



ATTENDANCE POLICY

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1 Policy statement

- 1.1 It is the aim of Stone Soup Academy that students should enjoy learning, experience success and realise their full potential. The Attendance Policy reflects this and recognises that regular attendance has a positive effect on the motivation and attainment of students.
- 1.2 As part of the Stone Soup Academy, the academy is committed to the shared core purpose, which is at the HEART of all we do:
- 1.3 The academy strives to consistently deliver excellent educational experiences for students, improving their life chances and serving the communities of which we are a member.
- 1.4 Some students find it harder than others to attend school and therefore at all stages of improving attendance the academy will work together with them, their parents and partner organisations to remove barriers, by building strong and trusting relationships. Therefore, improving attendance is everyone's business.
- 1.5 In line with the DfE's [Working together to improve school attendance](#) guidance, the academy seek to implement a 'support first approach'.

2 Reference to other relevant policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with existing academy policies including (but not limited to) the following policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Exclusions and Suspensions is contained within the Behaviour policy
- Supporting students with Medical Conditions is within the SEND policy

3 Legislation and DfE guidance

- 3.1 This policy meets the requirements of the following legislation which sets out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance including:
 - The Education Act 1996 (as amended)
 - The School Attendance (student Registration) (England) Regulations 2024
 - The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended in 2012, 2013 and 2024)
- 3.2 DfE guidance:
 - The Equality Act 2010 and schools (DfE May 2014)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice_Final.pdf
 - [Supporting students at school with medical conditions](#) (DfE December 2015)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-students-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>

- Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school (DfE December 2023)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>
- Keeping children safe in education (DfE)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- Working together to improve school attendance (DfE - applies from 19 August 2024)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>
- School census guidance (DfE)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complete-the-school-census>
- Suspension and permanent exclusion (DfE September 2023)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>
- Home to school travel and transport guidance (DfE Jan 2024)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-to-school-travel-and-transport-guidance>

4 **Roles and responsibilities**

See Appendix 2.

5 **Equality Impact Assessment**

An equality impact assessment has been undertaken for this policy in accordance with the Academies equality, diversity and inclusion strategy and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Data protection implications

- 5.1 The personal information the academy uses to help manage attendance and absence is governed by the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. Much of this information will be sensitive, to both students and their parents/carers, and staff must take care to apply appropriate safeguards to ensure personal information is processed fairly and lawfully, is the minimum amount necessary to achieve our aims, is accurate, and where necessary, kept up to date, is not held for longer than is necessary and remains safe and secure.
- 5.2 Staff must record personal information accurately, being clear whether something is an opinion, reported by someone else, or fact. It is also important to remember that students and parents/carers can ask to see copies of the personal information the academy holds about them.

6 Aims

- 6.1 The academy aims to meet its obligations with regard to school attendance by promoting good attendance; ensuring every student has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled; and acting early to address patterns of absence.
- 6.2 This policy sets out the academy's position on attendance and details the procedures that all parents¹/carers must follow to report their child absent from the academy.
- 6.3 The academy will also support parents/carers to perform their legal duty to ensure their children of compulsory² school age attend regularly and will promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.
- 6.4 Students should attend the academy every day unless they are really not well enough, or there is another very good reason for their absence which is agreed by the academy. Children who attend regularly are more likely to feel settled in Academy, maintain friendships, keep up with their learning and gain the greatest benefit from their education. The academy wants all students to enjoy school, grow up to become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who are able to realise their full potential. Regular attendance and punctuality are essential in the workplace and children who are used to attending school on time, and on every occasion, unless they are too unwell to attend, will be better prepared for the attendance expectations in the workplace.
- 6.5 In April 2017 the Supreme Court clarified the definition of regular attendance to be attendance "in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school", therefore if an absence is not authorised by the school, the student's attendance is deemed to be irregular.
- 6.6 The academy will do all it can to encourage students to attend. The academy will make the best provision it can for any student who needs additional support in school or who is prevented from attending school, due to physical or mental health needs or disability. The academy recognises for disabled students, 'reasonable adjustments' may be needed to the school environment or to policies to support good attendance. Please see DfE guidance documents [Supporting students at school with medical conditions \(December 2015\)](#) ,

¹ Education law defines parents as: all natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person who has parental responsibility for a child or young person; and any person who has care of a child or young person i.e. lives with and looks after the child.

² A child becomes of 'compulsory school age' on the 1st January, 1st April or 1st September following their 5th birthday and ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of Year 11.

[Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs \(December 2023\)](#) and [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-issues-affecting-a-students-attendance-guidance-for-schools \(Feb 2023\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-issues-affecting-a-students-attendance-guidance-for-schools) – or ask the academy for printed copies.

6.7 One of the most important factors in promoting good attendance is the development of positive attitudes towards school. To this end, the academy strives to provide a happy and rewarding experience for all children, and to foster positive and mutually respectful relationships with parents/carers.

6.8 By promoting good attendance and punctuality the academy aims to:

- Make good attendance and punctuality a priority for all those involved in the academy community
- Raise students' awareness of the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- Provide support, advice and guidance to parents/carers, students and staff
- Work in partnership with parents/carers and, where appropriate, the wider family and referrer and/or LA

7 **Effects of non-attendance**

7.1 Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence may seriously affect their learning. The Department for Education (DfE) defines a student as a 'persistent absentee' when they miss 10% or more schooling across the school year, for whatever reason. Students who miss 50% or more are defined as 'severely absent'.

7.2 The table below indicates how what might seem like just a few days of absence can result in children missing a significant number of lessons.

Attendance during the school year	Days lost in a year	Which is approximately	Approximate number of lessons missed
95%	9.5 Days	2 Weeks	46 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	92 Lessons

8 Safeguarding and attendance

8.1 The academy will monitor trends and patterns of absence for all students as a part of its standard procedures. However, it is recognised that sudden or gradual changes in a student's attendance may indicate additional or more extreme safeguarding issues. In line with government guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), local procedures and the academy's Safeguarding Policy, staff will investigate and report any suspected safeguarding cases on to the relevant authorities. As part of the academy's safeguarding duty and standard procedures, staff will inform the referring school and/or the police of the details of any student who is absent from school when they cannot establish their whereabouts and are concerned for the student's welfare.

8.2 If a student is not attending school regularly, where the academy deem it appropriate, staff will make home visits to see and speak to the student and parents/carers as part of the academy's safeguarding and attendance processes. If staff are unable to see and speak to the student and parents/carers, they may contact the student's emergency contacts, referring school and/or other professionals or contacts of the family, who they reasonably expect may be able to provide the academy with relevant information.

9 Using data to support improvements in attendance

9.1 The academy will ensure data is routinely used to identify emerging attendance issues and reduce absence. This will include using internal sources of information such as SIMs, Google sheets as well as other available sources.

9.2 The academy will regularly review attendance at individual student level, looking at a range of data including overall attendance, absence by code, broken weeks and punctuality.

