Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust

Bradford Girls' Grammar School

Attendance and Punctuality Policy 2026-27

Aspire – Succeed – Lead

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1. Trust Policy Statement

Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust (BDAT) regards the excellent attendance of children as integral to the success of the pupils and thus the success of their academies. For the purpose of this policy, the term Trust refers to BDAT. The Trust is committed to ensuring that pupils and parents/carers understand the absolute importance of full attendance at our schools.

As part of our focus on diversity and inclusion, BDAT pledges that our policies will seek to promote equality, fairness, and respect for all staff and pupils. Our policies reflect the BDAT values of inclusion, compassion, aspiration, resilience, and excellence. By working closely with a range of stakeholders, such as our school, union, and HR colleagues, we have ensured that BDAT's policies do not unlawfully discriminate against anybody.

2. Aims of the Policy

This policy is intended to outline the expectations, procedures and key staff in relation to attendance as well as the strategy and support in place to ensure pupils maximise their attendance at school.

We envisage that this policy will act as a 'user manual' for pupils, families and staff when it comes to promoting positive attendance at school and will keep it under annual review. We will use our stakeholder voice mechanisms (e.g. pupil surveys, parent forum etc.) in order to ensure that feedback around this policy is taken on board when the policy is reviewed.

In line with the latest DFE Guidance on Working Together to Improve School Attendance, our school is committed to working in collaboration to:

Expect - Aspire to high standards of attendance from all pupils and build a culture where all can, and want to, be in school and ready to learn by prioritising attendance improvement across the school.

Monitor - Rigorously use attendance data to identify patterns of poor attendance (at individual and cohort level) as soon as possible so all parties can work together to resolve them before they become entrenched.

Listen and Understand - When a pattern is spotted, discuss with pupils and parents to listen to and understand barriers to attendance and agree how all partners can work together to resolve them.

Facilitate Support - Remove barriers in school and help pupils and parents to access the support they need to overcome the barriers outside of school. This might include an early help or whole family plan where absence is a symptom of wider issues.

Formalise Support - Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, partners should work together to explain the consequences clearly and ensure support is also in place to enable families to respond. Depending on the circumstances this may include formalising support through an attendance contract or education supervision order.

Enforce - Where all other avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or not being engaged with, enforce attendance through statutory intervention: a penalty notice in line with the National Framework or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education.

This policy will be published on the Bradford Girls' Grammar School website and will be recirculated to parents at the start of each academic year, as well as when it is updated at any other point.

3. Introduction

At Bradford Girls' Grammar School, our priorities are that our pupils are safe, healthy and successful, all of which are helped by attending school regularly. We believe that working in partnership with families is the best way to maximise attendance at school to achieve these priorities. Our aim is for Bradford Girls' Grammar School to be a calm, orderly, safe and supportive environment where all pupils want to be and are keen and ready to learn.

We know that regular attendance at school is vitally important in helping pupils to reach their academic potential, to help them grow socially and emotionally, and to develop a range of life skills which will support them as they enter the world of work or higher education at the end of their compulsory education.

Research clearly demonstrates the link between regular school attendance and educational progress and achievement. Children who frequently miss school often fall behind and, ultimately, they are likely to have fewer qualifications at lower grades, which can impact on their ability to access further education and/or employment. Children who frequently miss school can often fall behind which means they may not grasp key concepts that support their learning as they move through Secondary education.

When it comes to school attendance, it is easy to think that 90% attendance is at a positive level, but the reality is that this is equivalent to one day off school per fortnight or 95 hours of learning missed across a year. Children who have less than 90% attendance are regarded as 'persistent absentees' from school by government standards.

Attendance %	School Days Missed in a Year	Hours of Learning Missed in a Year
100	0	0
95	9.5	50
90	19	100
85	28.5	150
80	38	200
50	95	500

It is our expectation that our pupils should only miss school when it is absolutely necessary and should aim for a minimum of 97% attendance over the course of each year. We will consistently work towards a goal of 100% attendance for all children.

Strong school attendance for every child is in everyone's best interests, and it is the responsibility of us all. We are determined to work collaboratively with pupils and their families to find the most supportive routes to make this happen.

4. Key Staff

This section of the policy details key staff and their responsibilities in relation to different aspects of the attendance policy.

Staff Member	Job Title	Role
Rebecca Stothers	Attendance Governor	To ensure that the governing body have an accurate view of attendance within school, support escalation procedures where needed and provide an appropriate level of challenge to school leaders to ensure that the attendance strategy is effective.
Mrs C Foster Caroline.foster@bggs.bdat-academies.org	Head Teacher	To ensure that the is a strong culture of promoting excellent attendance and a strategy which is led effectively by the senior leader responsible in this area.
Ms S Emmonds Sandie.emmonds@bggs.bdat-academies.org	Attendance Champion (Senior Leader Responsible)	Strategic leadership of whole school attendance strategy including policy development, staff training and data analysis.
Mrs A Perry Anna.perry@bggs.bdat-academies.org Mr R Banger Rohit.Banger@bggs.bdat-academies.org	Attendance & Safeguarding Officer(s)	Operational leadership of attendance including direct work with families, monitoring registers, home visits and liaison with Education Welfare around any legal proceedings/fixed penalty notices
Mrs C Coleman Chrisoulla.coleman@bggs.bdat-academies.org Mrs G Webster Grace.webster@bggs.bdat-academies.org	Phase Leader(s) Key Stage 4 Key Stage 3	Strategic leadership of Key Stage X attendance including data analysis, coordination of intervention and direct work with families as part of whole school strategy.
Various	Heads of year	To support the pupils in Year X with maintaining excellent attendance by working directly with pupils and families to overcome any barriers to attendance as part of the whole school strategy.
Various	Form Tutors/Class Teachers	To support the pupils in their form/class in maintaining excellent attendance through praise, encouragement, intervention and mentoring.
Ms C Wilson Caitlin.wilson@bggs.bdat-academies.org	Attendance Admin Support	To support with the daily attendance and absence procedures including updating registers and contacting parents via text message, email and phone call.

5. How Parents can Support their Child's Attendance at School

This section of the policy provides advice and guidance to parents as to how they can support their children in ensuring excellent attendance at school.

Excellent attendance at school is the part of their child's education that parents have the most impact upon. This is why Parental Responsibility Measures are clear that it is a parent's responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly. Section 444 of the 1996 Education Act also states that:

"If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, their parent is guilty of an offence".

The following are some ways in which parents can support their child's attendance:

- Be aware of their legal responsibilities in ensuring their child attends school regularly
- Ensure that their child arrives to school punctually every day
- Reinforce to their children the importance of education and how attending regularly leads to higher achievement
- Contact school in a timely manner (before 09.00 am) in the event that their child is going to be absent that day
- Ensure that any medical appointments are booked outside of school hours wherever possible
- Ensure that any leave of absence request is only made in the most exceptional of circumstances
- Support their child's attendance (and therefore achievement) by not taking holidays during term time
- Notify school immediately if there are any changes to details of named contacts for their child
- Work in partnership with school staff to support any improvement plans for their child's attendance
- Support the school with any consequences that are implemented as a result of their child truanting or being late to school or lessons

6. Daily Attendance Routines

This section of the policy outlines how the school day operates in practice.

The timings of the school day are outlined below:

Monday - Friday	Time
School Opens Breakfast Club	8.15am – 8.35am
Registration and Tutor Time	8:40am – 9:00am
Period 1	9:00am– 10:00am
Period 2	10:00am -11.00am
Break	11.00am – 11:20am
Period 3	11:20am – 12:20pm
Period 4	12:20pm– 1.20pm
Lunch	1.20pm – 2.15pm
Period 5	2.15pm – 3.15pm
Enrichment clubs and Interventions (if running)	3.15pm – 4.00pm

Bradford Girls' Grammar School is open to pupils from 8:15am and they will be welcomed by staff on the gate and door to support them in being ready for the day. Please note that due to safeguarding reasons, where pupils enter the school grounds, they will not be permitted to leave the school site.

