always invite parents and pupils to attend a meeting to discuss the concerns and devise a plan to support the child’s regular attendance. Support offered to families will be child-centred and planned in discussion and agreement with both parents and pupils.

## 5.6 Persistent Absence, Severe Absence and the use of legal interventions

A pupil becomes a 'persistent absentee' (PA) when their attendance drops to 90% and below for any reason. Over a full academic year this would be 38 sessions (19 days). Absence at this level could cause considerable damage to a child's educational outcomes.

A pupil becomes a 'severe absentee' (SA) when their attendance drops to 50% and below for any reason. Over a full academic year this would be 190 sessions (95 days). Absence at this level is causing considerable damage to a child's educational outcomes.

The attendance of all pupils at our school are monitored to identify children who are PA, or are on track to becoming PA. Where emerging concerns are identified we will instigate appropriate and timely interventions as outlined in the section above. Referrals may also be made to external agencies for targeted support. [Inclusion Support Service \(ISS\) | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

If parents fail to engage with support and their child continues to have unsatisfactory attendance/ punctuality, a request may be made to the Local Authority to pursue legal proceedings either through a penalty notice, consideration of an Education Supervision Order or prosecution via the Magistrates' Court.

Parents found guilty of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school under the provisions of the Education Act 1996, will receive a criminal record and a maximum penalty of a £1000 fine under a Section 444 (1) offence or a £2500 fine or up to a 3-month prison sentence, under a Section 444 (1a) offence. In line with Hampshire County Council guidance, we will notify the Inclusion Support Service of all reduced timetables as soon as a plan has been agreed.

## 6. Related Policies

To underpin the values and ethos of our school and our intent to ensure that pupils at our school attend school regularly and reach their full potential, the following policies are integral to this approach:

- Safeguarding
- Child protection.
- Medical.
- Admissions.
- Anti-bullying.
- Special educational needs.
- Teaching and learning.
- Behaviour (including exclusions)

## 7. Statutory Framework

This policy has been devised in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- [Working together to improve school attendance, DfE, \(August 2024\)](#)
- [School attendance parental responsibility measures, DfE \(January 2015\)](#)
- [Children missing education, DfE \(September 2016\)](#)
- [Keeping children safe in education, DfE \(September 2024\)](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children, DfE \(July 2023\)](#)

## 8. Appendices

The following pages contain appendices relevant to this policy.

### Appendix 1: Example leave of absence request form

Request to authorise absence from school due to exceptional circumstances

Schools are only able to authorise absence from school in exceptional circumstances. In making a request for an authorised absence from school you will need to explain why the circumstances are exceptional. **Please note:** There is no general right to authorised absence for a family holiday. If you take your child out of school without permission the absence will be unauthorised, and the local authority will consider legal action.

**You are advised not to make any arrangements until your request has been considered.**

#### Section A – to the headteacher, I wish to apply for

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

To be authorised as absent from school (please include dates and time):

from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (inclusive dates)

If your child has siblings that are also applying for a leave of absence, please enter their name and school below:

Child's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ School(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B** Please explain why you are applying for an authorised absence and the **circumstances** which make your **application exceptional**; and therefore, the leave cannot be taken within the normal 13 weeks holiday your child has from school. If you are requesting authorisation to attend a specific event please confirm the date of the event and explain your travel arrangements. If you require additional space, please continue on the other side of the page.

**Section C** I am the parent/carer with whom the pupil normally resides. The information I have given on this form is correct.

Signature (parent/carer): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 have been amended**

**(as of 1 September 2013) to prohibit the proprietor (headteacher) of a maintained school granting leave of absence to a pupil except where an application has been made in advance and the proprietor considers that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.**

**Section D – for school use only.**

**Tick as appropriate.**

Request approved for \_\_\_\_ number of days from the dates and times \_\_\_\_\_

A personal discussion with you is requested. Please contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Request not approved as the circumstances are not considered to constitute an exceptional reason and/or the impact of this absence will affect your child's educational progress.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This leave of absence form serves as a Warning to parent/carer. Any unauthorised absence during this period may be subject to a Penalty Notice OR may result in a prosecution if two previous penalty notices have been issued in a rolling three-year period

*A Penalty Notice may be issued per parent/carer, per child (i.e. if two parents have two children this may result in four Penalty Notices – two Penalty Notices per parent).*

Headteacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Current attendance rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Continuation of section B (if required):

## Appendix 2: Example reply to leave of absence request

Dear Parent's name,

### **RE: Absence during term time – Child Name (Child DOB)**

Thank you for your application for absence in term time for Child's name. Whilst we appreciate your circumstances, Kings Furlong Junior School do not approve any absences during term time unless they are due to exceptional circumstances as per the guidance from the Department of Education.