9.3 The academy will regularly review and analyse attendance, persistent absence, and severe absence data, for the whole school and by groups. The academy will regularly compare this data with external data including other alternative provision academies, local, regional and national data. This will help to identify particular areas of success, and also areas for improvement.

1 Contents of the attendance register

9.4 The law states that schools must take the attendance register at the start of each morning session of each school day and once during the afternoon session. The school must record whether each student is:

- Present at the school,
- Attending a place other than the school, or
- Absent from the school.

9.5 Appendix 1 provides a list of register codes.

10 Attending the school (and lateness)

10.1 Students are marked present if they are in the academy when the register is taken. (/ = morning session \ = afternoon session.) If a student leaves the academy premises after registration, they are still counted as present for statistical purposes.

10.2 Students can arrive at school at 9 a.m. and access a free breakfast club offering a free hot breakfast

10.3 Morning registration

- students are expected to be in school at in good time for the start of the morning register, this means they should arrive at school at least **15** minutes before the register is taken.
- The morning register is taken at 9.15 a.m. on each school day.

10.4 Afternoon registration

- The afternoon register is taken at **12.50** on each school day.
- On Friday registration is taken at **12.20** p.m.

10.5 Late arrival

- If a student arrives at school after the morning or registration times above, they will be marked as late.
 - L code: A student arriving up to 30 minutes after the morning and/or afternoon registration times stated above will be marked as late (**L**) – which, although late, still counts as present.
 - U code: A student arriving more than 30 minutes after the morning and/or afternoon registration times stated above will be marked with the **unauthorised absence** code 'Late after registers close' (**U**) for the afternoon session, unless there is a valid reason for their lateness. Section 18 of this policy provides more information on unauthorised absence.
 - Other absence codes: A student arriving more than 30 minutes after the registration time, due to a valid reason such as an unavoidable medical appointment, will be marked with the appropriate authorised absence code.
- It is the duty of parents/carers to ensure that children attend school on time. This encourages habits of good timekeeping and lessens any possible classroom disruption.
- When a student arrives late to the academy, they miss important events like staff focus, teacher instructions and introductions; this can seriously disadvantage students.
- It is recognised that students are sometimes late due to reasons such as caring for parents/carers or siblings, or transport difficulties. students and parents/carers are encouraged to contact the academy to ask for help if needed.

- If a student starts arriving late to the academy on a regular basis, the academy will work with the student and family to find out more about the reasons for lateness and whether any support is needed for the student or family, to enable the student to arrive on time.
- The table below indicates how frequent lateness can add up to a considerable amount of learning being lost.

Minutes late per day	Equates to days of learning lost in one year	Which means this number of lessons missed
5 mins	3 Days	15 Lessons
10 mins	6 Days	30 Lessons
15 mins	9 Days	45 Lessons

11 Authorised absence

- 1.1 'Authorised absence' means that the academy has either given approval in advance for a student of compulsory school age to be away from the school or has accepted an explanation offered afterwards as justification for absence. Please see codes below and the DfE's [Working together to improve school attendance](#) guidance for more information.)

Authorised absence		
C1	Absent to participate in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad.	Authorised absence
C2	student of compulsory school age is absent due to a part-time timetable agreed by the parent and the school	Authorised absence
C	Absence agreed by the school due to an exceptional circumstance	Authorised absence
E	Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made	Authorised absence
I	Illness (physical and/or mental health related)	Authorised absence
J1	Absence agreed by the school to attend an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution	Authorised absence

M	Absence agreed by the school for medical/dental appointment	Authorised absence
R	Day set aside for religious observance	Authorised absence
S	Study leave for a public examination	Authorised absence
T	A mobile child (child of no fixed abode) who is travelling with their parent for their trade or business	Authorised absence
X	Non-compulsory school age student not timetabled to attend	Not counted in possible attendances

The following information provides more detail about the main circumstances where absence may be authorised by the academy:

11.1 Illness

- Parents and carers are expected to notify the academy on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness (both physical and mental health related) – see absence reporting and response section, below.
- If the child is ill for more than one day, the parent/carer should contact the school each day to provide an update, unless otherwise agreed by the academy.
- In most cases, absences for illness which are reported by following the academy's absence reporting procedures will be authorised and coded I (Illness).
- If the academy has genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity of the illness, the academy will request medical evidence to support the absence.
- Where medical evidence is considered necessary, the academy will not be rigid about the type of evidence requested and will speak to the family about what evidence is available. Where a parent cannot provide evidence in the form requested but can provide other evidence, the academy will take this into account. Where a parent cannot provide any written evidence, the academy will speak to the parent and student, if appropriate, which may, in itself, serve as the necessary evidence to record the absence appropriately.
- If the academy is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.
- Where a student's health need means they need reasonable adjustments or support because it is complex or long term, the academy will seek medical evidence to better understand the needs of the student and identify the most suitable provision in line with the statutory guidance in [supporting students at school with medical conditions](#) or [arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#).

- The reporting of absence due to illness remains the responsibility of the parent/carer. Absences due to illness which have **not** been reported to the academy by the parent/carer on the first and any subsequent days of absence may not be authorised.

11.2 students taken ill during the academy day

If a student needs to be sent home due to illness, this should be by agreement with an appropriately authorised member of academy staff. In such circumstances. No student will be allowed to leave the academy site without parent/carer confirmation.

11.3 Medical and dental appointments

- Parents/carers should try to make appointments outside of academy hours wherever possible. Where appointments during the academy day are unavoidable, the student should only be absent for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment. It is not acceptable for a student to miss a whole day for an appointment, unless absolutely necessary, in which case the academy will need an explanation as to why this is.
- If a student must attend a medical appointment during the academy day, No student will be allowed to leave the academy site without parent/carer confirmation.
- Advance notice is required for medical or dental appointments, unless it is an emergency appointment. Parents/carers should also provide the academy with sight of, or a copy of, the appointment card or letter.

11.4 Phased return to full-time education

- In line with the expectations of the Department for Education, all students of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education, suitable to their age, ability and aptitude, and any special educational needs or disabilities that they may have.
- In very exceptional circumstances there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet a student's individual needs. For example, where a medical condition prevents a student from attending full-time education and a part-time timetable is considered as part of a re-integration package.
- If, for any reason, the academy is unable to provide a student with a full-time education due to the student's needs, staff will work with the student, parents/carers and other agencies where appropriate, to come to an arrangement that is deemed to be in the best interests of the child wherever possible.
- Any part-time timetable should be in place for the shortest amount of time possible, it must not be treated as a long-term solution. It should be reviewed at least every two weeks unless agreed by the Principal, whilst arrangements are made to support the student's return to full-time education at the academy.
- A decision to place a student on a part-time timetable should be approved by the Principal and the referring school. It must be agreed by the parents/carers. The SENCO and DSL, as well as any other relevant members of staff, should also be aware of such arrangements and involved with decision making where appropriate.