Before the day begins, pupils will be supervised in the canteen. Other areas of school will be out of bounds during this time as they are not supervised. Breakfast is available to all students in the canteen from 8.15am.

We expect all pupils to be in school by 8.35am at the latest so that they have time to organise themselves and get to their first class punctually. This will enable their school day to begin in a calm and positive manner rather than having to rush.

The school day begins with form time where the official morning register is taken at 8.40am so it is vital that all pupils are punctual.

Form Tutors are a key member of staff for every pupil and parents, as they may be the only member of staff who sees the pupil every day. Form Time is a key part of the day as the following occur during this time:

- Key information and messages are communicated to pupils around items such as room changes, school reports, trips etc.
- Attendance information is shared with students including conversations with recently absent students to support their return to school and improved attendance.
- Pupils are supported with addressing any uniform or equipment issues to ensure that they are prepared for the school day.
- Planners are checked and monitored for communication between home and school.
- The achievements of pupils linked to the school values are celebrated. The Form Tutor will also provide advice and guidance to pupils who have not demonstrated these values so that they can improve.
- Topics linked to the Citizenship and Personal, Social, Health and Economic curriculum are taught, helping pupils to learn about issues such as how to manage their mental health, drugs/alcohol and relationships.
- Each year group has an assembly/collective worship one day per week during this time presented by senior leaders, other staff members and pupil working groups depending on the theme.

The official morning register closes at 9.10am, 30 minutes after it is taken. Pupils arriving between 8.40am and 9.10am will be given a late register code (the 'L' mark). This does count as a present mark towards their attendance as they have arrived before the official closing time of the morning register.

Where a pupil arrives after 9.10am, they will be given an unauthorised late register code (the 'U' mark). This counts as an absence mark towards their attendance as they have arrived after the official closing time of the morning register.

Pupils who are regularly late to school will be supported to understand the barriers to punctuality and strategies will be put in place to overcome these with their families. Where circumstances arise that may impact on a pupil's attendance or punctuality, we would encourage them or their parents to get in contact with an appropriate member of staff in school (see Key Staff section).

The official afternoon register is taken at 12.20pm. Registers are also taken in every other lesson for safeguarding reasons, but it is the official morning register mark and official afternoon register mark which make up a student's attendance percentage.

7. Daily Absence Procedures

This section of the policy outlines the procedures that parents should follow to report their child absent from school and the systems in place within school to follow this up.

For safeguarding reasons, it is vital that school and families work in partnership so that we know why each child is absent from school on any given occasion.

When their child is unable to attend school for whatever reason, parents should inform us at the earliest opportunity, and certainly by 9.00am, by either:

- Phone call to the Bradford Girls' Grammar School absence line on 01274 545395. This is manned by a member of the admin team and has the facility to leave a message if the phone is busy.
- Email to attendance@bggs.bdat-academies.org
- Parents should give the full name and year group of their child for accuracy

It is important that parents are specific in the reasons that their child is absent from school (e.g. 'vomiting' or 'fever' rather than 'unwell' or 'a bit under the weather') as this enables us to track patterns of absence more effectively with individuals and particular groups of pupils, therefore enabling more effective support (see section on Tracking and Monitoring of Attendance Data).

When parents are considering whether their child is too ill to attend school, they may wish to consult Bradford Local Authority's Managing Absence due to Illness guidance and NHS guidance on Is my child too ill for school? – NHS

This information will be processed by the attendance admin team so that registers are accurately recorded for the day for any child who is absent from school (see section on Attendance Register Codes for more details).

After the official morning registers have been taken, we will add any late arrivals, so we have an accurate picture of which pupils are present in school.

This will enable us to quickly identify any pupils who are not in school and whose parents have not informed us of the reason why. From here, the following actions will be taken to find out the reason why and ensure the safety of the child:

- Text message sent to priority parent/carer contacts on school system requesting a response. We endeavour to send this within an hour of the school day starting aside from in exceptional circumstances which may impact this (e.g. significant travel disruption).
- If no response is received, we will make phone calls to priority contacts on the school system throughout the morning.
- Where necessary, we may also conduct home visits and engage with external agencies such as the Police and Children's Social Care if we are concerned that a child is at risk.
- Where a pupil is absent from school for ten consecutive days and no reason has been provided, this will result in a referral to Bradford Education Welfare for further support as they could be deemed as a Child Missing in Education according to local authority procedures.

In any cases where a pupil has been marked present earlier in the day but then does not turn up to a lesson, the teacher will report their absence to the pastoral and attendance team who will attempt to locate the pupil.

If the pupil cannot be found, a safeguarding call will be made as a priority to the parents/carers to inform them of the absence (truancy). We do not hold mobile phone numbers for pupils, so parents are best placed to contact them. Please ensure that your contact details are up to date.

If parents/carers cannot be contacted, staff will attempt to contact other emergency contacts held on the school system to inform them and request their support. If this is unsuccessful, a risk assessment will be undertaken, and the Police may be informed. Please see the 'Absconding Procedures' outlined in Appendix 3 for further details.

Pupils are not allowed to leave the school site during the day. On the rare occasions when this may be necessary (e.g. they have become severely unwell at school or have an emergency appointment), the following will apply:

- Pupils are only allowed to leave the site with parental/carers knowledge and written permission.
- Where a pupil is unwell or there are potential safeguarding concerns, pupils will not be allowed to leave unless accompanied by an adult.
- Pupils are not allowed to leave the premises without prior permission from school. If a pupil does this, they will be regarded as truanting from school.
- Whenever possible, parents should try to arrange medical and other appointments outside of school time. Only urgent appointments should be attended during the school day, and pupils should return to school after them.
- Pupils must be signed out at reception on leaving school and signed back in on their return.
- Where a pupil is being collected from school, parents should report to reception before the pupil is permitted to leave the site.

These measures are taken to promote the safety and welfare of our pupils. It is vital that we have at least two contacts on the school system for every pupil so that we are able do this effectively. Please email Office@bggs.bdat-academies.org if you would like to add any additional contacts for your child.

We appreciate the support of parents in informing us in a timely manner of any absences of their children so that we can ensure that all our pupils are safe.

8. Leave of Absence Requests

This section of the policy details the procedure in relation to leave of absence requests which will only be authorised in the most exceptional of circumstances.

The Bradford Girls' Grammar School term times and school holiday dates are published a year in advance and are published on the school website in the 'Parent information' section.

The dates of our staff training days are published as soon as we have agreed them with the local governing body but may be subject to change. Any changes will be communicated to parents at the earliest opportunity.

From 1 September 2013, a change to government laws means that schools are no longer allowed to authorise requests for pupils to be taken out of school for a holiday during term time. In line with government guidance and the Bradford District Attendance Charter, holidays during term time will NOT be authorised.

Only exceptional circumstances warrant an authorised leave of absence from school. Some examples may include compassionate leave, a religious observance or sporting/musical competitions.

DfE Guidance on Working Together to Improve School Attendance is clear that it does not consider, '*a need or desire for a holiday, or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance*'. It also states that, '*Leave of absence should not be granted for a pupil to take part in protest activity during school hours*'.

Parents/carers should make any such request at least three weeks in advance in writing by completing the online form via this link: Bradford Schools Leave of Absence Request Form

We will not employ a blanket approach to granting requests but will review each one individually, considering the particular circumstances of the request. Other factors will be taken into account including:

- The time of year the pupil will be absent (e.g. a Year 11 pupil missing a GCSE examination would be extremely detrimental to them.)
- The previous attendance record of the pupil
- The number of previous requests for leave of absence

Parents will be notified of a decision either by telephone or email. Where a parental request has been refused, and parents continue to take their child out of school, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

We reserve the right to apply to the Local Authority to issue a Penalty Notice Fine under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, as updated by the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024, where a child has ten or more sessions of unauthorised absence during a ten-week period.

Please note that from April 2023, in order to tackle unauthorised leave, Bradford Local Authority may consider legal action through the magistrates' court rather than issuing a penalty notice in cases where a continuous period of unauthorised leave of 20 school days or more is taken during term time, even if it spans across two half-terms. This is because Bradford has double the rate of absences due to unauthorised leave when compared to the national average.

