



Attendance Policy

LAST UPDATED AND REVIEWED	Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for attendance	September 2024
POLICY TYPE	Voluntary/School Policy	
REVIEW FREQUENCY	Every 1 years – September 2025	
RESPONSIBLE		
Management Team	Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for attendance	
Governing Committee	Resources Committee	
APPROVED		
Approved by:	Headteacher – 17 th September 2024	
	Minuted at FGB Meeting on 23 rd September 2024	

Courage Commitment Compassion

NEWLANDS GIRLS' SCHOOL GOVERNORS' POLICY ON PUPIL ATTENDANCE

To be read in conjunction with

Working together to improve school attendance August 2024

Achieving for Children (RBWM) Penalty Notice Code of Conduct 2024

Education Act 1996

Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4 2016 report

Principles

Students who attend school are more likely to do well and achieve their full potential both academically and personally. It is the responsibility of Parents and Carers, staff, students and governors to ensure all students have good attendance.

We also recognise that for some students, good attendance can be difficult. Newlands Girls' School values all pupils and as set out in this policy, we will work with families to identify the reasons for poor attendance and try to resolve any difficulties.

The law relating to school attendance states in Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 that the parent of every child of compulsory age shall cause him/her to receive fulltime education suitable:

- a. to age, ability and aptitude and
- b. to any special educational needs he/she may have either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child 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.

It is our duty to consistently strive to achieve a goal of 100% attendance for all children. Every opportunity will be used to convey to students and their Parents or Carers the importance of regular attendance.

For our students to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered it is vital that each student is at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. The routines students develop around attendance and punctuality at school are the same as the expectations of any future employer in the world of work. High attainment, confidence with peers and staff, and future aspirations depend on good attendance.

Good attendance is important because:

- Statistics show a direct link between underachievement 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
- Regular attenders are more successful in transferring between primary school, secondary school and higher education, employment or training.

Aims

- To ensure that attendance and punctuality are a priority for all those associated with the school including students, Parents/Carers, staff and governors, so that excellent attendance remains an integral part of our school ethos and culture.

- To provide a framework which defines agreed roles and responsibilities and promotes consistency in carrying out designated tasks.
- To provide support, advice and guidance to Parents/Carers and students.
- To develop a systematic approach to gathering and analysing attendance related data and to ensure that we visibly promote our high expectations for attendance.
- To promote effective partnerships with the relevant services and agencies.
- To recognise the needs of the individual student when planning reintegration following significant periods of absence.
- To recognise that Children Missing from Education can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues and as such, act on this accordingly.

The School Day

The school day is structured as follows:

Tutor time and AM registration	8.40-9.010
Period 1	9.10-10.10
Period 2	10.10-11.10
Break	11.10-11.30
Period 3	11.30-12.30
Lunch	12.30-13.10
Period 4 and PM registration	13.10-14.10
Period 5	14.10-15.10

Recording attendance

- Legally the register must be marked twice daily. This is once at the start of the school day during tutor time and again for period 4. Tutors and teachers should mark students as present only if they have physically seen them.
- AM Registration
If a student arrives between 8:40 and 9.10am the attendance will be registered as L (before register closes) If a student registers after 9.10am they will be registered as U (late after register closes).
- PM Registration
If a student arrives late to period 4, attendance will be registered as L for that session.

Where a student is late, the number of minutes late will be recorded.

Promoting good attendance and punctuality

The foundation for good attendance is a strong partnership between the school, parents and the child. To help us all to focus on this we will:

- Talk about attendance by using number of days and lessons missed as well as raw attendance data.
- Provide information on all matters related to attendance in our school communications, Headteacher's newsletter and website.
- Report attendance and punctuality rate to parents via progress reports and Arbor.
- Celebrate good attendance by displaying tutor and team achievements
- Reward good or improving attendance using measures including letters and phone calls home, year group celebration assemblies, displays, personal congratulations.