Discussions and agreements should be clearly documented in writing and relevant information should be recorded in the academy's management information system and CPOMS. The academy will be mindful of any additional safeguarding risks to the student when they are not timetabled to attend school and will therefore consider carefully whether a part-time timetable is an appropriate measure.

- If the student's part-time timetable means the student is expected to arrive at the academy after the register closes in the morning and/or be absent for the academy's afternoon registration period, any such am and/or pm registrations must be recorded with the **C2** code 'student of compulsory school age is absent due to a part-time timetable agreed by the parent and the school.'
- Religious observance
- The academy acknowledges the multi-faith nature of the academy community and recognises that religious festivals sometimes fall outside of academy holidays or weekends.
- In accordance with the law, the academy will authorise one day's absence for a day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the parent/carer belongs – this will be marked with the **R** code. In line with the DfE's [Working together to improve school attendance](#) guidance, if necessary, the academy will seek advice from the parent/carer's religious body, about whether it has set the day apart for religious observance.
- Parents/carers should notify the academy in advance that their child will be absent for religious observance, so that the academy knows whether to expect the student into school or not.
- If a parent/carer would like their child to be absent for an additional day, around a religious observance, they should contact the academy. The academy will consider each application individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request. If additional absence is authorised, this will be marked with the **C** code.
- The academy will ensure a student is not penalised for absence due to days of Religious Observance, when using attendance rewards.

11.5 Mobile student - parent travelling for occupational purposes

- 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.
- The academy will authorise the absence of a mobile child who is unable to attend school because they are travelling with their parent in the course of their trade or business. This is subject to certain limits, depending on the child's age and number of sessions absent. The school will discuss cases individually with parents as necessary. Parents should let the school know of their plans as far in advance as possible.
- The academy will not unnecessarily ask for proof that a parent is travelling for occupational purposes, this will only happen when there are genuine and reasonable

doubt about the authenticity of the reason for absence given. If there is doubt, the school may ask for proof that the family are required to travel for occupational purposes during the period of absence.

- To help ensure continuity of education for mobile children, when their parents are travelling for occupational purposes in England, wherever possible it is expected that children should attend a school where their parents is travelling and be dual registered at that school and at this academy, which is their 'main school'.
- The **T** code, which is an authorised absence, will be used when mobile children are known to be travelling for occupational purposes, but it is not known whether the child is attending another educational provision.
- When their parents are not travelling occupational purposes, mobile children are subject to the same rules as other children in terms of the requirement to attend school regularly.

11.6 Suspensions (previously called fixed-term exclusions)

- If the academy decides to send a student home for a fixed period due to their behaviour, this will be recorded as a suspension. The academy will follow the DfE's current [statutory guidance on suspensions and permanent exclusions](#).
- Any suspension must be agreed by the Principal.
- The academy will notify the referrer and parents/carers of the suspension. If the student is a child in care, the academy will notify the student's carer, social worker and the local authority's virtual school. In other instances, where a student is open to children's social care for any reason, the academy will also inform the student's allocated social worker.
- The student will be allowed to leave the academy once parent/carers has been informed. No student will be allowed to leave the academy site without parent/carers confirmation.

Absence reporting and response Absence reporting

- Parents/carers are expected to notify the academy of the reason for their child's absence on each day of absence.
- If a student is absent due to illness which lasts more than one day, the parent/carers should contact the school each day to provide an update, unless otherwise agreed by the academy.
- If a student is absent due to illness or any other reason, parents/carers should notify the academy of the absence as early as possible. This should be before **9 a.m.** on the day of absence and include the specific reason ('unwell' is not sufficient).
- Parents/carers can notify the academy by phone, using the academy telephone number of 0115 8221834. The reception is manned from 8.00 a.m.
- Parent/carers can notify the academy of their child's absence by calling or messaging their child's personal coach

- The academy may contact parents/carers to check how the student is and discuss a student's absence in more detail.
- In some cases, the academy may require parents/carers to report absence in a different way – if this is the case, the academy will contact parents/carers to explain this requirement.

11.7 Response to unexplained absence

- If no contact has been made with the academy by **9.15** am on the first day of absence, the academy office will follow up the absence by phoning the parents/carers. If the parents/carers cannot be contacted by phone, the academy will phone the student's emergency contacts, in priority order.
- Priority will be given where there is additional support in place, or where students are considered more vulnerable. e.g. Children in Care; children on Child in Need or Child Protection Plans; children who have previously been reported missing; and children where there are, or have been, concerns regarding attendance.
- The academy will inform the referring schools and any other involved agencies of any unexplained absences.
- If the academy is unable to find out the reason for absence through the process outlined above, the academy will follow its SSA Daily routines procedure.
- If a student has a social worker and/or youth offending team worker the academy will inform the relevant worker/s if a student has unexplained absences from school.

11.8 Further enquiries to support absent students

- If a student is not attending and the academy is unable to establish the reason for absence, or confirm the student's whereabouts, or is concerned for the welfare of the student, the academy will take appropriate action which will depend on the circumstances of each case. This could include, but is not limited to:
 - contacting the student's emergency contacts, or other contacts of the family who the academy reasonably expect may be able to provide information,
 - contacting siblings' schools,
 - contacting the referring school
 - contacting other professionals,
 - home visits to the family address,
 - making enquiries with neighbours,
 - requesting welfare checks from the police,
 - making referrals to children's social care.

11.9 Pre-agreed absence

- Parents/carers are not required to contact the academy on the day of an absence if the parent/carer has already formally notified the academy prior to the day of absence and the absence has been agreed in advance. For example, a planned hospital appointment or an exceptional term time leave of absence which has already been agreed by the Principal in writing.

- Parents must contact the academy if plans change and their child is no longer expected to be absent, so the academy is aware the student is to be expected after all and will follow first day absence procedures in the usual way if the student doesn't attend.

11.10 Emergency contacts

Parents/carers will be asked to supply details of at least two other responsible adults who can be contacted in an emergency. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to keep these contact details up to date by communicating with the academy office or passing the details to the personal coach. The academy will also remind parents/carers about this via the personal coach system.

Coding unexplained absences

- Following up on unexplained absences can take up a lot of time, therefore, the academy expects parents/carers to report all absences directly to us. If a parent/carer does not contact the academy on the morning of each absence, the absence may not be authorised, unless the academy is satisfied there is a good reason why the student was unable to attend and why the parent/carer was not able to contact the academy by the required time on the day of absence.
- If the academy is unable to establish the reason for absence, having followed the academy's attendance procedures, the absence will be marked as unauthorised, using the **O** code.

12 Support for school attendance

12.1 Communicating with parents/carers where attendance is a concern

When the academy has concerns about the attendance of a student, staff will do their best to make the parents/carers aware of the concerns about their child's attendance in the most accessible way possible, communications will be provided in accessible formats and can be offered in different languages if requested.

