



# Attendance Matters: A Partnership for Success

At our academy, we believe that excellent attendance is the foundation of educational success. The Department for Education's latest research demonstrates that students with 95% attendance or above achieve significantly better outcomes than their peers. This document outlines our collaborative approach to supporting every child's educational journey through consistent school attendance.

We take seriously our shared responsibilities of working together as a community, striving for excellence in all we do, and ensuring that our school community is valued for who we are and who we can become. Through high academic and personal expectations, we inspire our students to enjoy their time here and ensure that they leave fully prepared for the next phase of their lives



**ANSFORD ACADEMY**  
LEARNING TOGETHER TO LEAD OUR LIVES

# The Critical Impact of Attendance on Learning

## The Evidence is Clear

According to the latest Department for Education statistics, students who maintain excellent attendance patterns experience remarkable success. The data is compelling and shows a clear correlation between consistent attendance and positive outcomes across all areas of school life.



### Five times more likely to achieve Grade 4 or above in English and Mathematics GCSE

This represents a significant academic advantage that can transform future opportunities

### Significantly more prepared for further education and employment

Consistent attendance builds the habits and knowledge base essential for success beyond school

### Better equipped with essential life skills

Including punctuality, commitment, and responsibility - traits valued by employers and universities

### More likely to develop strong peer Relationships

Feel connected to their school community and build lasting friendships that support wellbeing

Missing school doesn't just impact academic achievement - it affects social development, confidence, and future opportunities. Every day at school provides irreplaceable learning experiences that cannot be fully replicated through catch-up work.

Regular attendance builds the foundation for lifelong success and positive relationships within our school community. At Ansford Academy, we've seen firsthand how consistent attendance transforms not just academic outcomes, but confidence, friendships, and future aspirations.

# Understanding Attendance Categories

To help families understand where their child's attendance sits, we use clear categories aligned with Department for Education guidance. These categories help us identify when additional support may be beneficial and celebrate excellent attendance achievements.

## **Excellent (100%-99%)**

0-2 days absent

No risk of attendance impacting learning. Students consistently access all educational opportunities and maintain strong academic progress. This is the gold standard we celebrate!

## **Good (98.99%-95%)**

3-10 days absent

Minimal risk to learning outcomes. Occasional absence for genuine reasons with no significant impact on educational progress. Still well within the excellent range.

## **Requires Improvement (94.99%-91%)**

11-17 days absent

Attendance requiring monitoring and potential support. Risk of underachievement begins to emerge at this level. Early intervention is key. Close to slipping into the persistently absent category >90%

**Attendance below the school of 95% is a cause for concern. Attendance below 90% is classed as persistently absent.**



### **Persistent Absence (90.99%-81%)**

The Department for Education defines persistent absence as missing 10% or more of school sessions. This represents 18-36 days absent, equivalent to 90-180 hours of lost learning time.

At this level, there is significant risk of underachievement across all subjects.



### **Severe Absence (Below 50%)**

Students with severe absence miss more school than they attend. This requires immediate intervention involving multi-agency support to address underlying barriers and provide intensive family support.

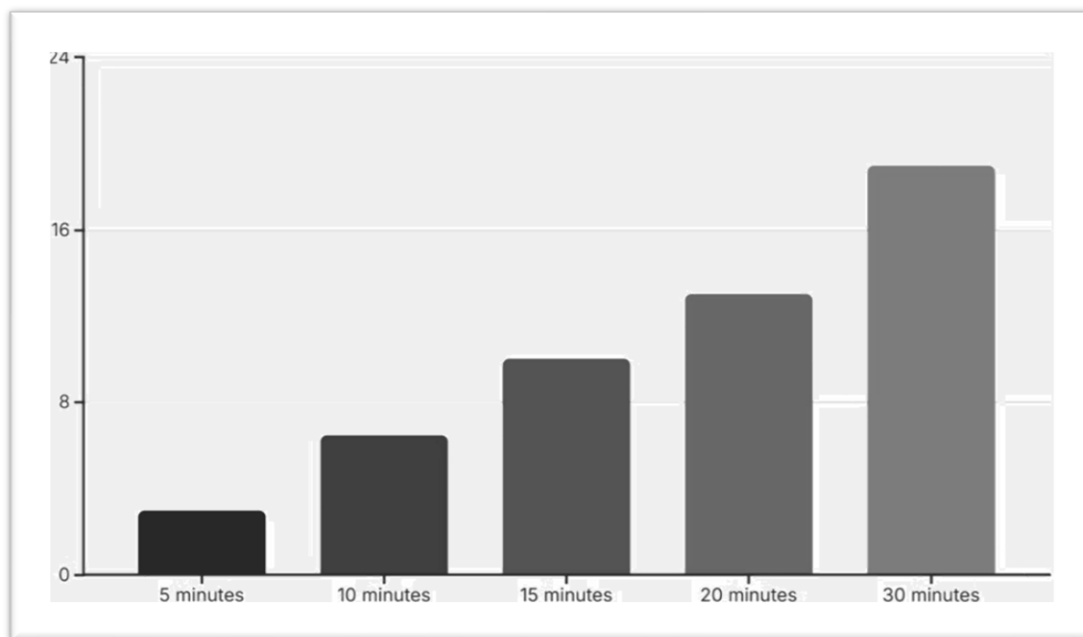
"Recent DfE data shows that pupils with attendance below 90% are significantly less likely to achieve good outcomes at Key Stage 4, regardless of their prior attainment."