- Meet with parents, students and staff to work together on raising attendance levels individually and across the school.

Supporting students' attendance

Newlands works to promote excellent attendance through the mechanisms outlined above. Although we have this preventative approach, we recognise that there may be occasions where a student is at risk of attendance below that which we expect. We recognise that poor attendance is often an indication of difficulties in a child's life. This may be related to problems at home and or in school. Parents and Carers should make school staff aware of any difficulties or changes in circumstances that may affect their child's attendance and or behaviour in school. This will help the school to identify any additional support that may be required.

We also recognise that some students are more likely to require additional support to attain good attendance, for example, those students with special educational needs, those with physical or mental health needs, and Looked After children.

The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance.
(See Appendix 2).

Support offered to families will be child centred and planned in discussion and agreement with both Parents, Carers and students. The school seeks to work in partnership with home and to foster a supportive relationship in the interests of the student. Contact is therefore seen as a first step and not a last resort. Home visits will often be carried out in order to support attendance and also form part of our wider safeguarding protocols.

In the first instance: Early Intervention

The school will support students and Parents/Carers to address any in-school barriers to attendance. This may result in a meeting with Parents/Carers and/or students to agree actions and interventions, so that we can work together to prevent further absence. Where barriers are outside of the school's control, we will work with relevant organisations, as required.

If absence intensifies: Targeted Intervention

We will work alongside other relevant partners and the Local Authority. This could involve a range of different interventions including an Early Help assessment. More formal conversations will be had with Parents/Carers and the student and the school will put in place an Attendance Intervention Plan. In addition, the Local Authority Attendance Team will also be aware of the level of attendance.

Should this support not be effective or not engaged with, the school will contact the Local Authority. This may result in:

- Issuing a Notice to Improve
- The issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice if appropriate
- Putting more formal support in place
- Further support from Children's Social Care

The school will take advantage of appropriate opportunities to emphasise the importance of good attendance and punctuality with Parents/Carers who are primarily responsible for ensuring students attend school through:

- Conversations with Parents/Carers
- Parent carer evenings
- Newsletters and letters home
- Individual meetings

Students with Medical Conditions or SEND

We appreciate that some students face greater barriers to attendance, and these can include students who have long term medical conditions or SEND. The attendance ambition for these students is the same as all students, however, we will work with Parents/Carers putting in place additional support, including that from external partners, as required.

Roles and responsibilities

A member of the Senior Leadership Team will oversee, direct and co-ordinate the school's work in promoting regular and improved attendance and will ensure the Attendance Policy is consistently applied throughout the school. This person will also ensure that attendance is recorded accurately and regularly analysed. This person will work alongside the Attendance Team and Heads of Year to ensure that attendance issues are identified at an early stage and that support is put in place to deal with any difficulties.

The Department for Education (DfE) have set out the responsibilities for parents, schools, academy trusts and governing bodies and local authorities in the Working together to improve school attendance guidance.

In addition to this, the responsibilities for members of Newlands staff, Governors, Parents and Students are as follows.

A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be responsible. That person's details can be found on the school web site.

Senior leaders will

- Actively promote the importance and value of excellent attendance to students and their Parents/Carers
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the Attendance Policy and adequately trained to address attendance issues
- Ensure that the Registration Regulations, England, and other attendance related legislation is complied with
- Ensure that there is a named senior leader to lead on attendance and allocate sufficient time and resources
- Return school attendance data to the Local Authority and the Department for Education as required and on time
- Report the school's attendance and related issues through regular reporting to the Governing Body
- Ensure that systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all individual students (and groups of students), including those who are educated off-site are implemented
- Ensure that attendance data is collected and analysed frequently to identify causes and patterns of absence.
- Interpret data to devise solutions and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions
- Develop a multi-agency response to improve attendance and support students and their families
- Work with the student services team to document interventions used to a standard required by the local authority should legal proceedings be instigated.