12.2 students who are reluctant to attend

- Sometimes students can be reluctant to attend. The academy encourages parents/carers and students to be open and honest with us about the reason for their child's absence. If a child is reluctant to attend, it is never better to cover up the reason for their absence. As a school, we need to understand the reasons why a student is reluctant to attend, to be able to support students and parents/carers in the best way.
- The academy's aim is to work in partnership with parents and carers to remove barriers to good attendance. Staff strive to establish good working relationships with the families of our students through good communication and regular meetings to address on-going attendance concerns. If necessary, staff signpost our families to specialist support services who can work with the family and academy in a multi-agency way.

12.3 Child-on-child abuse

- All students have an absolute right to be educated in a safe and secure environment and to be protected from others who may wish to harm, degrade or abuse them physically, verbally, and emotionally, both in person and online. There is no justification whatsoever for bullying behaviour and it should not be tolerated in any form. Differences including race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and ability, are absolutely repudiated as reasons for bullying.
- The academy recognises that a student may be reluctant to attend if they are experiencing any kind of child-on-child abuse. We constantly strive to promote a positive and inclusive culture where all students feel valued, have a strong sense of 'belonging' and are fully supported if things go wrong.
- The academy takes all reports of child-on-child abuse extremely seriously. All incidents will be investigated, appropriate measures will be taken for all students involved, including working with and making referrals to external agencies where appropriate.
- The academy recognises that child-on-child abuse is a rarely witnessed event, and that the most likely source of information will be through hearsay (either direct from the victim, or indirectly through witnesses or parents).
- If a parent/carer thinks their child is experiencing child-on-child abuse or is concerned their child may be involved in child-on-child abuse in any way, they are encouraged to report this to us as quickly as possible, so that appropriate measures can be taken.
- Please see our Anti-Bullying policy and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for more information on how child-on-child abuse is addressed.

12.4 Children in care

- Foster carers do not have parental responsibility for the children in their care, although they are responsible for ensuring their regular school attendance.
- If a child in care is not attending the academy, or there are concerns about their attendance, the academy will seek advice from the referring school the local authority's virtual school and the child's social worker, as well as communicating with the student and foster carer.

12.5 Disability related absence

- The academy will ensure reasonable adjustments are made for disabled students (defined as those with a 'physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities'). This may include changes to the physical environment, curriculum or the way information is provided, as well as providing auxiliary aids and equipment, or tailored services.
- The academy recognises that some disabled students may need additional support to attend regularly and that, for some students, they may have more absence due to their disability, for example due to attending medical appointments. We will ensure

disabled students are not penalised for absence related to their disability and will support the student and family to access support from external agencies where appropriate.

12.6 Young carers

The academy recognises that students who are Young Carers may have caring responsibilities that impact on their punctuality and/or attendance. Where this is the case, the academy will work with the student and family to encourage them to access appropriate support, including direct support from the Young Carers service and any other support the student and family may need; the academy will also provide support in school where appropriate.

12.7 Pregnant students and students who are young parents

students who are pregnant, or who have had a baby, should still be encouraged to attend the academy wherever possible, but may need additional support to do so. The academy will work together with the student and family to come up with a plan of support to ensure the student continues to attend the academy wherever possible.

- Where a pregnant student or a student who is a young parent is not attending, the academy will take a supportive approach to help ensure, as far as possible, their continuity of education. The academy may seek advice from the local authority if a student cannot attend the academy due to their pregnancy, or because they have a baby to care for.
- A designated member of academy staff usually the personal coach will be allocated to act as an advocate and assist the student to take responsibility for her/his continuing education.

12.8 Parents who live separately

Where appropriate, the academy will involve all parents/carers to ensure each is aware of their child's attendance pattern and is able to support the child's attendance to improve. Where a child lives with different parents/carers on different days, we will take this into consideration when working with the parents/carers.

12.9 Complex family circumstances

- The academy will not usually request legal intervention from the local authority in cases where poor attendance is symptomatic of complex family circumstances. In such circumstances the academy will take a holistic approach to the issue and involve other agencies as necessary.
- Where voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, the academy will make the continued concerns clear to the parents/carers and where appropriate may take a more formal approach.

12.10 Formal non-attendance process

- Where there are continued concerns about a student's attendance which are not resolved informally, parents/carers may be asked to meet with the academy to discuss the matter more formally. In some cases, this may result in a formal action

plan and/or attendance contract being produced. The academy may also invite other involved professionals and the referring school where relevant.

- To protect the child's right to an education, when considered appropriate and necessary, the academy will make referrals to the referring school and local authority for legal intervention.
- When referring for legal intervention, the academy will show that the parent/carer has been warned they are at risk of legal action.

13 Rewarding good and improved attendance

- 13.1 The academy recognises that rewarding good and improved attendance should be carefully considered, to ensure it does not make students who have poor attendance, feel marginalised, worried or guilty about their low attendance rate, its impact on the student's own learning or the learning or rewards for the class as a whole. To avoid such issues the academy will focus upon improvements to attendance alongside overall attendance levels.
- 13.2 The academy will regularly review any reward systems to ensure they are not negatively impacting on individual students or groups of students.

14 Leave of absence – leave requests and legal intervention for unauthorised absence

- 14.1 The law does not grant parents/carers the automatic right to take their child out of school during term time for holidays or other absence such as trips and visits.
- 14.2 The academy will not authorise any leave of absence in term-time unless satisfied the reason for absence is exceptional. The academy will consider each application individually. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the academy's discretion.
- 14.3 Parents/carers are asked not to make plans to take their child out of school without making a request to the school first and the school gives permission for the absence. The request should be made by the parent/carer with whom the child normally lives.
- 14.4 Parents/carers wishing to request leave for their child should complete a Leave of Absence Request form which is available from the academy. The request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated; and, wherever possible, at least four school weeks before the absence.
- 14.5 The academy will respond to term time leave requests within 5 school days of receipt, by contacting the parent/carer who made the request, by telephone or in writing. Any telephone agreement or refusal will also be confirmed in writing (usually by email). Within 10 school days.
- 14.6 If a parent/carer needs to make an urgent request for leave, they should contact the academy by telephone and speak to their child's personal coach in the first instance. The academy will aim to give a verbal response as soon as possible, and this will be followed up in writing.
- 14.7 Parents may be required to provide the academy with additional evidence to support a leave of absence request.