Further information can be found in the 'Formalising Support' section of this policy or online here:

Penalty Notices - Absences taken after 17th August 2024 | Bradford Schools Online

9. Attendance Register Codes

This section of the policy outlines the attendance codes that are used on the electronic attendance register. This is not a complete list, and further information can be found in the 'DFE Working Together to Improve School Attendance Guidance' as updated by the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024.

The attendance register is a compulsory legal document which must be accurately recorded electronically by schools using the following attendance codes.

Present Codes

These are used when a pupil is present in school or is at an approved off-site educational activity. They include:

- / = Morning present mark
- \ = Afternoon present mark
- L = Arrived late but before register closed
- B = Present at an approved off-site educational activity (e.g. at unregistered alternative provision)
- D = Dual-registered and expected to attend their other provision
- K = Education provided by the local authority (e.g. the child is accessing education in hospital)
- P = Approved sporting activity (e.g. a pupil who plays for the academy of a professional football club)
- V = Educational visit (e.g. where pupils are out on a school trip)
- W = Work experience (e.g. where a Y10/11 student is accessing an approved work experience placement)

Authorised Absence Codes

These are used when a pupil is absent from school for an authorised reason. These marks count negatively against a pupil's attendance but are not included in any considerations of formal legal proceedings related to a pupil's absence. They include:

- I = Absent due to illness
- M = Absent due to medical appointment (please try to make these outside of school hours wherever possible)
- C = Leave of absence for exceptional circumstances (e.g. to attend a funeral)
- C2 = Absence agreed in line with a temporary modified timetable
- E = Absent due to being issued with a suspension from school
- J1 = Leave of absence for purposes of attending an interview for employment or admission to another educational institution
- R = Leave of absence due to religious observance. See Bradford Local Authority guidance for further details.
- Y = Unable to attend because of an unavoidable cause. Further information is available in DFE Guidance. This code does not count as a possible attendance on the pupil's attendance record.

Unauthorised Absence Codes

These are used when a pupil is absent from school for an unauthorised reason. These marks count negatively against a pupil's attendance and may also inform any legal proceedings related to a pupil's absence (see section on Legal Proceedings for more details). They include:

- N = Absent without a reason being provided. As detailed above, we will make all efforts to contact parents to find out why their child is absent. If we are unable to do so, 'N' marks will be changed to 'O' marks (see below) after five working days.
- O = Absent from school without authorisation. Some examples that would fall into this category include:
    - No reason being provided for an absence
    - The child is refusing to come to school
    - Missing a full day for a medical appointment where attendance could have occurred before or after
    - Truancy
    - Oversleeping/missing the bus
    - School uniform not clean
    - Birthday treats
    - Looking after younger siblings

This is not an exhaustive list.

- G = Absent due to holiday in term time
- U = Arrival after the closing time of the official morning register.

10. Monitoring and Tracking of Attendance Data

This section of the policy details how we track, monitor, share and analyse attendance data for individual pupils and cohorts of pupils.

In order for all stakeholders (pupils, parents, staff, governors and external agencies) to work in partnership to ensure excellent attendance for pupils at Bradford Girls' Grammar School, it is important that we track the attendance of pupils and share this information.

This will be done by the following means:

- Individual pupil attendance data will be shared on a weekly basis with Form Tutors/class teachers who will then share it with their class.
- Parents will also be informed about attendance in relation to their child individually and the school more widely through newsletters, social media, academic progress reports, text message, email and letter.
- Attendance data by Form Group/Class will feed into competitions (see Rewards and Incentives section).
- Attendance data of different cohorts will be shared with the Senior Leadership Team on a weekly basis. Examples of cohorts include year groups, pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, pupils eligible for free school meals and Young Carers. This will then enable leaders to plan specific intervention to support any cohorts whose attendance is below expected.
- Attendance data of different cohorts will also be shared with the whole staff on a weekly basis in briefings so that teachers are aware of which pupils may need extra support.
- Attendance data will be shared with Governors on a half-termly basis so they can fulfil their responsibilities in supporting and challenging senior leaders in relation to the attendance strategy and the impact it is having.
- Attendance data will be shared with the Local Authority School Attendance Support Team on a termly basis. They will then provide support, advice, and guidance to school on how to make further improvements.
- Daily school attendance data will be shared with the Department for Education in line with the mandatory expectation stated within the statutory guidance Working Together to Improve School Attendance.
- In line with guidance, the local authority will be notified when any pupil misses fifteen school days during the course of an academic year.
- We will consider local, regional, and national data to help give us context as to the attendance of students at Bradford Girls' Grammar School. We will also use our DfE Attendance Baseline Improvement Expectation (ABIE) targets which allow us to compare to similar schools.
- Where attendance interventions are implemented with pupils to help them improve their school attendance, we will use data to monitor the impact and assess the efficacy of the intervention.

This list may not be exhaustive, but it is intended to ensure that attendance remains at the front of everyone's minds so that we can work together in partnership to secure excellent attendance for all pupils.

11. Whole School Attendance Strategy

This section of the policy outlines the overall strategy in relation to supporting pupils to maintain excellent school attendance. Our strategy is based on the following six pillars which underpin our approach:

Culture – we create a supportive school environment that fosters a sense of belonging for our pupils. We combine high-quality teaching with an excellent enrichment and personal development offer to promote engagement of our pupils.

Relationships – we prioritise building strong relationships with pupils and their families so that we can understand their circumstances, identify any barriers to attendance and put support in place to overcome them. We celebrate success and improvements in attendance.

People – we ensure that all staff are empowered to support pupils maintaining strong school attendance through clearly defined roles and responsibilities, regular attendance briefings and sharing of good practice.

Systems and Processes – clear attendance processes are undertaken on a daily basis, promoting consistency, high expectations and certainty for pupils and families. Absence is addressed quickly to ensure pupils are safe and to intervene at the earliest opportunity to overcome any barriers to attendance.

Communications – we ensure that pupils, families and staff receive clear and regular communication about the importance of excellent school attendance. Strong relationships mean that staff are confident to have supportive and challenging conversations with pupils and families about attendance improvement.

Data and Targeted Support – we track attendance data using a tier model in line with DfE best practice. We explore patterns in the data to understand the reasons behind attendance trends, using this knowledge to implement targeted evidence-based interventions to support those who need it.

The framework below shows the different tiers of the attendance model and the impact this has on their overall attendance.

Attendance Tier	Impact on Student
Tier 1 **95% +**	Pupils in Tier 1 miss very few days of school per year. They access the vast majority of learning opportunities available to them and have a strong chance of fulfilling their potential. At our school, students in this attendance tier typically achieve 1 grade above their target grades.
Tier 2 **92-95%**	Pupils in Tier 2 miss up to 15 days of school per year which is up to 75 hours of learning. They are at risk of underachievement as a result. At our school, students in this attendance tier typically achieve their target grades.
Tier 3 **80%-92%**	Pupils in Tier 3 miss between 16 and 38 days of school per year which is up to 190 hours of learning. Pupils with attendance less than 90% are deemed to be Persistent Absentees by the government. They are at significant risk of underachievement as a result. At our school, students in this tier typically achieve at 1 grade below their target grade
Tier 4 **50-80%**	Pupils in Tier 4 miss up to 95 days of school per year. This is between one and three entire half-terms or up to 475 hours of learning. They are classed as Persistently Absent pupils by the government and are at extreme risk of underachievement. At our school, students in this attendance tier typically achieve at least 2 grades below their target grades.
Tier 5 **Below 50%**	Pupils in Tier 7 miss over 95 days of school per year. This is over 475 hours of learning. They are deemed to be Severely Absent pupils by the government and are at critical risk of underachievement. At our school, students in this attendance tier typically achieve significantly lower grades than their target grades.