The Senior Leader with responsibility for attendance will:

- Promote attendance among the school community
- Communicate attendance updates and matters to staff and Parents/Carers

- Support the introduction of systems to reward outstanding attendance and significant improvements to attendance
- Work with Heads of Year to review attendance regularly and systematically
- Meet the Education Welfare Officer regularly to discuss attendance matters and review students' attendance
- Work with relevant external agencies
- Promote high levels of attendance across all students
- Support vulnerable groups of students
- Liaise with external agencies to safeguard students with attendance concerns

Heads of Year will:

- Liaise with the Attendance Team, Education Welfare Officer and SLT on matters of attendance and punctuality
- Promote & reward good attendance and improvement to attendance with students at all appropriate opportunities
- Communicate any concerns or underlying problems that may account for a students' absence and monitor any safeguarding issues
- Support students and Parents/Carers to overcome barriers to attendance, arrange meetings and signpost appropriate support
- Liaise with external agencies to safeguard students with attendance concerns.

Form Tutors will:

- Ensure that all students are registered accurately
- Monitor students' attendance
- Promote and reward good attendance of students at all appropriate opportunities
- Support students to track their attendance
- Liaise with the Head of Year and Attendance Officer on matters of attendance and punctuality
- Communicate any concerns or underlying problems that may account for a student's absence
- Support students with absence to engage with their learning once they are back in school
- Help to follow up unexplained absences
- Contact Parents and Carers about attendance concerns following three days of absence

The Attendance Officer will:

- Collate all leave of absence request forms and inform parents of the school's decision to authorise or unauthorise absence via letter or email
- Systematically track the attendance of students via internal tracking systems and the school's MIS (Arbor)
- Collate and share whole school and year attendance every month
- Provide early identification of absent Disadvantaged students
- Identify and intervene where patterns of absence occur
- Refer continued absence concerns to HOY
- Keep all school register codes up to date
- Collate interventions on absence, keeping a record of letters sent and penalty notices issued
- Send out warning letters prior to a Penalty notice
- Regularly meet with the SLT Lead to review attendance strategies

We ask that Parents and Carers will:

- Not keep their child away from school to help at home or to look after other members of the family
- Talk to their child about school and what goes on there. Take a positive interest in their child's

work and educational progress

- Instil the value of education and regular school attendance within the home environment
- Encourage their child to look to the future and have aspirations
- Inform the school on the first day of absence and all subsequent days, unless the school has indicated otherwise
- Discuss with the Head of Year any planned absences well in advance
- Support the school in aiming for 100% attendance each year for their child
- Make sure that any absence is clearly accounted for by:
 - Emailing the school
 - Messaging via Arbor
 - Phone calls
- Avoid taking their child out of school for non-urgent medical or dental appointments
- Only request leave of absence if it is for an exceptional circumstance
- Put requests for absence in writing. These requests should be sent to the Attendance Officer using the 'Request for term time absence' form, available from the school website.
- Inform the Attendance Officer at least 24 hours before any medical appointments.
- Support the school in ensuring their child is able to safely attend appointments in the following ways:
 - For students in Years 7, 8 and 9 parents must collect their child from the main reception.
 - For students in Years 10, 11 and 12, parents are able to provide written permission that their child may leave school to go to an appointment on their own. Without written permission, their child will need to be collected from the main reception.
 - If you wish for another family member to collect your child, written permission from the parent or carer is needed. This permission can be sent to the school office in person or to office@newlandsgirls.co.uk.

The Governing Body will:

- Review attendance data
- Take an active role in attendance improvement, support their school(s) to prioritise attendance, and work together with leaders to set whole school cultures
- Challenge senior leaders on strategic attendance developments
- Support the school by ensuring attendance is a key priority

Students will:

- Attend school regularly and on time
- Be punctual to all lessons
- Follow the correct procedure if they arrive late.

Requests for leave of absence during term time

Parents/Carers who need to take their child out of the school during term time due to exceptional circumstances must send a written request to the Headteacher using the 'request for term time absence' form which is available on the school website. Retrospective requests will not be considered and therefore will result in the absence being categorised as unauthorised.