The rationale behind this decision is that the Government has provided evidence that satisfactory progress at school is highly dependent on attendance.

Kings Furlong Junior School works closely with the Inclusion Support Service and if you choose to take your child out of school for the above unauthorised leave, we will notify the local authority and further action including legal action may be considered.

Please note that such a Penalty is issued to each parent for each child taken out of school. A Penalty Notice is a fine of £80 which increases to £160 if not paid within the first 21 days. Thereafter if the Penalty remains unpaid after 28 days this may result in legal action be taken against you. Parents have a duty to ensure their child's regular attendance at school and failure to do so is an offence under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996.

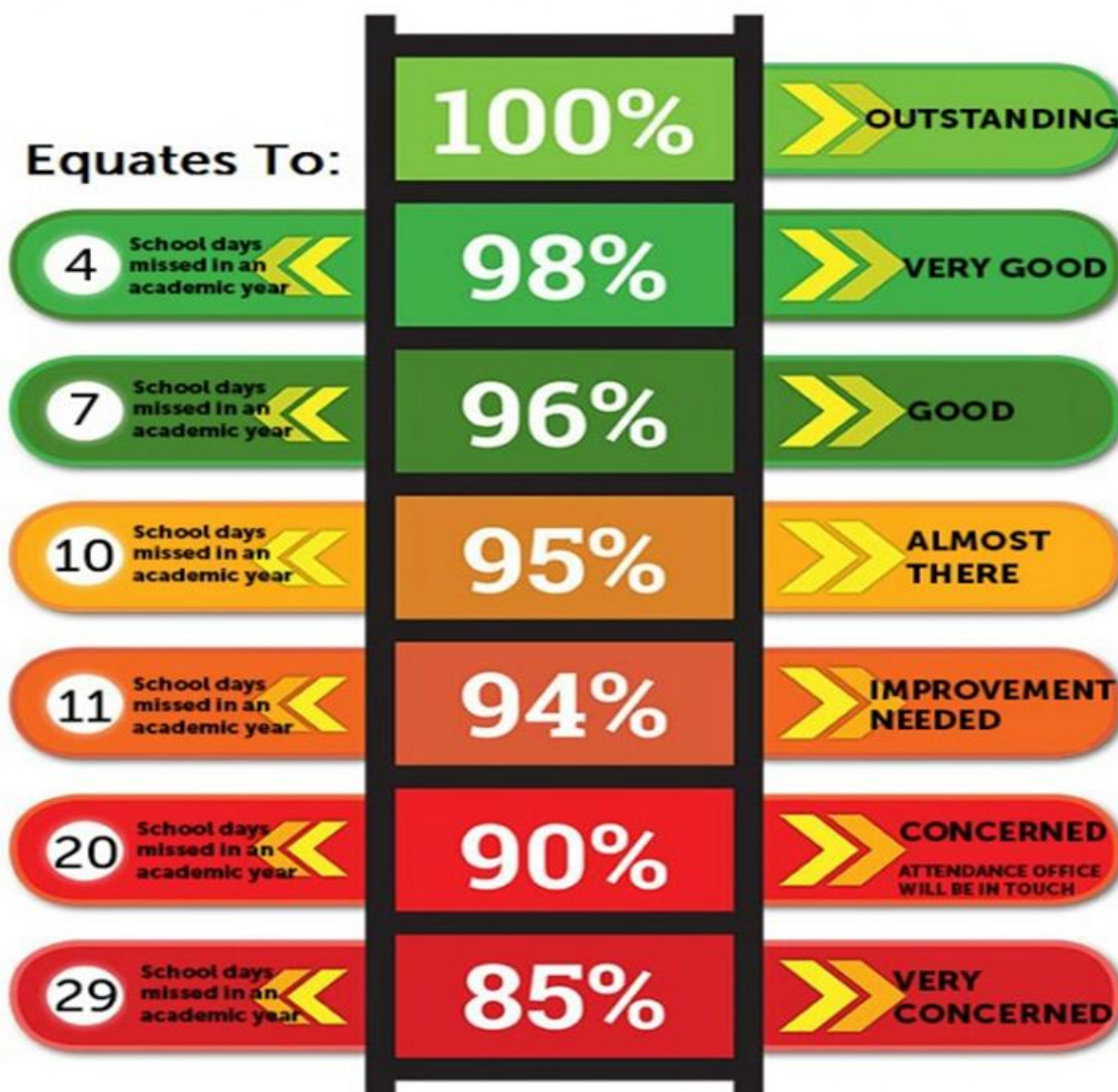
I have noted the dates that Child Name will be absent from Kings Furlong Junior School, Dates of leave and the registers will be marked with the G code (unauthorised family holiday) for this period.