Our approach is always supportive, working collaboratively to identify and remove barriers whilst maintaining high expectations for all students.

# The Hidden Cost of Punctuality Issues

## Every Minute Matters

Many families underestimate how quickly small delays can accumulate into significant learning loss. The Department for Education emphasises that punctuality is as crucial as attendance, as lessons begin immediately and catching up on missed content can be challenging for students.



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### Full School Weeks

Lost annually when  
arriving 15  
minutes late daily

50

### Hours of Learning

Missed per year with  
consistent  
15-minute delays

190

### School Days

Available each year – every  
moment counts towards  
success

This data demonstrates that even seemingly minor lateness creates substantial educational disruption. A student who is consistently 15 minutes late misses the equivalent of two full school weeks annually - time that significantly impacts their learning trajectory and classroom relationships. At Ansford Academy, we start each day with purpose, and punctuality ensures students don't miss these crucial opening moments.

# Our Supportive Approach to Attendance Challenges



We recognise that attendance challenges can arise from complex circumstances. Our response is always supportive and collaborative, focusing on understanding and removing barriers rather than applying punitive measures as a first resort. At Ansford Academy, we believe in partnership and understanding.

## 1. Early Intervention

When attendance patterns begin to decline, we contact families to offer support and discuss any concerns. This initial communication is positive and solution-focused, aimed at preventing further absence and maintaining our strong community bonds.

## 2. Collaborative Discussion

If absence continues, we invite families for a face-to-face meeting to explore underlying causes and develop practical strategies. We listen carefully and work together to identify appropriate support that works for your family's unique circumstances.

## 3. Targeted Support

We may involve specialist services, provide additional pastoral support, or make reasonable adjustments to help students access education successfully whilst addressing root causes of absence.

## 4. External Partnership

When necessary, we work with the Education Engagement Service and other agencies to provide comprehensive family support and ensure all available resources are mobilised for your child's success.

# Shared Responsibilities: Working Together

Successful attendance outcomes require genuine partnership between students, families, and the academy. Each party has important responsibilities that, when fulfilled collaboratively, create the conditions for educational success. At Ansford Academy, we believe in the power of community.



## Student Responsibilities

- Arrive at school on time and ready to learn
- Communicate any concerns about attending school
- Take pride in their attendance record
- Support classmates in maintaining good attendance
- Engage positively with school life and activities



## Family Responsibilities

- Ensure children arrive at school punctually and prepared
- Contact school promptly on first day of absence
- Work with school to address attendance concerns
- Avoid term-time holidays where possible
- Provide medical evidence when required



## Academy Responsibilities

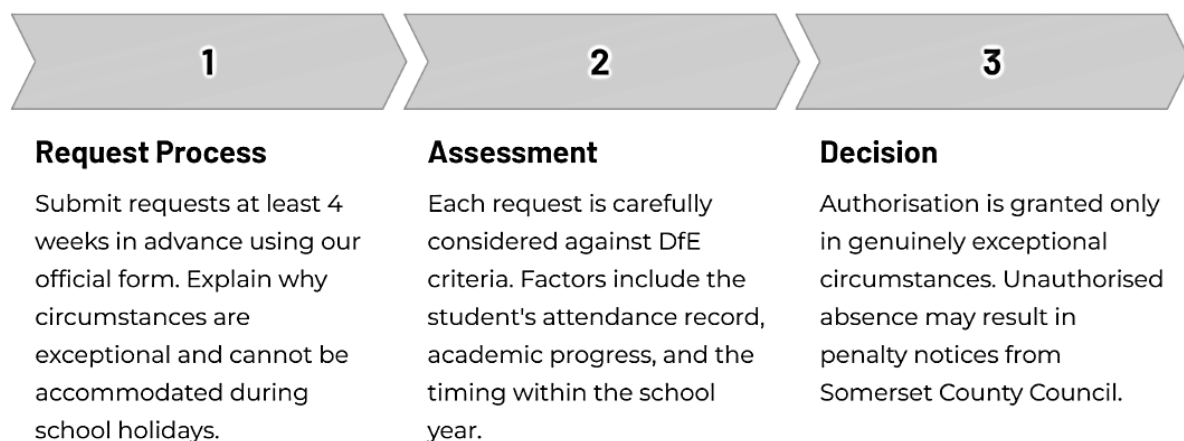
- Provide engaging, high-quality education daily
- Monitor attendance patterns and offer early support
- Celebrate excellent attendance achievements
- Work collaboratively with families to overcome barriers
- Maintain accurate records and clear communication