- 14.8 The academy will consider the individual facts and circumstances of the case; following consultation with other staff as required, including the Personal Coach and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- 14.9 The absence should be for the shortest time possible – if an absence is agreed, the Principal will decide how many days of absence will be authorised. Agreed leave will be marked with the **C** code 'Absence agreed by the school due to an exceptional circumstance'. If the student is absent for more days than were authorised by the academy, the remaining days absent will be recorded as unauthorised absence, unless there is an exceptional reason for the additional absence.
- 14.10 Any holidays and other absence such as trips and visits which have not been agreed by the academy will be recorded as unauthorised.
- 14.11 If the academy has been notified a student's absence is/was due to illness or other reason, but the academy has genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity of the reason for absence given and has reason to believe the student may have been absent due to a holiday, or other trip/visit, the school may ask for additional information or evidence from parents/carers to support the reason given. If the academy is not satisfied with the evidence provided, the absence may be recorded as unauthorised.
- 14.12 Parents/carers should be aware unauthorised absence may result in a penalty notice or prosecution. See 'Unauthorised absence' section for more information.
- 14.13 If the academy has any concerns about possible safeguarding risks, staff will follow the necessary protocols. (See the academy's Safeguarding Policy for more information.)

15 **Unauthorised absence**

- 1.1 Unauthorised absence is where the academy is not satisfied with the reason given for the absence, or where no reason has been provided. Please see codes below and the DfE's [Working together to improve school attendance](#) guidance for more information.)

Unauthorised absence		
G	Holiday not granted by the school.	Unauthorised absence
N	Reason for absence not yet established.	Unauthorised absence
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances.	Unauthorised absence
U	Arrived in school after registration closed (where an authorised absence code does not apply).	Unauthorised absence

- 15.1 Unauthorised absence includes (but is not limited to) absences due to:

- Reasons which have never been properly explained to the academy

- Arriving at the academy after the register has closed. (Although late arrival for a reason such as a medical appointment will usually be an authorised absence – see ‘Medical / Dental Appointments’ section for more information.)
 - Shopping
 - Having a haircut
 - Birthdays
 - Waiting at home for something to be fixed, or a parcel to be delivered
 - Parent/carer’s or sibling’s illness (unless very exceptional circumstances apply and have been agreed in writing by the academy)
 - Day trips
 - Holidays in term time (unless exceptional circumstances are agreed in writing, in advance, by the academy – see ‘Leave of Absence’ section).
- 15.2 Where the academy has genuine and reasonable doubt about the actual reason for a student’s absence, staff may seek additional information or evidence from parents/carers regarding the absence, and/or make a home visit in to verify the reason. If the reason cannot be verified and the academy has cause to believe the reason given for absence may not be genuine, parents/carers may be asked to provide satisfactory evidence of the reason. If satisfactory evidence is not provided, the school may record the absence as unauthorised.
- 15.3 Unauthorised absences may result in legal intervention, usually penalty notices or prosecutions. See ‘Penalty notices, prosecutions and education supervision orders’ section for more information.
- 16 Penalty notices, prosecutions and education supervision orders**
- 16.1 Under section 444 of the Education Act 1996, if a child of compulsory school age, who is a registered student at a school, fails to attend regularly at the school their parent(s) are guilty of an offence. This applies to both resident and non-resident parents who may both be subject to legal action if their child fails to attend school regularly. It also applies to others who may not be the parent but may have day to day care of the child. If an absence is not authorised by the school, the student’s attendance is deemed to be irregular.
- 16.2 A student's unauthorised absence from school could result in one of the following:
- (a) A penalty notice. The penalty is £80 per parent, per child, payable within 21 days, rising to £160 per parent, per child if paid between 22 and 28 days. If a second penalty notice is issued within a rolling 3-year period the penalty is £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days; there will be no option to pay a lower amount. (Failure to pay a penalty notice will usually result in prosecution.)
 - (b) Prosecution.
- 16.3 Penalty notices can be issued if a child has at least 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a period of 10 school weeks. (A morning or afternoon is one session; a whole school day is two sessions.) However, the DfE’s national framework for penalty notices allows penalty notices to be issued sooner than this, in some circumstances.
- 16.4 Before a penalty notice is issued, where considered appropriate, an attendance improvement plan will be sent to parents/carers to give them a final chance to improve attendance before a recommendation will be made to the referrer and /or LA to enable a penalty notice to be issued. An attendance improvement plan will not be issued where a

warning is not considered appropriate for example in the case of unauthorised term time holiday absence.

- 16.5 Penalty notices are issued to each parent/carer with responsibility for the child and are issued for each child with unauthorised absence. For example, if two siblings have unauthorised absence, and there are two parents/carers with responsibility for the children, four penalty notices would be issued.
- 16.6 **The academy will refer cases of unauthorised absence that meet the threshold for a penalty notice to the referrer and or local authority unless there are reasonable grounds for not doing so.**
- 16.7 Referrals for penalty notices will include unauthorised absence due to term time holiday or other trips/visits, and other types of unauthorised absence.
- 16.8 When referring to the referrer or local authority for legal intervention, the academy will show that the parent/carer has been warned they are at risk of a penalty notice or prosecution.
- 16.9 Penalty notices are issued to parents as an alternative to prosecution and are intended to prevent the need for court action.
- 16.10 A penalty notice may not be issued if prosecution is considered to be a more appropriate sanction for a student's unauthorised absence.
- 16.11 The local authority will consider the information provided by the academy and take action in line with their protocols and procedures, following the DfE's [Working together to improve school attendance](#) guidance. This will include considering whether an education supervision order should be applied for, as well as, or instead of a prosecution.
- 16.12 See table below and the DfE's [Working together to improve school attendance](#) guidance for more information about penalty notices, prosecutions and education supervision orders. The local authority's penalty notice code of conduct is available from Nottingham City Council.

16.13 Legal Intervention for Unauthorised Absence

Penalty notices	
Penalty notices are issued to parents as an alternative to prosecution and are intended to prevent the need for court action. If a student has frequent, and/or extended period of unauthorised absence, a prosecution may be considered, instead of a penalty notice. Penalty notices cannot be paid in instalments.	
Sanction	Outcome
First penalty notice (in a 3-year rolling period)	The penalty is £80 (per parent/carer, per child) payable within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid between 22 and 28 days. (Failure to pay will usually result in prosecution.)
Second penalty notice (in a 3-year rolling period)	The second time a penalty notice is issued to the same parent for the same child the amount will be £160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days). There is no reduction in the amount if the penalty is paid early. (Failure to pay will usually result in prosecution.)
Prosecutions for unauthorised absence	
Local authorities (LAs) are unable to issue more than two penalty notices to the same parent for the same child, in a rolling 3-year period. Should a third offence of unauthorised absence for the same child be committed during the 3 years (including where a child has moved school and fines have been issued by other LAs), the LA may prosecute the parent/carer(s). As penalty notices are an alternative to prosecution, the LA may decide to proceed straight to prosecution instead of issuing any penalty notice. If prosecuting, it is for the LA to decide whether a section 444(1) or section 444(1A) prosecution is most appropriate.	
Sanction	Outcome
Prosecution under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996	If found guilty, parents/carers may be fined up to £1000 and ordered to pay court costs. The court may also impose a Parenting Order.
Prosecution under section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996	If found guilty, parents/carers may be fined up to £2500 and ordered to pay court costs. Other court outcomes include community sentences, such as Curfew Orders, Unpaid Work (Community Payback) or a prison sentence of up to three months. The court may also impose a Parenting Order.
Education Supervision Order (ESO)	

The local authority must consider applying for an ESO (under section 36 of the Children Act 1989) before prosecuting under s444 Education Act 1996. An LA may apply for an ESO instead of, or as well as, proceeding with a prosecution. The order is placed on the child, and a supervisor from the LA is appointed by the court, to give directions to the child and their parents with a view to securing that the child is properly educated. Parents can be prosecuted if they persistently fail to comply with a direction; if found guilty they may be fined up to £1000.