If you would like to discuss the matter further, please contact the school on 01256325324

Yours sincerely

Miss Westaway  
Headteacher

# Attendance Ladder



## Why is regular attendance so important?

Being in school every day that it is open, is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and their wider development.

Generally, the higher the percentage of sessions missed across Key Stage 2 (junior school), the lower the level of attainment at the end of the Key Stage.

## **When can my child be absent from school?**

When you register your child at school, you have a legal duty to ensure your child attends that school regularly. This means that your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- Your child is too ill to attend that day.
- You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on that day due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child cannot attend school on that day because it is a day you are taking part in religious observance
- Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it is not available on that day or has not been provided yet; or
- You are a gypsy/traveller family with no fixed abode, and you are required to travel for work that day meaning your child cannot attend their usual school. In most circumstances, however, your child is required to attend another school temporarily during such absences.

These are the only circumstances where schools can permit your child to be absent.

## **Persistent absence**

A child is defined as persistently absent when their overall attendance is less than 90%. Over an academic year this equates to one day every two weeks.

## **What do I need to do if my child needs to be absent from school for one of those reasons?**

You should contact the school office as early as possible to explain why and follow the procedure outlined in the school attendance policy:

<https://www.kingsfurlong.net/policies/>

All parents can request a 'leave of absence' for their child which gives them permission to be absent from school. Leaves of absence must be applied for before your child will be absent and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

## **Can I take my child on holiday during term time?**

Parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid requesting leaves of absence for holidays unless it is unavoidable.

As leave of absence is only granted in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely that the Head Teacher will agree a leave of absence for a family holiday.

If permission is refused and you keep your child off school on the days requested, you are likely to be committing an offence and will be issued a fixed penalty notice (fine), or be prosecuted, by the local authority.

### **Where can I get support to help my child attend school?**

Children may struggle to attend school for a wide range of reasons. If your child is struggling to attend school, both the school and the local authority also have responsibilities to help you to support your child's attendance.

If we have concerns about your child's attendance, the class teacher will contact you to explore the reasons and discuss what help can be put in place to help you overcome the barriers they are facing.

Meetings can be arranged with a variety of members of the school team, depending on the need of your child. Information on who in school you can contact for help can be found on the school website. As part of these meetings, we will agree a set of joint actions to help overcome any barriers to attendance.

If the barriers to attendance you or your child are facing go beyond the remit of the school – such as a transport or a mental health issues, please speak to either Behaviour and Mental Health Lead or the Head Teacher, as we may be able to help you to access the wider support you might need.

### **Deciding if your child is well enough to attend school**

It can be difficult to decide if you should keep your child at home if they are feeling unwell. Useful advice is available online at: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> or via the Healthier Together App (download from the App Store or Google Play).

If your child is frequently unwell, it is worth speaking to your GP about this, or we can help with a referral to the school nursing team.

### **Siblings**

We know that germs have a habit of travelling within families, however if we notice that siblings are always absent on the same dates, we will be in contact to check that this is genuine. We appreciate that when one child is unwell, it can be difficult to drop off or collect the child that is not ill, but it is vitally important they attend school.

# New attendance rules!



There are new rules for unauthorised absences, whether this is due to holiday, irregular attendance, or otherwise. Don't get caught out!

**1**

**I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for 5 days.**

Make sure you use the absence request form. Your holiday will not be authorised. Let the school know before you book anything. As your child will miss 5 school days, you'll be given a penalty notice fine.



For each child a penalty is given...



**1 parent & 1 child = £160**  
Reduced to £80 if paid in 21 days

**1 parent & 4 children = £640**  
Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

**For a family of 2 parents & 4 children**



**£1280**

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

**What happens if school suspects children are actually on holiday?**

Photos on Facebook?  
Foreign mobile dial tone?  
Other children talking about your holiday?  
Amazing sun tan?  
Home visit shows no-one at home?



Please don't be offended if we ask for evidence or mention these questions to you. We're required to do this to ensure a fair system!

**2**

**What about subsequent absences? Is it still the same penalty amount?**

**No, not anymore.** If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> leave of absence OR pattern of irregular attendance, which is unauthorised, then...

**2<sup>nd</sup> TIME**

2 parents and...  
1 child = £320  
2 children = £640  
3 children = £960  
4 children = £1280

**NO DISCOUNT FOR EARLY PAYMENT**

**3<sup>rd</sup> TIME**

A penalty notice fine **may not** be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2,500 for each child.