All requests for leave of absence will be responded to in writing and if leave is granted, it will outline the conditions of leave granted. The Headteacher will consider all requests and decide whether or not to authorise the request. Accompanying letters may be sent out by members of the senior leadership team following consultation with the Headteacher.

If the permission to take leave is not granted and the parent/carers takes their child out of the school the absence will be unauthorised. In such cases the school is likely to request that the local authority issue a Penalty Notice or consider other legal sanctions including prosecution in the magistrate's court.

Types of absence

Where students of compulsory school age are recorded as absent, the register must show whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

Absence can only be authorised by the Headteacher and cannot be authorised by Parents/Carers. All absences will be treated as unauthorised unless a satisfactory explanation for the student's absence has been received.

Parents/Carers must advise the school by telephone and/or email on the first day of absence and provide the school with an expected date of return. Parents/Carers should contact the school on the morning of each day the student is absent.

When a student is absent and their Parents/Carers have not contacted the school, the attendance officer will contact parents or carers via Arbor requesting a reason for absence. After three consecutive days absence, the student's form tutor will contact the parent/carer to check on the welfare of the student. Any concerns will be logged in CPOMS.

A full list of absence codes that can be used in the School's MIS (Arbor) is included in Appendix 4.

The most common reasons for absence are categorised as follows:

Illness

If a student is unwell and unable to attend school the attendance is authorised as illness using the I code.

If a student has a pattern of illness and their attendance is a concern, Parents or Carers may be asked to provide medical evidence to allow the Headteacher to authorise absence where appropriate. This will usually be in the form of an appointment card, prescription etc.

Medical/Dental Appointments

Parents/Carers are advised where possible to make medical and dental appointments outside of the school day or if this is not possible, after 2pm. Where this is also not possible, students must attend the school for part of the day. **Parents must show the appointment card to school staff.**

Parents must notify the school at least 24 hours before any medical appointment.

When a student needs to attend a medical appointment, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 must be collected from the school reception by a parent or carer. Parents can give permission for another family member to collect their child however this must be provided in writing.

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are allowed to leave school to go to an appointment if their parents or carers have provided written permission.

Other Authorised Circumstances

This relates to where there is cause for absence due to exceptional circumstances and is at the discretion of the Headteacher. A family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance.

Suspended (No alternative provision made) Exclusion from attending school is counted as

an authorised absence. The Attendance Officer will make arrangements for work to be sent home.

Unauthorised absence

Absence will not be authorised unless parents have provided a satisfactory explanation and that it has been accepted as such by the Headteacher.

Examples of unsatisfactory explanations include (but are not restricted to):

- A student's/family member's birthday
- Shopping for uniforms
- Having their hair cut
- Closure of a sibling's school for INSET (or other) purposes
- "Couldn't get up"
- Illness where the child is considered well enough to attend school
- Family holidays
- Visits in term time to see a sick relative
- A student cannot be absent from the school in order to translate for a family member

Persistent Absence

If a student's attendance reaches 90% or below, they are 'persistently absent' and this can have a significant impact on their ability to succeed within school. Meetings will usually be held with Parents/Carers before attendance falls to this level, but by this level, other professionals are likely to also be involved and the school may also move to suggest an Early Help referral.

Severe Absence

Students whose attendance falls below 50% are classified as having severe absence. In these cases, the Education Welfare Office will support the school by working with the families directly.

Emotionally Related School Avoidance (ERSA)

ERSA describes a group of children and young people who experience difficulties attending school. ERSA is rooted in psychological, relational and emotional factors. Where a student is identified as ERSA or being at risk of ERSA, the concern will be logged as ERSA and a member of the HOY, Wellbeing or Leadership teams will be allocated to work through the ERSA toolkit with the student and parents to identify potential barriers and solutions to the ERSA.