In order to motivate and support pupils to maintain excellent attendance or improve their attendance, we will utilise a range of strategies which may include, but aren't limited to:

- Access to rewards
- Positive communication home
- Mentoring
- Communication home so parents are aware of concerns and need to improve
- Student and/or parental meetings with key staff
- Attendance panel meeting with Governors
- Referrals to external agencies (e.g. CAMHS, Early Help and Children's Social Care and the Local Authority.

In addition to this whole school attendance strategy, Bradford Girls' Grammar School have a responsibility to abide by the guidance of the Bradford Local Authority Attendance Team. This attendance policy, therefore, works in conjunction with the Bradford Staged Intervention Procedures outlined in Appendices Three and Four.

12. Rewards and Incentives

This section of the policy outlines the ways that excellent attendance is promoted and incentivised at Bradford Girls' Grammar School. Further information can be found in the Rewards Policy/Positive Behaviour Policy.

In order to support pupils to maintain excellent attendance and encourage them to improve their attendance, it is important that there is a high profile and positive culture around school with rewards and incentives available to them. This will be achieved by:

- Positive attendance messages being shared in collective worship/assemblies on a weekly basis with individuals, form groups/classes and cohorts who have improved being celebrated
- Positive attendance messages being shared throughout the day in lessons
- Positive attendance messages being displayed throughout the school and in classrooms
- Positive attendance messages being shared on social media, newsletters and other external communications
- Attendance competitions between individuals, classes and other cohorts with rewards/privileges for the winners
- Recognition for pupils who maintain excellent attendance or make sustained improvement to their attendance through achievement points, positive communication home, certificates and other rewards
- Access to end of term celebration events contingent on maintaining excellent attendance or demonstrating significant sustained improvement
- Promotion of excellent attendance at parent information and transition evenings

13. Punctuality

This section of the policy outlines the expectations of pupils in relation to their punctuality to school and throughout the school day.

Good punctuality on a morning and to each lesson is crucial. Lateness to a lesson causes disruption to that individual's learning and to that of the other pupils in the class as it leaves teachers having to repeat instructions and breaks the flow of a lesson. It is, therefore, a collective responsibility of all pupils to ensure they are punctual throughout the day. We expect all pupils to be on school site by 8.35am at the latest so that they have time to organise themselves and get to class by 8.40am when the school day begins, and the morning register is taken. This will enable their school day to begin in a calm and positive manner rather than having to rush.

The official morning register closes at 9.10 am. Pupils arriving between 8.40am and 9.10am will be given a late register code (the 'L' mark). This does count as a present mark towards their attendance as they have arrived before the official closing time of the morning register.

Where a pupil arrives after 9.10am, they will be given an unauthorised late register code (the 'U' mark). This counts as an absence mark towards their attendance as they have arrived after the official closing time of the morning register.

We then expect all pupils to arrive punctually to all their lessons. Whilst we appreciate that it takes time to move around the school building (consideration will be given to this), it is not acceptable for pupils to arrive late for lessons after social times or significantly after the rest of their classmates. As detailed above, this has a negative impact on learning and is not fair on the other pupils in the class.

Pupils who are regularly late to school or their lessons will be supported to understand the barriers to punctuality and strategies will be put in place to overcome these with their families. Where circumstances arise that may impact on a pupil's attendance or punctuality, we would encourage them or their parents to get in contact with an appropriate member of staff in school (see Key Staff section).

14. Pupils with Medical Conditions, SEND and Social Workers

This section of the policy outlines the considerations that will be made for pupils with medical needs (including mental or physical ill health), Special Educational Needs or Disabilities and other vulnerabilities.

At Bradford Girls' Grammar School we hold the same level of aspiration and high expectations for all of our pupils. The right to an education is the same for every student, regardless of their need, therefore the attendance ambition should also be the same. We recognise, however, that some pupils may have additional needs or experience vulnerabilities that impact upon their attendance at school.

For example, some pupils may have diagnosed medical conditions which require them to attend regular hospital appointments during school hours, or complex situations at home with which Children's Social Care are supporting.

Other pupils may experience mental health issues that impact on their attendance at school and we are mindful of the DFE Summary of Responsibilities Where a Mental Health Issue is Affecting Attendance when supporting these pupils.

In these circumstances, we will work together with families and other professionals involved in supporting the child to ensure that any necessary reasonable adjustments to this policy are made.

This could include referral to the Bradford Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service who are the local authority team responsible for providing education to children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs.

15. In-Year Admissions

This section of the policy outlines some measures that are implemented for pupils who join Bradford Girls' Grammar School outside of the normal round of admissions (i.e., other than when they join in Reception/move up from Primary School into Year 7).

All our attendance data from the past few years indicates that collectively students who join Bradford Girls' Grammar School on in-year transfers have attendance rates significantly below the minimum of expectation of 96%. In fact, the average is approximately 75% which we know equates to around 235 hours of learning lost per academic year.

It is, therefore, our policy not to authorise any absence of pupils who join on in-year admissions during the first six months of their time at Bradford Girls' Grammar School, unless supporting evidence is provided (e.g., a doctor's note or appointment card).

16. Formalising Support

This section of the policy outlines the more intense and formal support that will be used when informal measures have been tried without success.

We will work with Bradford Local Authority and other local agencies in a joint fashion to share data on individual cases where it is of benefit to the pupil (e.g. health services where there are medical conditions or the police where there are extra-familial harms).

We will have termly targeted support meetings with the local authority's attendance team to work together on the support that is needed for persistently and severely absent pupils. We will also share information from our registers with the local authority to support this. For example, under DFE Guidance on Working Together to Improve School Attendance it is mandatory that schools inform the local authority where a pupil misses 15 school days within an academic year.

In their 2022 report, 'Securing Good Attendance and Tackling Persistent Absence', Ofsted advise schools to take an approach where they, 'listen, understand, empathise and support – but do not tolerate'.

This means that where a pupil's attendance is an ongoing concern, we will work with families and make referrals to external agencies to secure support in removing barriers to attendance and establishing strong attendance routines. These include:

Attendance Contracts
A voluntary, but formal, agreement between parents and school aimed at outlining expectations and support relating to attendance improvement. These are not legally binding and cannot be agreed in a parent's absence but allow a more formal route to securing engagement and support. They are not a punitive tool and should always be considered before an education supervision order or prosecution.

Penalty Notices
The government have introduced a national framework for penalty notices from September 2024 via the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. This aims at embedding a consistent support first approach where penalty notices are considered on a case-by-case basis.

The threshold is 10 sessions (equivalent to five days) of unauthorised absence within a 10-week period. Most commonly, penalty notices are issued for unauthorised term-time holidays. These regulations state that the fine amount is:

- £160 per parent per child (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days) on the first occasion in a rolling three-year period
- An automatic £160 per parent per child on the second occasion in a rolling three-year period
- Direct to prosecution on the third occasion within a rolling three-year period in recognition that penalty notices are not having an impact

The regulations state that schools must consider issuing a penalty notice for any instance of a pupil having 10 unauthorised absence sessions within a 10-week period.

Where these are sporadic absences, however, it will be expected that schools are able to demonstrate that they have taken a support first approach before submitting a penalty notice request to the local authority. This is not the case for term-time holidays where support is not appropriate.

Education Supervision Order
Where a voluntary early help plan or attendance contract has not secured the desired improvement in attendance, an Education Supervision Order (ESO) can be issued by the Family or High Court as a formal legal intervention without criminal prosecution.

An ESO means that the court mandates the local authority to supervise a child's education for a period of time (initially a year with the option to extend it). This process is led by the local authority although it is an expectation of schools that they will support as appropriate.

Under an ESO, the local authority may require parents to attend support meetings and access services such as counselling and parenting programmes. Where parents persistently fail to comply with directions given under an ESO, they may be guilty of an offence and face a fine of up to £1000.

Attendance Prosecution
Prosecution in the Magistrates Court is a last resort where all other voluntary and formal support or legal intervention has failed or where support has been deemed inappropriate in the circumstances of the individual case.

The decision to prosecute a parent who has failed to ensure their child attends school regularly under the Education Act 1996 rests solely with the local authority, but school will be expected to provide evidence of how they have attempted to improve the pupil's attendance prior to the matter reaching this stage.