**1 parent & 4 children = £10,000**  
**2 parents and 4 children = £20,000**

**3**

**What about irregular attendance? Could I get a penalty notice?**

**YES**

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks, and their absences are unauthorised, then the school is required to consider penalty notices / prosecution.



So, half a day here and day there could all add up to 10 sessions in 10 weeks. If unauthorised, then it would be a penalty notice. Remember, 1 day is 2 sessions (morning and afternoon).

**4**

**What are typical reasons given that won't be authorised?**

**Examples of unauthorised absences**

A family member's birthday	Sickness of parent or sibling
Shopping for uniforms	Sibling's school closed
Inadequate clothing for school	Refusing to attend, but able to
Child being used as a carer	Poor family organisation
Problems with transport	Family holidays
	No absence request completed

**Where attendance is irregular, or historically poor, sickness absences may be unauthorised unless medical confirmation by a medical professional is given.**



**EVERY DAY COUNTS – ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

## Appendix 5: Attendance codes

The following codes are taken from **Working Together to Improve School Attendance**

Code	Definition	Scenario
/	Present (am)	Pupil is present at morning registration
\	Present (pm)	Pupil is present at afternoon registration
L	Late arrival	Pupil arrives late before register has closed
B	Off-site educational activity approved by the school. Schools must also record the nature of the approved educational activity.	Examples of nature of activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1) Attending taster days at college</li> <li>• 2) Attending courses at college</li> <li>• 3) Attending unregistered alternative provision arranged by the school</li> </ul>
D	Dual registered	Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered
K	Attending education provision arranged by the Local Authority Schools must also record the nature of the provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending courses at college</li> <li>• Attending unregistered alternative provision such as, home tutoring</li> </ul>
P	Sporting activity	The pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is a sporting activity
V	Educational visit or trip	An educational visit or trip arranged by or on behalf of the school and supervised by a member of school staff
W	Attending work experience	The pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is work experience provided under arrangements made by a local authority or the school as part of the pupil's education

Code	Definition	Scenario
<b>Absent – leave of absence</b>		
<b>C</b>	Leave of absence for 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	Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request. Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school
<b>C1</b>	Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad	All schools can grant leaves of absence for pupils to undertake employment (paid or unpaid) during school hours
<b>C2</b>	Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a parttime timetable	All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs
<b>E</b>	Excluded	Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made
<b>I</b>	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	The pupil is unable to attend due to illness (both physical and mental health related). Schools should advise parents to notify them on the first day the child is unable to attend due to illness
<b>J1</b>	Interview	Attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution
<b>M</b>	Medical appointment	Attending a medical or dental appointment
<b>R</b>	Religious observance	The pupil is absent on a day that is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body the parent(s) belong to
<b>S</b>	Study leave	Studying for a public examination. Must be used sparingly with revision opportunities in school

<b>T</b>	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	The pupil is a mobile child and their parent(s) is travelling in the course of their trade or business and the pupil is travelling with them
<b>X</b>	Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school	

<b>Code</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Scenario</b>
<b>Absent - unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause</b>		
<b>Q</b>	Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements	This is linked to transport not other access arrangements
<b>Y1</b>	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available	The school is not within walking distance of the pupil's home and the transport to and from the school that is normally provided for the pupil by the school or local authority is not available
<b>Y2</b>	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel	
<b>Y3</b>	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed	
<b>Y4</b>	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed	Adverse weather
<b>Y5</b>	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention	In police detention, remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or detained under a sentence of detention.
<b>Y6</b>	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law	

<b>Y7</b>	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause	An emergency has prevented the pupil from attending. The unavoidable cause must be something that affects the pupil, not just the parent.
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<b>Code</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Scenario</b>
<b>Unauthorised absence</b>		
<b>G</b>	Unauthorised holiday	Holiday not granted by the school
<b>N</b>	Reason for absence not yet established	Pupil is absent for an unknown reason (this code should be amended when the reason emerges, or replaced with code O if no reason for absence has been provided after a reasonable amount of time)
<b>O</b>	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	Where no reason for absence is established or the school is not satisfied that the reason given
<b>U</b>	Arrival after registration	A pupil has arrived late after the register has closed but before the end of session.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Scenario</b>
<b>Administrative Codes</b>		
<b>Z</b>	Prospective pupil not on admission register	To enable schools to set up registers in advance of pupils joining the school to ease administration burdens.
<b>#</b>	Planned whole school closure	Whole school closure due to half-term/bank holiday/INSET day/use of whole school as polling station