17 Mental Health, Wellbeing, Special Educational Needs and Disability

Under the Equality Act 2010, schools are required to make reasonable adjustments for disabled students (defined as those with a 'physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities.' Some specified medical conditions, HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer are all considered as disabilities, regardless of their effect.) This may include changes to the physical environment, curriculum or the way information is provided, as well as providing auxiliary aids and equipment, or tailored services. Failure to make appropriate adjustments may impact on a student's attendance.

Need	Action	Contact Information
Mental health and wellbeing	Parents/carers who have concerns about their child's mental health and wellbeing can contact the child's personal coach and the academy's Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).	Phone or email Deputy DSL Laura Hendren lhendren@stonesoupacademy.org.uk 0115 8221834
Identified special educational needs or disability (SEND)	Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the academy's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo) should they have any concerns about their child with identified SEND. Attendance issues should be considered as part of the student's individual support plan or Education Health and Care Plan, and part of any subsequent reviews.	Phone or email SENDCo... Steve Thompson sthompson@stonesoupacademy.org.uk 0115 8221834
Unidentified SEND	Parents/carers who think their child may have unidentified special educational needs are also encouraged to contact the academy's SENDCo.	Phone or email SENDCo... Steve Thompson

		sthompson@stonesoupaacademy.org.uk 0115 8221834
Urgent health concerns	Parents/carers should contact their GP or the NHS Helpline by phoning telephone number 111 for advice if they are concerned about their child's mental or physical health and wellbeing. In case of emergency parents/carers should dial 999. After seeking emergency advice and support, parents should also let the academy know as soon as is practicable.	Phone GP/111/999 Contact Your Child's Personal Coach 0115 8221834
Health needs impacting on attendance	If a student is frequently absent from the academy due to particular health need/s the academy may ask to meet with parents/carers (and other professionals where appropriate) to draw up an Individual Healthcare Plan to support the student's attendance. Also see DfE guidance Supporting students at school with medical conditions - December 2015 for more information.	Phone or email SENDCo... Steve Thompson sthompson@stonesoupaacademy.org.uk 0115 8221834

18 Attending a place other than the school

- 18.1 When students are attending educational activities off the academy site, that have been arranged by the referrer, local authority or approved by the academy, the register will be marked to show this is the case. Please see information below and the DfE's [Working together to improve school attendance](#) guidance.

Attending a place other than the school		
B	Attending a place for an approved educational activity, arranged by the school, which is not a sporting activity or work experience. (Not dual registration.) (The school must also record the nature of the provision.)	Attending an approved educational activity
D	Not currently expected to attend, as dual registered at another school (i.e. student attending another school, PRU or alternative provision academy).	Not counted in possible attendances

K	Attending offsite educational provision arranged by the local authority. (The school must also record the nature of the provision.)	Attending an approved educational activity
P	Participating in an approved sporting activity.	Attending an approved educational activity
V	Attending an educational visit or trip arranged by on or behalf of the school.	Attending an approved educational activity
W	Attending approved work experience.	Attending an approved educational activity

- Academy attendance staff will be notified of all alternative education arrangements and updated about any changes, so they can ensure the academy's registers are marked accordingly. Attendance staff and other relevant colleagues will communicate closely with the relevant alternative settings, as required.
- The academy will follow up attendance concerns, with students and parents/carers, in conjunction with the alternative education provider.
- If a student is only being offered part-time alternative provision (AP), the referring school will ensure the student is offered additional educational provision, which together with Stone Soup Academy equates to a full timetable, unless there are exceptional reasons why not. Students will only be offered part-time educational provision for the shortest time possible, and this will be regularly reviewed with the student and parents/carers with the aim of the student accessing full-time education as quickly as possible.

18.2 Code K: Attending education provision arranged by the local authority

- If a student is attending offsite educational provision arranged by the local authority (which is not another state funded DfE registered school, student Referral Unit or Alternative Provision Academy) such activity will be marked using the **K** code. (The academy will also record the nature of the provision.)
- The provider should provide attendance updates to the academy daily, unless otherwise agreed by the Principal or Vice Principal, so the academy can mark the register accordingly. They should notify the academy by 9:30am (or within 60 mins of the student's expected arrival time, if this is later) as to whether the child is present or absent. This will ensure the academy is made aware of any attendance concerns as soon as possible and takes follow up action as necessary.
- The academy will mark any absences using the relevant absence code.

18.3 Code V: Attending an educational visit or trip

- If a student is participating in an educational visit or trip arranged by or on behalf of the school and supervised by a member of school staff, such activity will be marked using the **V** code.
- The academy will mark any absences using the relevant absence code.

18.4 Code P: Approved sporting activity

- If a student is participating in a supervised sporting activity off the academy site, such activity will be marked using the **P** code 'Approved Sporting Activity'. The sporting activity must be of an educational nature, approved by the academy and supervised by a person agreed suitable by the Principal. The academy must be satisfied that appropriate measures have been taken to safeguard the student.
- The provider should provide attendance updates to the academy daily, unless otherwise agreed by the Principal or Vice Principal, so the academy can mark the register accordingly. They should notify the academy by 9:30am (or within 60 mins of the student's expected arrival time, if this is later) as to whether the child is present or absent. This will ensure the academy is made aware of any attendance concerns as soon as possible and takes follow up action as necessary.
- The academy will mark any absences using the relevant absence code.

18.5 Code W: Work experience

18.6 If a student is participating in a work experience placement provided under arrangements made by the academy, as part of their education, such activity will be marked using the **W** code 'Attending Work Experience'. The work experience must be of an educational nature, approved by the academy and supervised by a person agreed suitable by the Principal. The academy must be satisfied that appropriate measures have been taken to safeguard the student.

- The work experience provider should provide attendance updates to the academy daily, unless otherwise agreed by the Principal or Vice Principal, so the academy can mark the register accordingly. They should notify the academy by 9:30am (or within 60 mins of the student's expected arrival time, if this is later) as to whether the child is present or absent. This will ensure the academy is made aware of any attendance concerns as soon as possible and takes follow up action as necessary.
- The academy will mark any absences using the relevant absence code.

18.7 Code D: Dual registered at another school

- If a student from the academy is attending another state-funded DfE registered school, student Referral Unit³ or Alternative Provision Academy, for part or all their education, the student will be dual registered at this academy (Dual - Main) and the other setting (Dual - Subsidiary).

