

# Attendance Policy

## **Rationale**

We have compiled our Attendance Policy in line with recent national and local developments. The benefits of regular attendance are fundamental to inclusion.

We regard regular attendance as a high priority. Children whose attendance is high will settle much more easily and have greater access to the Early Years curriculum. This enables them to succeed and offers the best start in lifelong education.

Whilst attendance is not statutory for the nursery education we believe regular attendance, particularly for funded / core provision ensures that the school is providing best value for the community. It is important that we ensure families and children recognise that regular attendance has a beneficial effect on children's learning and promotes positive attitudes, which continue throughout school life. Children who do not attend regularly are often those about whom we have other concerns.

## **Aims and Intentions of this policy**

### **Our aims are:**

- To promote regular attendance in order to ensure that children's best interests are met and that educational attainment is improved.
- To ensure full attendance and occupancy therefore maximising the use of our resources.
- To raise awareness in the community regarding the benefits that consistent attendance has on children's achievement.

## **Objectives**

### **Our aims will be implemented through the following objectives:**

- We will provide clear guidelines on follow up of procedures based on Local Authority Policy.
- We will ensure on entry to Nursery that parents/carers are made aware that regular attendance is an expectation
- We will make parents/carers aware of the benefits of regular attendance
- We will monitor attendance and analyse data in order to ensure progress.
- We will identify opportunities for cost-effective networking and training with other schools and other professionals.

- We will share responsibility for promoting nursery attendance as a whole school.
- We will follow Local Authority Policies and Guidelines on extended visits abroad / holiday absence for all children.
- We will work closely with families where there is regular non-attendance.

The following support the **implementation** of this policy and ensure we monitor **impact**

- a. Attendance guidelines including daily, weekly and monthly procedures
- b. Assessment policy and guidelines
- c. Overcoming barriers to learning

### **Amendments during Covid-19**

Our school is open for all children to attend, however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some parents have chosen to keep their child at home. We will support all parents and children, whatever their decision about deciding to send their child to school.

For children that have returned to school we will follow the policy guidelines as stated above. If children are absent from school we will follow this up on the first day of absence with the parent/carer.

Attendance is monitored daily and submitted to the Department for Education. Weekly attendance figures are analysed and shared with governors, along with information about the provision of food for families experiencing food insecurity.

For children that remain at home, we will continue to support their learning. See also, teaching and learning policy including online learning. We will make weekly phone calls to parents/carers to check on well-being, financial and food security, ensure contact details are up to date and interact with the child and family members. We believe regular contact is important to ensure children still feel they are part of the school family.

We will continue to liaise with families as the government and Department for Education guidance changes over time. We will support parents/carers in their decision making process and try to provide as much information as possible to help families draw their own conclusions about whether or not their child should attend.

We will review the attendance policy as often as necessary as government guidance develops during the pandemic.