



Castleford Academy



Attendance and Punctuality Policy

Governing Body Approval: 05.09.17

Revision Date: 05.09.18

Version: 2.0



ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY POLICY

Purpose

To promote excellent attendance that will contribute to maintaining a positive Academy and secure a climate for effective learning and achievement.

Good attendance and punctuality at the Academy facilitates a good education and future career prospects and minimises the risk of pupils becoming involved in antisocial behaviour or becoming victims or perpetrators of crime or abuse. Children's social skills are enhanced by regular attendance.

Objectives

1. To promote full attendance at the Academy
2. To share the responsibility for promoting the Academy's attendance amongst everyone in the Academy and the broader Academy community.
3. To reward students and celebrate the success of students who achieve excellent, good or improved attendance.
4. To challenge student attendance where it falls below the Academy target of 96%, ensuring appropriate levels of support and intervention are maintained.
5. To engage with external agencies to monitor, support and intervene where attendance is a cause for concern and falls below 90% (the national measure for persistent absence).

Why attendance matters

If students are to achieve their potential, good attendance and punctuality are critical. The link between attendance and achievement is well documented. Figures from the DCSF demonstrate this very clearly.

We want all our students to achieve the very best examination results that they can. Irregular attendance, can, however, have a significant impact on student achievement:

- Of pupils who miss more than 50 per cent of school, only three per cent manage to achieve five A* to Cs including English and Maths.
- Of pupils who miss between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of school, only 35 per cent manage to achieve five A* to C GCSEs including English and Maths.
- Of pupils who miss less than five per cent of school, 73 per cent achieve five A* to Cs including English and Maths

The Role of the Attendance Team

Miss Longley (Assistant Headteacher) is the lead on Attendance at Castleford Academy.

Miss Rhodes (Attendance Officer) maintains the attendance system; ensuring that registers are accurately marked and absences followed up and reasons obtained.

Mrs Proda (Home to School Liaison Officer) works closely with the Attendance officer, Year Leaders and Assistant Year Leaders to identify pupils whose attendance is below the expected level. Actions are then taken to secure an improvement in attendance.



Punctuality

Lateness = Lost Learning = Minutes amount to days

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their son/daughter arrives at the academy punctually.

Pupils should arrive at the academy for no later than 8.40am. Registration begins at 8.45 and form tutors electronically take the first register of the day. Subject teachers also take a register every lesson.

The Academy will contact you if we have concerns about punctuality and ask that you support our detention procedures re: student lateness. We will endeavour to text you if your child is late.

In order to ensure punctuality across the Academy, we now have a lunchtime senior staff detention room. This is used for pupil's who are late to either am registration or to lessons. If a child is to be placed in this room they will be informed by the attendance officer. If they fail to attend, they may be placed in connect for up to 3 days.

| Minutes lost each day | Days lost per school year |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 5 minutes | 3 days |
| 10 minutes | 6.5 days |
| 15 minutes | 10 days |
| 20 minutes | 13 days |
| 30 minutes | 19 days |

What Parents/carers can do

- Ensure students arrive on time each day, well equipped and in a fit state to learn.
- Take an interest in the education of their son/ daughter by talking to them about the Academy and by attending Academy events.
- If you are aware that your child will be absent from the Academy – please write a note explaining the absence and send it to the form tutor.
- Contact the Attendance officer from 8.00am on 01977 605063 to inform of any absences.
- Inform the Academy immediately if there are any matters that arise that may affect the attendance of your son/daughter.

It is the Academy's policy that all absences should be accounted for either by a note or telephone call from parents or carers.

If absences are unexplained, a telephone call or text home will be made on the day of the absence and a reason for the absence sought. If contact is not made, a follow up call will be made followed by a text message.

What does your Child's Percentage attendance mean?

Parents/carers often become confused about what good attendance is. Castleford Academy attendance target is 96%.

| Attendance | Days missed over a school year |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 100% | 0 Days missed |
| 95% | 9 Days missed |
| 90% | 19 Days missed |
| 85% | 28 Days missed |
| 80% | 38 Days missed |



Responsibilities

The Education Act 2004 states that all children of compulsory school age (five to sixteen) must receive a suitable full-time education. Parents/carers are legally responsible for making sure their son/daughter attends regularly.