The ERSA toolkit includes a graduated response guide, outlining to schools and parents the appropriate resources, measures, and referrals to be implemented at the varying stages of ERSA.

Children Missing Education (CME)

The Attendance Officer should contact parents on any day a registered pupil is absent without explanation, including in cases where the pupil skips lessons after registration. This ensures that the parent is aware that the child is not in school enabling the parent to take appropriate steps, where necessary, to establish the child is safe.

If a pupil is absent for a prolonged period (other than agreed extended leave of absence) or fails to return from a holiday on the date agreed with parents, the Attendance Officer should follow the normal procedures for investigating pupil absence (telephone calls, letters, Arbor messages, emails and invitations to meetings at the school, etc). The matter should also be referred to the Education Welfare Officer. The pupil should not be removed from roll until the education welfare officer has made all reasonable attempts to ascertain the pupil's whereabouts and safety or has confirmed that the pupil is registered at another school or is being educated otherwise. Where a pupil has an education health and care plan (EHCP), the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) team should also be notified. If a pupil 'disappears' without any warning, the school should immediately notify the Education Welfare Service and also make a referral to the SPA.

Deletions from the register

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 ([The School Attendance \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)). When any of the situations set out in regulation 9 occurs, the pupil's name must be deleted. A pupil's name must not be removed for any other reason and doing so could constitute off-rolling.

Newlands will make a return to the local authority when a pupil's name is deleted from the admission register (a Deletion Return). This does not apply where the pupil's name is deleted at or after the end of the last term of the school year when they are in the school's most senior class unless the local authority has requested such information.

Penalty Notices

The use of a Penalty Notice is an intervention to improve attendance. At Newlands, the use of Penalty Notices is decided only after a careful consideration of the likely impact that the penalty notice will have on a student's attendance and only after voluntary support has been deemed to be not effective or has not been engaged with. The national threshold for issuing a penalty notice is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. This can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 4 sessions of term time holiday plus 6 sessions of arriving late after the registers close). These sessions can be consecutive or can now span across different terms or school years.

When the threshold has been met the school will either offer appropriate support if appropriate, issue a Notice to Improve or immediately issue a penalty notice if it is the best available tool to improve a pupil's attendance.

Notices to Improve

A Notice to Improve is a final opportunity for a parent to engage in support and improve before a penalty notice is issued. If the national threshold has been met and support is appropriate but offers of support have not been engaged with by the parent or guardian or have not worked, a Notice to Improve should usually be sent to give parents or guardians a final chance to engage in support. A Notice to Improve does not need to be issued in cases where support is not appropriate and an authorised officer can choose not to issue one in any case, including cases where support is appropriate but they do not expect a Notice to Improve would have any behavioural impact (because the parent has already received one for a similar offence). If sufficient improvement is not made following the service of a Notice to Improve, a penalty notice may be issued either during or at the end of the designated time period.

Penalty Notices

From Autumn 2024 only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent/guardian in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second notice is charged at a higher rate.

- The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- A second penalty notice will be charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.
- A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.

If the penalty notice is not paid by the end of the 28 day period, the local authority will decide either to prosecute for the original offence to which the notice applies, or withdraw the notice. Parent(s) can only be prosecuted if 28 days have expired, and full payment has not been made. There is no right of appeal against a penalty notice.

Punctuality

Lesson timings and recording lates

When a student is late to a lesson, teachers must mark the student as L (late) in Arbor and also record the number of minutes late.

Start of day

Students are expected to arrive to school with enough time to be in their tutor group before 8.40am. The main entrance gates are locked at 8:38am and after that time, students need to enter by the reception gates and immediately head to their tutor group. Each morning, a member of the Leadership Team will be on duty at the reception gate to monitor students who are late. If a student arrives to school after morning registration, they must sign in at reception.