Depending on the severity of the case, consequences could be a fine of up to £1000, a fine of up to £2500 and/or a community order or imprisonment of up to 3 months.

Parenting Order
This can be imposed by the court as a mandatory order on parents to attend guidance sessions and improve their child's attendance at school. Parental agreement is not required, and they may be utilised where a parent has not engaged in support to improve their child's attendance.

Similarly to an Education Supervision Order, a breach or non-compliance with a Parenting Order could result in a fine of up to £1000.

When implementing more formal support, we will follow the staged intervention approach which is recommended by Bradford Local Authority. Further details of this can be found here:

Bradford Local Authority Staged Intervention Process to Poor School Attendance

These legal routes are a last resort once all other informal and formal support has been exhausted, however, we feel it is important to be open with parents in stating that we will not shy away from using them where necessary in order to help every pupil access their education.

17. Links with Guidance and Other Policies

The Bradford Girls' Grammar School Attendance Policy has due regard to the law on areas including:

- DFE Working Together to Improve School Attendance Guidance
- DFE Summary Table of Responsibilities to Improve School Attendance
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024
- Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024
- Education (Information about Individual Pupils) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024
- DFE Guidance on Children Missing Education
- DFE Guidance on Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions at School
- DFE Summary of Responsibilities Where a Mental Health Issue is Affecting Attendance

- DFE Guidance on Suspensions and Exclusions
- DFE Guidance on Alternative Provision
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Is my child too ill for school? – NHS
- The Education Act 1996
- The SEND Code of Practice
- The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
- The Equality Act 2010
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

This policy should also be read in line with the following Bradford Girls' Grammar School policies:

- Safeguarding
- Suspensions and Exclusions
- Behaviour
- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions
- Accessibility Plan
- Inclusion
- Children Missing Education

Appendix One:

DfE Attendance Codes

- Effective from 19th August 2024, there are some significant changes to register codes. Particular attention should be given to the new codes: **K, C1, C2, J1, Q, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6, Y7**
- Attention should also be given to the withdrawal of codes: **Y, J, H**
- Further focus should be given to distinct differences between codes: **C, C1, C2**
- Finally, notice should be given to the clarity provided about the use of the **E** code.

Pupil is Physically Attending at School	
/ \	Present at School / = morning session \ = afternoon session
L	Late Arrival Before the Register is Closed *i.e. within 30 minutes of the school day starting (only used when registers are officially 'open')*

Approved Educational Activity	
K	Attending Education Provision Arranged by the Local Authority *i.e. day 6th day provision following a Permanent Exclusion; section 19 provision; Alternative Provision commissioned by the Local Authority through an EHCP. Schools MUST record where the child is attending using a note on SIMS.*
V	Attending an Educational Visit or Trip *NB: this must be supervised by at least one member of staff from the setting and must have been arranged by (or on behalf of) the school*
P	Participating in a Sporting Activity *NB: the school must have approved the child's attendance at the activity and, by using this code is confirming that the activity is being supervised by a person that the school deems to be appropriately trained and qualified for the educational purpose of this activity – seek advice from the sport's national governing body if there are concerns. School must be satisfied that appropriate measures have been taken to safeguard the child whilst participating.*
W	Attending Work Experience *NB: this code cannot be used if the work experience is at the child's own school, or a section 19 provision used for the child. Attendance must be monitored and school*

	must be satisfied that appropriate measures have been taken to safeguard the child whilst participating.
B	Attending Any Other Approved Educational Activity *NB: this code cannot be used if a child is dual registered (see D code); it must be educational in nature; all due diligence must have been completed; attendance must be planned and approved; safeguarding arrangements must be in place. This code is to be used for taster days at other schools (or universities), courses at local colleges, unregistered AP arranged by the school (NOT that which has been arranged by the LA = see K code). Note this code cannot be used where a child is accessing remote education (i.e. EdClass), but school must keep a record of engagement with any remote education.*

Absent - Authorised Leave of Absence	
C1	Leave of Absence for the Purpose of Participating in a Regulated Performance or Undertaking Regulated Employment Abroad *NB: where performing licence specifies dates, the school should record these dates as though they are applied for and granted – there is no need for a separate leave of absence request to the school. Where there are no specified dates, the school should receive a leave of absence request from parents.*
M	Leave of Absence for the Purpose of Attending a Medical or Dental Appointment *NB: Proactively remind parents about trying to make appointments outside of school time (note that those who leave after they have registered, even moments later, are not recorded as absent).*
J1	Leave of Absence for the Purpose of Attending an Interview for Employment or for Admission to Another Educational Institution *i.e. interview for post-16 placement; interview for university; interview for apprenticeship; interview for new educational placement*
S	Leave of Absence for the Purpose of Studying for a Public Examination *NB: children who are looked after or who have EHCPs should not routinely be offered study leave*
C2	Leave of Absence for a Compulsory School Age Pupil Subject to a Part-time Timetable *NB: modified timetables cannot be implemented for reasons linked to behaviour. Reductions must always be in the best interest of the child, temporary, agreed in advance and kept under regular review with parents and any other professionals working with the pupil. This code is not to be used for those accessing flexi-schooling arrangements.*
C	Leave of Absence for Exceptional Circumstance *NB: granted entirely at the school's discretion. Must be requested in advance, not*

	retrospectively. Typically, a holiday will not be authorised as exceptional circumstances as per government guidance. Flexi-schooling planned home learning sessions are coded with this code.

Absent – Other Authorised Reasons	
T	Parent Travelling for Occupational Purposes *NB: school shouldn't unnecessarily request proof that travel is for occupational purposes – only where there is reasonable doubt. To support educational continuity, there is an expectation that, where practical, children who travel with their parents should be dual registered at a school in the area to which the occupational travel has taken the family; any such attendance would be coded accordingly using code D.*
R	Religious Observance *NB: only one day can be set aside for the use of code R – any further days must be requested as leaves of absence and, if authorised, a code C must be used.*
I	Illness (Not Medical or Dental Appointment) *i.e. where a child is unable to attend for physical or mental health related reasons – not medical appointments though. Where a school has genuine and reasonable doubt about the illness, evidence be requested to support the absence. A conversation with parents may be sufficient to provide this – it may be that other means are needed.*
E	Suspended or Permanently Excluded and No Alternative Provision Made *NB: where alternative provision is made by the school, the appropriate code must be used. E is only to be used where the child is suspended or excluded with no provision in place. Typically, code K may be used in lieu of code E for pupils where 6th day provision is in place and attended after a permanent exclusion.*

Absent – Unauthorised Absence	
G	Holiday Not Granted by the School *NB: the guidance states that leave cannot be granted retrospectively, even if a family presents mitigations after the holiday has taken place.*
N	Reason for Absence Not Yet Established *NB: this code **must not remain on the record for more than 5 days after the session** for which it is used. Schools will seek reasons for absence as a matter of urgency.*
O	Absent in Other or Unknown Circumstances

	i.e. where no reason has been provided for the absence or the school is not satisfied that the reason given is one that should be recorded using an authorised absence code.
U	Arrived in School After Registration Closed *NB: used for pupils who arrive after the register has closed.*