In the majority of cases, attendance improves with intervention from the Academy. However, in some circumstances the Academy will liaise with the Education Welfare Service and seek the appropriate legal sanctions for non-school attendance.

Parental Prosecution

An appearance at the Magistrates Court and the possibility of receiving a Parenting Order or a fine of up to £2500 for each parent/carer.

Education Supervision Order

This is a strategy used to work in partnership with families and schools, and sometimes other agencies to bring about a return to regular schooling. The application is heard by the Family Proceedings Court where Magistrates have the power to grant the Order.

Castleford Academy needs the active support of parents/carers to fulfil its mission of Achievement with Responsibility. The Academy seeks to develop an effective partnership between home and the Academy based on mutual understanding and trust.

Reasons for absence

Authorised absence: is absence with permission. This includes instances of absences for which a satisfactory explanation has been provided, e.g. ill health.

Medical and Dental appointments, where possible should be made for after school or during school holidays. The Academy understands that this isn't always possible, however, students should attend school prior to or following a medical/dental appointment and avoid a full day's absence.

Unauthorised absence: is absence without permission. This includes any unexplained or unjustified absences e.g. term time holiday or a shopping day

Holidays in Term Time: At Castleford Academy we strongly discourage the taking of holidays during term time. As you are already aware, Castleford Academy no longer authorises term time holidays. The Local Authority are informed of any term time holidays taken and a penalty notice issued to each parent/carer for each child taken out of school for a term time holiday. A Penalty Notice is a fine of £60.00 which increases to £120.00 if not paid within 21 days. Unpaid Penalties may result in legal action. This has brought the Academy in line with other Academies and the guidance set by the government.

52 weeks in a Calendar Year
39 weeks in a school year
13 weeks holiday



Please consider the following if you are thinking of taking a holiday during term time.

- During one weeks' absence your child will miss approximately 25 hours of their education.
- If your child has one weeks holiday during term time and one week of illness during the school year they may fall below the Academy target and could be at risk of the National figure of 90% for persistent absence.
- Research shows that children taken out of school may never catch up on work they have missed. It may affect their exam results and the progress they make at school.
- Every school day counts if your child is to maximise their potential.

Persistently absent pupils (PA)

At the end of each term Castleford Academy, along with all other schools and Academies in the country, has to submit the names of the individual students who have attendance below 90%.

Fast Track to Attendance

Where a child falls below 90% attendance, they are classed as persistently absent. When attendance falls below 90%, you will be contacted via letter or telephone to say that your child may be placed on fast track. If there is no improvement in attendance, you will be invited in to a Governors' attendance panel. At this panel meeting, we will discuss the barriers to attendance for your child. Following this, if attendance continues to fall, you may be issued with a penalty fine.

Promoting attendance

Staff and Students at Castleford Academy are fully aware of the Academy expectations surrounding attendance.

- Regular assemblies take place in school highlighting the importance of attendance
- Weekly attendance figures are given for each form in assembly
- Rewards given for excellent, good and improved attendance
- Rewards given to form groups for achieving the best attendance
- Informative displays regarding attendance in school
- Attendance focus month takes place twice a year



Fast track

Every ½ term 96% and above attendees receive a post card and an epraise point



Attendance drop below 96%/3 broken weeks – LETTER 1
Follow up call from attendance officer



Further absence – LETTER 2
Student placed on attendance monitoring card



Further absence – LETTER 3
Leaflet about attendance included. Parents invited in to speak with HP



Further absence/below 90% governors meeting

START OF FAST TRACK

Parents invited for meeting with Chair of Governors and HP

Failure to attend: Penalty warning issued



Placed on Fast Track for four weeks

4 week review to look at progress

If deteriorated: penalty fine issued



Improved: Continue to monitor for a further four weeks



Improved: No further action
Deteriorated – Penalty Fine issued