Lates after break and lunch

Students are expected to start moving to their lessons before the lesson starts to ensure they are on time and ready to learn. Staff on duty should ensure they are moving students on to their lessons five minutes before the end of Break or Lunch. For **registration**, and lessons **three** and **four**, students are classified as late as soon as the official start time is reached. For example; if a student arrives at 11:32am for **lesson three**, they are two minutes late. The student is therefore marked as L and two minutes late is recorded.

Lates after lessons

We do not have a lesson change over time. Teachers should therefore ensure that lessons end promptly but not sooner than the correct end time to allow students to move to their next lesson quickly. For lessons **one**, **two** and **five**, students (and often teachers) need to move from one classroom to another. Students therefore should be marked as late after five minutes. Teachers should only record the number of minutes late after the five minutes have elapsed.

For example; if a student arrives at 14:12 for lesson five, they are marked as present. If a student arrives at 13:17, they are marked as L (late) and **two** minutes late is recorded.

Trigger points for support:

The Attendance Officer, Form Tutors and Heads of Year will monitor punctuality on a weekly basis using Arbor.

There are three stages for students where we are concerned about punctuality.

1. Once a student has been late to a lesson or school 10 or more times in a term, a letter will be sent to the student's parents detailing their poor punctuality, the number of lates and number of minutes late.
2. After a further 10 lates in the term, the student will meet with the head of year and be put on punctuality report.
3. After a further 10 lates, the student's parents will be invited to a meeting with the student and Head of Year. In this meeting, a bespoke plan will be put in place to address the student's punctuality which could include further consequences for repeated lates.

Appendix 1

Intervention stages

Attendance intervention flow

Newlands Girls' School




Appendix 2

Range of possible interventions (this list is not exhaustive and should only be used to give an indication of possible interventions. The actual intervention(s) used will be carefully chosen to support the student and their family to improve attendance.)

Intervention	Lead staff
Supportive meeting with Parents/Carers and student	HOY/SLT
Punctuality report	HOY
Start the day in the SFC	HOY
Home visit by staff members	SLT/HOY/Attendance officer
Reward improvement in attendance	Form tutor/HOY
Referral to EWO	Attendance officer
Refer to parent support worker	HOY/attendance officer
SFC mentoring	HOY
Text message sent to Parents/Carers	Attendance officer
Letter of concern sent to Parents/Carers	Attendance officer
Review classes and/or curriculum	SLT
Issue an attendance contract to students and Parents/Carers	SLT/HOY
Support absent students on their return: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to catch up work • Re-entry procedure • Visit to school in advance of return 	Form tutor/HOY
Refer to outside agencies such as Early Help	HOY
Assign a 6 th form mentor	
Identify barriers through discussion	Form tutor/HOY
Producing a morning schedule for students to use	Form tutor/HOY
Investigate a managed move if deemed suitable for improving attendance	SLT
Issue punctuality report	HOY
Careers interview	HOY/LT
Set up college visits and interviews	HOY/LT
Issue notice to improve	Attendance officer/EWO/HOY
Establish attendance contract	HOY/LT

Attendance award template

Attendance Award	
This certificate acknowledges that	
NAME of form FORM	
had 100% attendance in Term 1 2022	
<i>Congratulations on this excellent record.</i>	
Signed: HOY	Signed: Snr Link

Attendance notice

Attendance Matters

My child has 90% attendance, which is good isn't it?

The short answer is no. Small improvements in attendance make a big difference in the long term:

*Persistent absentees whose attendance is **below 90%** have only a **35.6%** chance of achieving **5 passes (9-4) at GCSE**. Absence which falls below 90% reduces the average GCSE score to **6.62** compare this with those whose absence is above 96% and this rises to **8.4**.*

What can I do to help?

There are 4 main areas that you as a parent or carer can support with:

1) Illness

If you are unsure if your child is ill, send them in anyway. We will send them home if they are genuinely unwell.

Children can be given medication at school such as paracetamol or antibiotics. Do not let the administration of medication be a reason for pupils staying at home.