Not Counted as a Possible Attendance	
D	Dual Registered at Another School *NB: used where a child attends an Ofsted registered setting where they are also on dual roll (i.e. a PRU, hospital school, off-site direction). Code D is to be used for all sessions where attendance is expected at the alternative setting. All absences must be documented and followed up but not recorded on the main roll register.*
X	Non-Compulsory School Age Pupil Not Required to Attend School *i.e. children in nursery and those in sixth form who are not required to have full time attendance. Where attendance is expected, appropriate absence codes to be used if the pupil does not attend. Times and days of attendance are to be clear to the parent with whom the child normally lives.*
Q	Unable to Attend the School Because of a Lack of Access Arrangements *NB: this code can **only** be used where access to school is arranged by the Local Authority through an EHCP and it is not available. It is not for any other sort of access arrangement deficit.*
Y1	Unable to Attend Due to Transport Normally Provided Not Being Available *NB: this is for circumstances where the Local Authority provides transport because of financial hardship or distance from the family home, **not** SEND related transport*
Y2	Unable to Attend Due to Widespread Disruption to Travel *NB: this is to be used where a local, national or international emergency has had an impact on travel (i.e. incident on the motorway, cancelled flights, no public transport owing to strikes and the child lives at least 2 miles (under age 8) or 3 miles (aged 8 or above) from school. If they live closer, they would be expected to walk to school.*
Y3	Unable to Attend Due to Part of the School Premises Being Closed *e.g. flooding in part of the school site leads to a partial closure of the school; building projects close part of the building. This can be on a planned or emergency basis.*
Y4	Unable to Attend Due to the Whole School Site Being Unexpectedly Closed *NB: this is to be used where closures are unexpected, i.e. adverse weather conditions. This must be marked during the session in question.*

Y5	Unable to Attend as Pupil is in Criminal Justice Detention *NB: for children remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or in police detention, or otherwise detained under a sentence of detention.*
Y6	Unable to Attend in Accordance with Public Health Guidance or Law *NB: this is about public health outbreaks – not 2 days of absence following a bout of sickness.*
Y7	Unable to Attend Because of Any Other Unavoidable Cause *NB: this must be in relation to the child and not their parent and the reason for the emergency must be documented in the register. The fact that a parent does all they can to secure their child's attendance does not in itself mean that a pupil has been prevented by an unavoidable cause.*

Administrative Codes	
Z	Prospective Pupil Not on Admission Register *NB. This is typically used to allow school to setup registers in advance of pupils joining the school to ease administrative burdens.*
#	Planned Whole School Closure *NB: known and planned in advance – days between terms; half-terms; bank holidays; up to 5 INSET days; closure of the whole school to be used as a polling station etc.*

Common Examples

	Scenario	**Code**
1	Student is at another mainstream school on an off-site direction	D
2	Student is at another school on a temporary behaviour placement (up to 5 days)	B
3	Student is at an Ofsted Registered alternative education setting.	D
4	Student is at an unregistered alternative education setting.	B
5	Student is at unregistered alternative education setting that is arranged by the Local Authority rather than school	K
6	Student is accessing remote learning through an online learning platform.	C
7	Student is being home tutored – arranged by Local Authority	K
8	Student is permanently excluded – first five days of exclusion	E
9	Student is permanently excluded – sixth day of exclusion onwards (if they are attending arranged provision)	K
10	Student cannot attend as the home to school transport service through their EHCP is not available	Q
11	Student cannot attend as their local authority transport provided for child protection reasons is not running	Y1
12	Students cannot attend as the buses are not running in their area and their walking route to school is over 2 miles (under age 8) or 3 miles (age 8 and above)	Y1

13	Student cannot attend as the snow is too deep / dangerous to get to school	Y2
14	School closes due to snow	Y4
15	Certain year groups are sent home before afternoon registration or cannot attend school, as a gas leak (for example) means some classrooms are not useable.	Y3
16	The whole school is sent home before afternoon registration or cannot attend school, as a gas leak (for example) means classrooms are not useable.	Y4
17	Student is off school as they have the spent night in a police cell and are still at the police station	Y5
18	Student is having a haircut, doesn't have clean uniform, parent calls to say they are collecting their child early as they need to be somewhere, pupil truants off-site etc.	O
19	Admission meeting at another school due to in-year transfer or off-site direction	J1
20	Student is filming for a TV programme, has a license from the LA, and information has been received from the production company	C1
21	Student is on a temporary modified timetable to support Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs and is not scheduled to be in school as part of this arrangement	C2
22	Student is absent on a day that is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body of the faith they belong to	R
23	Student is absent for an additional day after the one set aside for religious observance by the religious body, as the family are having an extended celebration	C or O
24	Student represents England in Gymnastics and is competing in an international competition	P

Appendix Two: BRADFORD GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL Absconding Procedures

At Bradford Girls' Grammar School, we actively work to provide a secure, safe environment where children want to come to enjoy learning with others as part of a caring community.

Role and Responsibilities

a) The Head Teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead are responsible for all decisions made when a child absconds from school.
b) All staff are responsible for caring for the child (until the child leaves the premises). They will be responsible for seeking additional help if this is felt necessary.
c) Parents/carers of pupils are responsible for supporting the work of the school. They are responsible for encouraging their children to keep to all school procedures and policies.
d) Once school has informed parents that their child has absconded, parents and carers are responsible for actively supporting the school with the subsequent procedures and actions. This could include coming to school to help secure the safety of the child or working with the school to agree subsequent actions.

Procedures

Where a pupil marked present is found to be absent from school without authorisation, the following safeguarding procedures must be followed:

1. The member of staff who identifies the pupil as missing informs a member of the safeguarding team.

2. A member of the safeguarding team organises an initial search of the school buildings and known places that the pupil may have gone to.

3. If the pupil is not found, then all available staff will complete a more thorough sweep of the school and check the perimeter of the grounds.

4. If the pupil is still not found, consideration will be given to whether the search should be extended beyond the school perimeter. This decision will be based on staff knowledge of the child, the levels of risk, any active risk assessment and on what action is in the child's best interests.

5. A member of staff will immediately contact parents/carers and inform them of the situation. If the pupil has a mobile phone, parents will be asked to contact their child to ensure their safety.

6. If the pupil has still not been located, a member of staff will phone the Police when the school building and surrounding area has been fully checked. Depending on the age and vulnerability of the child, the Police may be informed sooner.

7. Any staff who leave school grounds will take a mobile phone to maintain contact with school. Where possible, staff who leave the site will be accompanied by another member of staff.

8. Once a pupil has been found, then the Designated Safeguarding Lead will use their professional judgement to outline the response towards the pupil and the support the pupil will need in the future.

9. Parents and the Police (if necessary) will be updated and CPOMS will be used to make a record of the incident.

Where a pupil attempts or is seen to be leaving the school premises without authorisation, the

following procedures must be followed:

1. Staff will follow the pupil to the perimeter fence or gate and try to persuade the student to stay in school. De-escalation techniques will be attempted to support the pupil in returning to school. In such stressful circumstances it is important that staff remain as calm as possible and follow procedures.

2. If a student is deemed to be a high risk to themselves or other people, then staff may need to physically intervene by adhering to the Positive Handling Strategies as per Team Teach training.

3. Staff must be aware that active pursuit may encourage the student to leave the immediate vicinity of the school and may also cause the pupil to panic, possibly putting them at risk (e.g. running into a busy road). Where they are not in danger, this means that it may be more appropriate to monitor the student from a distance or using CCTV where available.

4. If the student has left the immediate vicinity of the school a member of the safeguarding team must be contacted immediately so they can act as the lead person in directing the course of action. This may include the member of staff collecting a pupil specific 'grab bag' which contains first aid resources, pupil's contact details, school phone etc.

5. Staff will follow the student and engage in a local search, following the student at a safe distance if in view.

6. The lead member of staff may direct additional staff to join the search in a vehicle, taking a mobile phone to maintain communication with school.