**Remember:** We understand that genuine illness and unavoidable circumstances occur. Our approach considers individual needs whilst maintaining high expectations for attendance. Every family's situation is unique, and we're here to support you.

# Term-Time Leave and Legal Framework

## Understanding the Legal Position

Under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996, parents have a legal duty to ensure their child receives efficient full-time education. The Department for Education's current guidance makes clear that leave during term time should only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.



**Important:** Unauthorised term-time absence may result in a £80 per child, per parent fine from Somerset County Council. In serious cases, prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 may result in fines up to £2,500 or imprisonment.



We encourage families to plan holidays during the 13 weeks of school holidays available each year. This ensures children don't miss valuable learning time and reduces the financial and legal risks associated with unauthorised absence. At Ansford Academy, we want to work with you to plan around our academic calendar.

# Building Positive Attendance Habits at Home

Creating consistent routines and positive attitudes towards school at home makes an enormous difference to attendance patterns. Many families find that small changes to daily routines can transform their child's enthusiasm for school and make mornings much smoother.

## 2. Evening Preparation

Prepare school uniform and bags the night before

Establish consistent bedtimes for adequate sleep

Review the next day's activities together

Ensure homework is completed and packed.

## 1. Morning Routines

Wake up in plenty of time to avoid rushing

Provide nutritious breakfast for energy and focus

Allow time for connection and positive conversation

Leave home with time to spare for punctual

## 3. Positive Mindset

Discuss exciting aspects of the school day ahead

Celebrate attendance achievements regularly

Address any anxieties or concerns promptly

Model punctuality and reliability in your own

Remember that building habits takes time and patience. Start with one or two changes that feel manageable for your family and build from there. The Ansford Academy pastoral team is always available to discuss strategies that might work for your specific circumstances and support you in developing routines that work for your family.

# Celebrating and Rewarding Excellent Attendance

## Recognition That Matters

We believe in celebrating the commitment that students and families demonstrate through excellent attendance. Research shows that positive reinforcement is far more effective than punitive approaches in sustaining good attendance habits. At Ansford Academy, we make recognition meaningful and personal.

### Weekly Raffle

Students who achieve 100% attendance in the previous week are automatically entered into a weekly raffle – Prize to be won

### Achievement Assemblies

Recognition of excellent and improved attendance is celebrated in our end of term celebration assemblies – Vouchers to be won

### Attendance Certificates

Termly certificates are awarded to students whose attendance is above the school target or who have shown significant improvement.

### Positive Reward Points

Monthly and termly award points are given in recognition of high or improved attendance, and these contribute to our central reward system



We analyse attendance on an individual basis, taking into consideration personal circumstances and celebrating improvement.

This means that students who may not achieve 100% attendance due to ongoing medical conditions can still be recognised for their commitment and effort.

Every  
step forward is worth  
celebrating!

# Your Attendance Support Team

At Ansford Academy, we believe that effective attendance support requires personal relationships and individual understanding. Our dedicated team is here to work with you, not against you, to ensure every child has the best possible chance of educational success.



Karl Musson  
Head of School  
Attendance Champion



Leanne Sweetlove  
Pastoral Lead –Attendance & Inclusion



Nici Fulton  
Attendance Administrator



Jon Davis  
Head of Year 7



Lisa Loud  
Head of Year 8



Tracie Walsh  
Head of Year 9 & 10



Ben Willson  
Head of Year 11

# Reporting Absence



## Telephone Number:

01963 350895



## Attendance Mailbox:

[attendanceofficer@ansford.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:attendanceofficer@ansford.mnsp.org.uk)



## Website Absence Form:

[Student Absence](#)

## Sharing concerns:

### Leanne Sweetlove – Pastoral Lead for Attendance and Inclusion:

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### Jon Davis – Head of Year 7:

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### Tracie Walsh – Head of Year 9 & 10:

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### Ben Willson – Head of Year 11:

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