If your child is absent due to illness, do not give them another day "just to make sure" or "because it's Friday anyway". Send them back to school as soon as they are well.

2) Medical Appointments

Make sure all medical appointments are outside school hours. If medical appointments are essential, please arrange these between morning and afternoon registration where possible



3) Holidays

Holidays during term-time **will not be agreed**. Any planned absence needs to be agreed by the Headteacher and will be granted on a case by case basis and in advance.

4) Other absences

Please make sure your child has all the equipment and uniform they need. Do not take your child out of school to replace any missing items; this should be done after school or at the weekends.

Why are you telling me this?

The higher your child's attendance, the greater the number of good GSCEs they are likely to achieve. Your child's attendance has fallen below **90%**.

She has missed 3.5 weeks of education and 90 lessons.

Your child is competing against every other student nationwide. Give your child the best chance possible; make sure their attendance is above 90%. We cannot teach them everything they need to know if they are not here...

Help us give your child the best chance of success

Request for Absence Form

NEWLANDS GIRLS' SCHOOL
 Farm Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 5JB – Telephone 01628 625068

Email: attendance@newlandsgirls.co.uk



REQUEST FOR TERM TIME ABSENCE		
<p><i>The school does not authorise term time absences unless there are exceptional circumstances. Our attendance policy is on the reverse of this form and can also be found on the school website. Requests for term time absence should be made at least 14 days before the start date.</i></p>		
SURNAME:	FORENAME:	REGISTRATION GROUP:
REASON FOR ABSENCE:		
START DATE (first day of school missed):	END DATE (return to school date):	TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOL DAYS:
<p>Please note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Absences not agreed in advance will be deemed as UNAUTHORISED and so noted in the student's school record. 2. UNAUTHORISED absences may be referred to the Education Welfare Officer to be considered for a Fixed Penalty Notice or other action. 3. If a student fails to return by the agreed date the Education Welfare Officer may be informed. In extreme cases a student may be removed from the school role and parents/carers will need to reapply for a place via the Local Authority Admissions Team. 		
<p>I have read and understand the information above.</p> <p>SIGNED: Parent/Carer (please delete as necessary)</p>		<p>No. 1 Priority Parent/Carer contact email address:</p>
<p>PLEASE PRINT NAME:</p>		<p>DATE:</p>
<p>For Office Use: Percentage attendance so far this academic year %</p> <p>Having considered your application very carefully, the request for term time absence from: to: (days)</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Has been agreed and authorised. <input type="checkbox"/> Has not been agreed. The absence would be noted as UNAUTHORISED. </p>		
<p><u>Signed:</u> Miss J Capon, Headteacher</p> <p>Date:</p>		

Request for absence not approved letter:

Dear

Thank you for returning your request for leave of absence for the dates given above. As you know schools are only able to authorise absence from school in exceptional circumstances. We have already outlined that there is no general right to authorise absence for a family holiday and if you take your child out of school without permission the absence will be unauthorised and we may refer the matter for consideration of legal action.

We have looked carefully at your circumstances and on this occasion your request has not been approved. The absence request form is attached to this letter, and also acts as the Penalty Warning.

We enclose the following additional information on attendance that you may find useful:

- Your child's attendance certificate
- Parent leaflet on Penalty Notices
- Our school leaflet on absence
- DFE guidance on attendance effects on attainment.

Attendance is measured by sessions which are equivalent to one half day. We use percentages to support students and help them gauge their attendance across the year. We strongly recommend that you take all holiday out of term time and check all internal/ external school assessments before taking your child out of school. All guidance is found in our Attendance Policy, found at www.newlandsgirlsschool.co.uk

The national threshold for issuing a penalty notice is 10 sessions (am or pm) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. This can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 4 sessions of term time holiday plus 6 sessions of arriving late after the registers close). These sessions can be consecutive or can now span across different terms or school years. When the threshold has been met the school will either offer appropriate support if appropriate or immediately issue a penalty notice if it is the best available tool to improve a pupil's attendance.