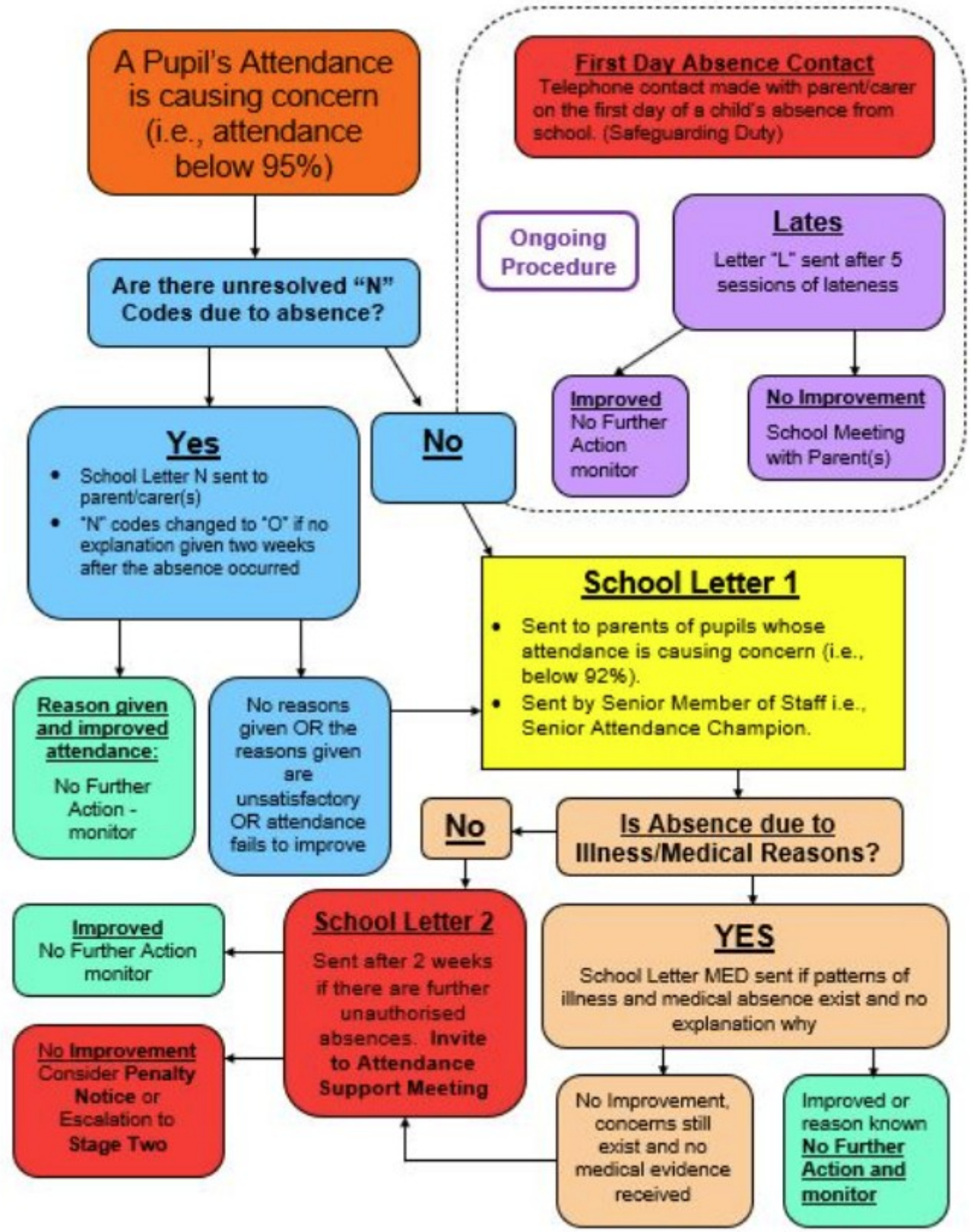
7. If the searching staff lose sight of or are concerned for the safety of the student or themselves, they must contact the school office giving current details of their location and a description of the pupil.

8. A member of staff must then contact the Police and the pupil's parents/carers immediately. These phone calls should be made concurrently.

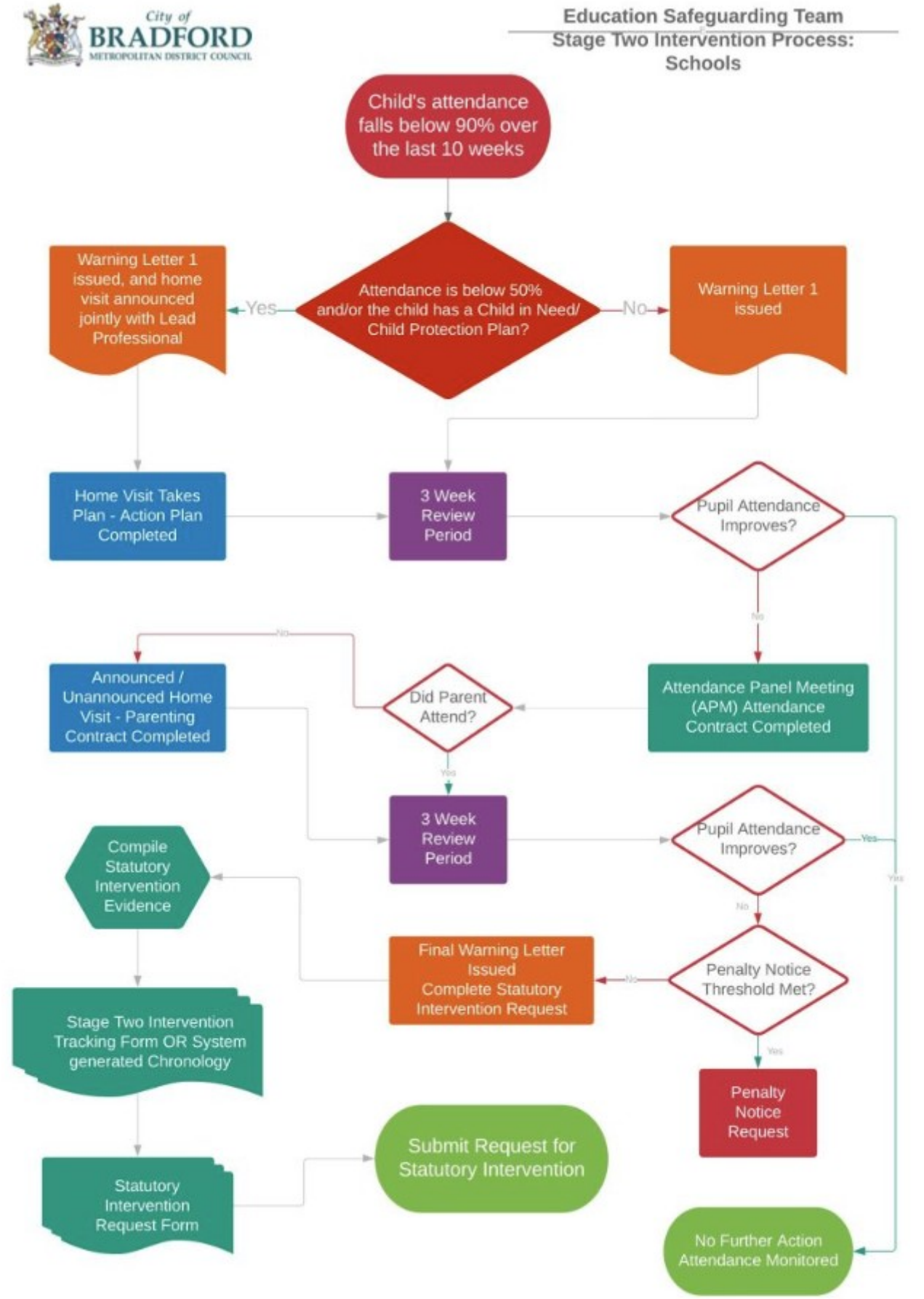
9. If the pupil has left the immediate vicinity of the school grounds and are no longer visible, then the lead member of staff will make a decision as to how to take matters further. This will consider the age of the student, the prevailing weather conditions, the nature of the incident which led to the pupil absconding, the pupil's previous history of being involved in episodes of absconding and their outcomes.

10. Following an incident of this type, an Individual Pupil Risk Assessment (IPRA) will be put in place by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or SENDCO to support the child. This will be agreed with parents and shared with staff with the intention of reducing risk of reoccurrence. This may include the creation of a pupil specific 'grab bag' which contains first aid resources, pupil's contact details, school phone etc, if it is felt there is a chance of the child absconding again.