- If a student is attending an AP which is not a state-funded DfE registered school, student Referral Unit, or Alternative Provision Academy, the student cannot be dual-registered. See the Code B section in this policy for more information.
- When a student from the academy is dual registered with another setting, the academy will ensure the student and parents/carers are clear about the student's timetable, i.e. when the student is expected to attend the academy or the other setting, and what the arrangements are for register marking, including the use of the D code. The academy will also be clear which setting will be following up any absences.
- When a student is dual-registered, the AP should provide the academy with attendance updates weekly, unless otherwise agreed by the Principal or Vice Principal. However, if attendance and/or safeguarding concerns are identified at any point, the AP is expected to raise these with the academy immediately and a course of action will be agreed in writing between the academy and the AP.
- A dual registered student must not be removed from either setting's roll without the agreement of the other setting.

19 Unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause

- 19.1 In accordance with the DfE's [Working together to improve school attendance](#) guidance, the academy will record students unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause in the circumstances listed below. Such absences are not counted in a student's possible attendances, so do not negatively impact a student's attendance data. Each school's Y code data is however published alongside the school's absence data in the DfE absence statistics three times a year.

Absent - unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause		
Q	Unable to attend as the local authority has a duty to make travel arrangements* and these are not yet in place.	Not counted in possible attendances
Y1	Unable to attend because the school is not within walking distance* and the transport normally provided for the student by the school or local authority is not available.	Not counted in possible attendances
Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national or international emergency.	Not counted in possible attendances
Y3	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being unavoidably closed.	Not counted in possible attendances
Y4	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed.	Not counted in possible attendances

Y5	Unable to attend as in criminal justice detention.	Not counted in possible attendances
Y6	Unable to attend due to public health guidance or law.	Not counted in possible attendances
Y7	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause. (The academy must also record the nature of the unavoidable cause.)	Not counted in possible attendances

*See the DfE's [Travel to school for children of compulsory school age](#) guidance, or ask the academy for a printed copy.

19.2 The academy will be extremely vigilant in the use of all Y codes. If in any doubt, the academy will seek the advice of the Attendance Manager..

19.3 As the definition of code Y7 could be open to interpretation, the academy will be particularly vigilant with this code. The use of this code should be agreed by either the Principal or Attendance Champion, When using Y7, the academy must also record the nature of the unavoidable cause as a red flag comment in the register, alongside the code.

20 **Children missing education (CME) and removing students from roll**

20.1 If the academy has reason to believe the student may no longer be living at the address held on record and staff are unable to confirm the whereabouts of the student through the academy's usual processes, staff, referrer along with Nottingham City Council CME guidance and make student Tracking referrals as appropriate.

20.2 If a parent/carer notifies the academy in writing that the student and family are moving out of the area and the student no longer requires a place, the academy will contact the referrer and or the LA to advise them.

20.3 The academy will seek advice from the CME team if unsure about any individual cases

21 **Reporting to parents/carers**

Parent/Carers and referrers and/or LA will be able to access attendance data 6 times per year as it will form part of the reporting procedure.

Statutorily the academy must report attendance in students' annual reports, although best practice is to share attendance data with parents/carers at least termly. This gives the parents/carers the opportunity to look at their child's attendance information and come back to you with any queries.

For example:

The academy will include each student's attendance information in their report 6 times per year and provide parents/carers with a copy of their attendance summary for the year in Term 6. If parents/carers wish to see a copy of their child's attendance summary at any other time during the year, they can ask for a printed copy at the academy office.

22 Recording information on attendance and reasons for absence

All absences are recorded in the attendance register in the academy's management information system, including information about the reason for the absence, how it was reported and by whom. Any additional information pertinent to the absence may also be recorded. All attendance is added to a live Google register which is shared with the referring school and/or LA

23 Policy monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the attendance champion or more frequently if there are changes to legislation and guidance. At every review, the policy will be shared with the Trustees.

Appendix 1 – Department for Education (DfE) register codes

Code	Description	Statistical Meaning
Attending the school		
/ \	Present at the school / = morning session \ = afternoon session	Attending
L	Late arrival before the register is closed (see code U for late arrival <i>after</i> the registers close)	Attending
Attending a place other than the school		
B	Attending a place for an approved educational activity, arranged by the school, which is not a sporting activity or work experience. (Not dual registration.)	Attending an approved educational activity
D	Not currently expected to attend, as dual registered at another school (i.e. student attending another school, PRU or alternative provision academy).	Not counted in possible attendances
K	Attending offsite educational provision arranged by the local authority. (The school must also record the nature of the provision.)	Attending an approved educational activity
P	Participating in an approved sporting activity.	Attending an approved educational activity
V	Attending an educational visit or trip arranged by on or behalf of the school.	Attending an approved educational activity
W	Attending approved work experience.	Attending an approved educational activity
Authorised absence		
C1	Absent to participate in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad.	Authorised absence

Code	Description	Statistical Meaning
C2	student of compulsory school age is absent due to a part-time timetable agreed by the parent and the school.	Authorised absence
C	Absence agreed by the school due to an exceptional circumstance.	Authorised absence
E	Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made.	Authorised absence
I	Illness (physical and/or mental health related).	Authorised absence
J1	Absence agreed by the school to attend an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution.	Authorised absence
M	Absence agreed by the school for medical/dental appointment.	Authorised absence
R	Day set aside for religious observance.	Authorised absence
S	Study leave for a public examination.	Authorised absence
T	A mobile child (child of no fixed abode) who is travelling with their parent for their trade or business.	Authorised absence
X	Non-compulsory school age student not timetabled to attend.	Not counted in possible attendances
Absent - unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause		
Q	Unable to attend as the local authority has a duty to make travel arrangements and these are not yet in place.	Not counted in possible attendances
Y1	Unable to attend because the school is not within walking distance and the transport normally provided for the student by the school or local authority is not available.	Not counted in possible attendances

Code	Description	Statistical Meaning
Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national or international emergency.	Not counted in possible attendances
Y3	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed.	Not counted in possible attendances
Y4	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed.	Not counted in possible attendances
Y5	Unable to attend as in criminal justice detention.	Not counted in possible attendances
Y6	Unable to attend due to public health guidance or law.	Not counted in possible attendances
Y7	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause. (The academy must also record the nature of the unavoidable cause.)	Not counted in possible attendances
Unauthorised absence		
G	Holiday not granted by the school.	Unauthorised absence
N	Reason for absence not yet established. (If the reason cannot be established within 5 school days, the N code should be changed to an O code.)	Unauthorised absence
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances.	Unauthorised absence
U	Arrived in school after registration closed (where an authorised absence code does not apply).	Unauthorised absence
Administrative codes		
#	Planned whole school closure (such as weekends, bank holidays, school holidays, INSET days, and use of the whole school as a polling station).	Not counted in possible attendances
Z	Prospective student not yet on admission register.	Not counted in possible attendances

Appendix 2 – Roles and responsibilities

Key contacts

Please see the attendance section of our academy's website for information about:

- Our academy's senior leader responsible for the strategic approach to attendance (Attendance Champion).
- Who in the academy parents and students should contact on a day-to-day basis about attendance concerns.
- Who in the academy parents and students should contact for more detailed support on attendance.
- How parents/carers should report a child's absence.