If the penalty notice is not paid by the end of the 28 day period, the local authority will decide either to prosecute for the original offence to which the notice applies, or withdraw the notice. Parent(s) can only be prosecuted if 28 days have expired, and full payment has not been made. There is no right of appeal against a penalty notice.

Thank you for supporting your child's attendance. We trust that your child's full attendance will be encouraged given this information and our decision. If you have further attendance queries please contact your child's Head of Year or, if it is regarding this specific request, please write to the Headteacher.

Yours sincerely

Attendance concern letter

Dear «Parental_Salutation»

Having reviewed attendance records so far, this academic year, I am writing to express my concern that «Forename» has only achieved an % attendance record so far this school year; Good attendance and the recommended level by the Local Education Authority is currently at least 95%.

We may have received correspondence from you informing us of the reason for «Forename»'s absence due to ill health and I do understand that this cannot always be avoided. However, I would become concerned if this level of ill health continued as it could start to have a detrimental effect on her school work and we would need to look at ways to ensure that «Forename» does not fall behind.

If you or your daughter would like any support in this matter in the future or you would like to discuss this further, then please feel free to contact me at any time.
I hope by working together we can see an improvement in «Forename»'s attendance.

Yours sincerely

Letter requesting medical evidence

Dear «Parental_Salutation»

I am writing to you regarding the ongoing concerns I have about «Forename»'s attendance. «Forename»'s current attendance is %.

The register shows that many absences are attributed to illness. I am therefore in the position that I must now ask that any future absence from school **must** be covered by medical certificates, this includes when «Forename» is late to school. Any absences not covered by medical evidence will be marked as unauthorised. This will be effective from DATE.

I hope to see an improvement in «Forename»'s attendance.

Yours sincerely

Appendix 4 School Attendance Codes 2024

The law requires that all schools including independent schools have an admission register and, except for schools where all pupils are boarders, an attendance register. All pupils (regardless of their age) must be placed on the admission register and have their attendance recorded in the attendance register. A school who fails to comply with these regulations is guilty of an offence and can be fined. The DfE are collating all Attendance Data. Data and Benchmarking can take place through your VYED portal.

Present Codes	
/\	present during registration
B	educated off site and taster days and do not fit K, V, P or W codes
K	attending provision arranged by the local authority
L	arrived after the register has started but before it has closed
P	Sporting activity with prior agreement from school
V	educational visit or trip
W	work experience
Absent Codes	
Authorised Absences	
C	exceptional circumstances
C1	in a regulated performance/undertaking regulated employment abroad
C2	absent due to part-time timetable
D	dual registered
E	suspended or permanently excluded
I	illness (not medical or dental appointments)
J1	job/school/college interview
M	medical or dental appointment
Q	unable to attend because of a lack of access arrangements
R	religious observance (only 1 day allowed, any more coded as C if agreed)
S	study leave
T	parent travelling for occupational purposes
X	non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school
Y1	unable to attend due to transport provided not being available
Y2	unable to attend due to widespread transport disruption
Y3	unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed
Y4	unable to attend due to whole school closure
Y5	unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention
Y6	unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law
Y7	unable to attend due to other avoidable cause (must affect the pupil NOT the parent)
Unauthorised Absence	
G	holiday (not agreed)
N	reason for absence not yet established (must be corrected within 5 days)
O	absent in other or unknown circumstances
U	late after register has closed
Z	pupil not yet on register
#	planned whole school closure (eg holidays, insets and polling station days)

Why it Matters.

A school register is a legal document that must be kept for by law. A school's attendance records are important for effective attendance management. They also provide evidence in the event of prosecution of parents under the Education Act 1996, or if seeking an; Attendance Contract, Fixed Penalty Notice, Education Supervision Order, Parenting Order or Attendance Prosecution.

Please Note: Further explanation of the use of the different codes can be found on page 76 onwards of the Working Together to Improve School Attendance