Appendix Three: Bradford Local Authority Attendance Staged Intervention Procedure – Stage 1



Appendix Four: Bradford Local Authority Attendance Staged Intervention Procedure – Stage 2



Appendix Five: Bradford Attendance Charter



Bradford District Schools Attendance Charter

The Attendance Charter is a collaborative approach to promoting good attendance within schools across Bradford District, so that all children and young people can fulfil their potential. All those signing the charter agree to uphold a set of joint principles and to work together to implement the charter. Bradford Council has agreed to support the charter and work together with schools and settings to ensure a partnership approach to the charter's implementation. The charter will seek to strengthen support from key multi-agency partners and further support our shared approach to school attendance.

Our school agrees to:

1. Elect a senior leader, a Senior Attendance Champion responsible for implementing the attendance strategy, and elect and train a governor or trust leader responsible for overseeing attendance.
2. Ensure attendance staff are appropriately trained and that they participate in networking/development opportunities.
3. Have in place a clear attendance policy whose effectiveness is regularly monitored and reviewed by the senior leadership team and reported to governors or trust leaders.
4. Appoint a member of staff who is responsible for the day-to-day management of attendance across the school and liaising with appropriate safeguarding leads.
5. Implement a robust approach to track and monitor pupil attendance, so that action can be taken swiftly for students whose attendance is causing concern, and that patterns and themes in respect of student absence can be analysed and managed appropriately.
6. Offer an engaging curriculum and enrichment programme for all pupils, that inspires children to attend their school or setting every day.
7. Engage and involve parents/carers and the community in developing attendance approaches, particularly those parents whose children are most at risk of ongoing or persistent absence issues.
8. Engage and involve parents/carers and the community in the developing attendance approaches, particularly those parents whose children are most at risk of ongoing or persistent absence issues.
9. Commit to multi-agency working to address underlying issues facing families and communities, including a commitment to active engagement with the wider team around the child and whole-family approaches to supporting children and families with more complex or entrenched needs.
10. Share and implement best and emerging practice in respect of what is working to improve attendance for those children and families most at risk of persistent absence.
11. Review Bradford Schools Online guidance, taking note of the best practice recommendations around the Staged Intervention Approach to Poor Attendance, safeguarding pupils and when removing children from roll.

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Schools agree to also implement the following common practices:

- Take their attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day (morning) and once during the second session (in the afternoon). They will record if the pupil is:
  - ✔ Present;
  - ✔ Attending an approved educational activity
  - ✔ Absent due to illness/medical appointment
  - ✔ Absent – unauthorised; or
  - ✔ Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances
- Contact the pupil's parents/carers on a pupil's first day of absence, to establish the reasons for absence and mark the attendance register accordingly. Then contact the pupil's parents/carers every day that there are subsequent unexplained absences.
- Close their register 30 minutes after the start of the school day. All pupils arriving after the register has closed will be marked with the code U or with another absence code such as I or M.
- Positively engage with termly attendance support meetings with Bradford Council, sharing information on the interventions attempted with persistently and severely absent children and engaging in discussions to agree appropriate actions.
- Headteachers across all Bradford District schools will not authorise any requests for leave during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Headteachers will also commit to communicate effectively with families in respect of planned absences, and withdrawal from learning which may then impact a pupil's term time attendance.
- Monitor patterns of late arrival amongst pupils. Those pupils who are persistently late (late more than once a week for a period of a month) will be contacted and a plan put in place to address this.
- Monitor and track the attendance of all pupils on weekly basis.
- Where pupils have a concerning decline in attendance, over one term and/or have had six sessions of absence (unauthorised and/or authorised absence over a three school week period), schools will contact parents/carers and will consider holding an attendance meeting to review their child's attendance with them and that will set clear targets for improvement.
- Liaise with schools where children from the same/linked families attend, so that there is a shared approach to promoting good attendance and in respect of sanctions for families whose attendance is a concern.
- Where a pupil has had two sickness absences in a half term or has a sickness absence of three consecutive days, and If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, schools can request parents to provide medical evidence to support illness. Medical evidence can take the form of prescriptions, appointment cards, etc. rather than doctors' notes.
- Follow the Bradford Staged Approach to Poor Attendance, ensuring families are offered support tailored to their needs, whilst ensuring legal intervention is requested swiftly when appropriate.
- Be aware of emerging issues that may impact children and their families (such as refugees and asylum seekers) and where additional support may be sought to support the school and the family.

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Appendix Six: Summary of Policy Changes

The below table provides a summary of changes to this policy over time:

September 2024	
Page	**Summary of Change**
3	• Added reference that this policy will act as a user manual for 'promoting positive attendance' rather than just as a user manual. • Added in terminology of 'Expect', 'Monitor', 'Listen and Understand', 'Facilitate Support', 'Formalise Support' and 'Enforce' in line with latest DFE guidance.
4	Added table to demonstrate what attendance percentages mean in real terms of school days lost and learning hours lost.
5	Changed 'Senior Leader' to 'Attendance Champion' to bring terminology in line with latest DFE guidance which references all schools having a senior member of staff to fulfil this role.
7	Amended wording in paragraph on punctuality to school to focus more on supporting pupils and families to remove barriers rather than imposition of consequences.
8	Added in link to NHS guidance on whether a child is too ill to attend school to support parents
9	Added in reference to the Bradford Attendance Charter which makes clear that all schools in the district are committed to not authorising holidays in term time
10-11	• Added in the new 'K' code in line with latest version of guidance • Added in the new 'C1' and 'J1' codes and further details relating to the 'R' and 'Y' codes from the new DFE guidance
12	Made clear that attendance data will be shared with the Department for Education as this has been made mandatory under the new guidance
14	• Added in the same wording as used on P7 regarding punctuality so that the policy is consistent • Added in specific reference to pupils whose attendance may be impacted by mental health issues and associated DFE guidance.
15	Added further information about 'Attendance Contracts' in line with new guidance
16	• Added more information about penalty notices in line with the new national framework • Added more information about Education Supervision Orders in line with the new guidance • Added more information about Attendance Prosecution in line with the new guidance
17	Updated hyperlinks to all guidance and policies to ensure that they link to the latest versions
26-27	Added in the Bradford Attendance Charter
28	Added in a summary of policy changes
September 2025	
Page	**Summary of Change**
9	Added in quotes from DfE Attendance Guidance to make it explicit that the need or desire for a holiday or other recreational activity does not constitute an exceptional circumstance for a leave of absence. Also added in that leave of absence will not be granted for the purpose of a pupil taking part in protest activity during school hours.
10	Added clarity to the paragraph regarding extended unauthorised leave in term time to state that where the unauthorised leave is 20 school days or more, the local authority may proceed straight to prosecution through the magistrates' court rather than issuing a penalty notice.
11	Removed reference to medical evidence being required for pupils who are absent due to illness where their attendance is under 90%, as this is not in line with DfE Guidance which states that evidence should only be requested where the school has genuine and reasonable doubt as to the veracity of the illness.
Appendix 1	Reviewed and updated the descriptors for each attendance code to ensure that they were written appropriately for external stakeholders, as some of them were previously more aimed at school staff.
Appendix 5	Replaced with the latest versions of the Bradford Local Authority Staged Intervention process to poor

and 6	school attendance
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Page	**Summary of Change**
Throughout	Updated hyperlinks to latest versions of guidance/legislation
8	Added in hyperlink to Bradford Local Authority guidance on managing absence due to illness
9	Added in hyperlink to the Bradford Schools Leave of Absence Request online form
10	Added in wording to be clear that requests for leaves of absence for exceptional circumstances will not be granted on a blanket basis but will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the circumstances.
11	Added in hyperlink to Bradford Local Authority guidance on absences due to religious observance
12	Added in the DfE Attendance Baseline Improvement Expectation (ABIE) target as part of the approach to monitoring attendance data. Also added in Young Carers as a specific cohort in line with updated Working Together to Improve School Attendance guidance.
12-13	Added in the six pillars of the BDAT Secondary Attendance strategy. These principles are strong practice generally and help to codify the work that already takes place in all schools.
13	Updated attendance bands to bring it into line with BDAT Attendance PowerBI Dashboard
16	Removed references to the regulations being 'new' given that they have now been in place for two years
Appendices	Removed copies of Leave of Absence Request Forms as this is now completed through the online link which has been added in on Page 9