Stone Soup Academy Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for approving the attendance policy. It also holds the Principal to account for the implementation of the attendance policy.

The Attendance Champion

The Attendance Champion is responsible for approving local adaptations to the Stone Soup Academy template policy and monitoring its implementation and effectiveness.

The Attendance Champion is responsible for monitoring attendance figures for the whole academy at least 6 times a year.

The Principal

The Principal is responsible for:

- Ensuring this policy is implemented consistently across the academy, and for monitoring academy-level absence data and reporting it to Trustees.
- Supporting other staff in monitoring the attendance of individual students and meeting with families to discuss attendance where appropriate.
- Confirming requests for penalty notices and other legal action to the referrer and/or local authority where necessary.

The Attendance Champion

In line with the DfE's [Working together to improve school attendance](#) guidance, our Senior Attendance Champion is expected to:

- Hold overall responsibility for championing and improving attendance in the academy and liaising with students, parents and external agencies where needed.
- Set a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance.
- establish and maintain effective systems for tackling absence and make sure they are followed by all staff.
- Have a strong grasp of absence data to focus the collective efforts of the school.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate progress, including the efficacy of the academy's strategies and processes.

They will:

- Ensure the academy has a robust attendance process, staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities in relation to attendance and have the required knowledge and skills to fulfil them.
- Line manage the Attendance Manager
- Regularly review the academy's attendance procedures – strengths and weaknesses, including seeking feedback from the attendance team, highlighting key issues with the Principal.
- Monitor and review attendance data at academy and individual student level.
- Have a deep and clear understanding of attendance by group, such as gender, students entitled to Free School Meals, student Premium students, students with SEND, Children in Care and attendance by Ethnicity and Language (English/EAL).
- Act to improve the attendance of students that may fall into smaller groups, or the attendance of individual students with protected characteristics, such as students who do not identify with their gender assigned at birth, students who are gay or bisexual, pregnant students and students who are young parents.
- Maintain an overview of students attending off site provision, work experience or activities off site that will impact attendance

Attendance Team

Attendance Manager and Attendance Data Administrator

The attendance team consists of the Attendance Champion, Attendance Manager, Attendance Data Administrator, Year Leads and Designated Safeguarding Lead

The team or groups within the team meet at least weekly to monitor and review attendance across the academy – for individual students, vulnerable groups, and the whole academy.

During their meetings, the team will identify students whose attendance is a cause for concern and agree attendance interventions as necessary and agree the lead member of staff for each student. Depending on the level of concern, the team will involve teaching staff, personal coaches and other relevant staff, and co-ordinate meetings with parents/carers and referrers and/or LA. Where considered necessary a formal action plan will be produced.

Year Leads will:-

- Monitoring the attendance of students within their year groups.
- Communicating verbally with parent/carers in the event of unauthorised absence, lateness or attendance concerns.
- Regularly liaising with the Attendance Manager and wider Attendance Team.
- Working with students to identify barriers to attendance and punctuality and implement support.
- Meeting with parents/carers to discuss attendance concerns and implement support.

Attendance Manager

The Attendance Officer is responsible for:

- Ensuring daily attendance procedures are completed, such as checking registers, inputting absence information, following up on missing marks and contacting parents/carers in instances where no reason for absence has been provided.

- Notifying all relevant parties of unexplained absences, including social workers and youth offending teams, where appropriate.
- Identifying student-level attendance patterns or other absences of concern and reporting onwards to relevant colleagues where appropriate.
- Ensuring accurate attendance records are maintained for students attending alternative provision and sharing any attendance concerns of such students with relevant colleagues.
- Monitoring and reviewing attendance data at academy and individual student level.
- Ensuring the records they keep are accurate.
- Liaising with students and their parents/carers both informally and through attendance support plans where appropriate, to address attendance and punctuality issues.
- Co-ordinating requests for term-time leave of absence.
- Working with the referrers and or LA regarding CME referrals, EHE requests, penalty notices and prosecutions and attend any meetings with the referrer and or LA where necessary.
- Attending relevant network meetings and training opportunities
- Keeping up to date with changes in legislation and guidance and ensuring best practice.
- Will focus on safeguarding and how attendance links to wider safeguarding concerns and will highlight any attendance concerns to the academy's weekly safeguarding team meetings.
- The Attendance Manager will be the point of contact for parents/carer who have their own concerns about their child's attendance and will meet with parents/carers as and when necessary, share attendance concerns and draw up attendance plans or contracts as necessary. The Attendance Manager will also liaise with external agencies and make referrals as required.
- Attendance letters will be sent via the Attendance Manager.

Office Staff

- Academy office staff also take calls from parents/carers about absence and record the information on the academy's management information system and live Google doc..
- Academy office staff including Personal Coaches welcome children who arrive late to school after the designated staff member has finished their late slot, recording their time of arrival and reason for being late. Where support for the student is identified, the staff member will share information with the relevant academy colleague/s.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL is responsible for:

- Providing safeguarding support and advice to attendance colleagues as appropriate, including in response to term-time leave requests and CME cases.
- Taking safeguarding action where necessary.
- Meeting with the academy attendance officer/attendance team to review the attendance of the students on the academy's Vulnerable List and agreeing any action needed.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo)

- The SENDCo is responsible for meeting with the academy attendance manager/attendance team to review the attendance of the students on the academy's Vulnerable List/SEND Register and agreeing any action needed.

Subject Teachers

- Subject teachers are responsible for accurately recording the attendance of all the students on their class list. Teachers are expected to highlight any anomalies in their class list – for example students who are attending but are not on the class list and students who are not attending, and the teacher believes they should no longer be on their class list. Any anomalies should be reported to Younes Henini: Vice Principal.
- Subject teachers are responsible for completing the attendance of their group via Lesson Monitor.
- Subject teachers are responsible for highlighting any attendance concerns of students on their class list to ensure the relevant staff member/s are aware and follow up action is taken where necessary. Any concerns re individual students' attendance should be reported to the Attendance Manager.

Personal Coaches/Year Leads

- A Personal Coach is the first point of contact for their students. Personal Coaches will contact their key students by phone and speak to them from 8.45 a.m. each morning and before 9 a.m. text messages should be a back-up method with verbal confirmation required. If a student cannot be contacted, the parents/carers contacts in priority order will be phoned and a parent/carer spoken to, to determine attendance.
- After 9.15 phone calls can still be made to both parents/carers and students to establish their whereabouts and to encourage attendance.
- Personal coaches will enter all attendance related contact with their key students on the live google register with a timestamp.