



Written: August 2024, January 2025

Policy Owner: Mrs Laura Kobylanski (Head of School)

1. Aims

We are committed to meeting our obligation with regards to school attendance through our whole-school culture and ethos that values good attendance, including:

- Setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils
- Promoting good attendance
- Reducing absence, including persistent and severe absence
- Ensuring every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence
- Building strong relationships with families to ensure pupils have the support in place to attend school

We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the DfE's statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- Part 6 of [The Education Act 1996](#)
- Part 3 of [The Education Act 2002](#)
- Part 7 of [The Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006 \(and 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016 amendments\)](#)
- [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

It also refers to

- School Census guidance
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Mental Health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The governing board

The governing board is responsible for:

- Setting high expectations of all school leaders, staff, pupils and parents
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties, including:
 - Making sure the school records attendance accurately in the register, and shares the required information with the DfE and local authority

- Making sure the school works effectively with local partners to help remove barriers to attendance, and keeps them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate
- Recognising and promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos
- Making sure the school's attendance management processes are delivered effectively, and that consistent support is provided for pupils who need it most by prioritising staff and resources
- Making sure the school has high aspirations for all pupils, but adapts processes and support to pupils' individual needs
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on individual pupils or cohorts who need it most
- Working with school leaders to set goals or areas of focus for attendance and providing support and challenge
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school and repeatedly evaluating the effectiveness of the school's processes and improvement efforts to make sure they are meeting pupils needs
- Where the school is struggling with attendance, working with school leaders to develop a comprehensive action plan to improve attendance
- Making sure all staff receive adequate training on attendance as part of the regular continued professional development offer, so that staff understand:
 - The importance of good attendance
 - That absence is almost always a symptom of wider issues
 - The school's legal requirements for keeping registers
 - The school's strategies and procedures for tracking, following up on and improving attendance, including working with partners and keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate
- Making sure dedicated training is provided to staff with a specific attendance function in their role, including in interpreting and analysing attendance data
- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy

The link Governor meets with the attendance lead once per term. The link Governor for attendance is Pam Simkin.

3.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementation of this policy at the school
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary, and/or authorising role to be able to do so

- Working with the parents of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with SEND, including where school transport is regularly being missed, and where pupils with SEND face in-school barriers
- Communicating with the local authority when a pupil with an education, health and care (EHC) plan has falling attendance, or where there are barriers to attendance that relate to the pupil's needs
- Communicating the school's high expectations for attendance and punctuality regularly to pupils and parents through all available channels

3.3 The designated senior leader responsible for attendance

The designated senior leader is responsible for:

- Leading, championing and improving attendance across the school
- Setting a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Having a strong grasp of absence data and oversight of absence data analysis
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating progress in attendance
- Establishing and maintaining effective systems for tackling absence, and making sure they are followed by all staff
- Liaising with pupils, parents/carers and external agencies, where needed
- Building close and productive relationships with parents to discuss and tackle attendance issues
- Creating intervention or reintegration plans in partnership with pupils and their parents/carers
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families

The designated senior leader responsible for attendance is Laura Kobylanski and can be contacted via the school office (enquiries-primary@fountains.staffs.sch.uk)

3.4 The attendance officer

The school attendance officer is responsible for:

- Monitoring and analysing attendance data (see section 7)
- Benchmarking attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Providing regular attendance reports to school staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the designated senior leader responsible for attendance and the headteacher
- Working with education welfare officers to tackle persistent absence
- Advising the Headteacher/Head of School when to issue fixed-penalty notices

The attendance officer is Jo Cowlshaw and can be contacted via the school office (enquiriesprimary@fountains.staffs.sch.uk)

3.5 Class Teachers

Class teachers are responsible for recording attendance for both morning and afternoon sessions on a daily basis, using the correct codes (see Appendix 1), and submitting this information to the school office and submitting this information to the school office by 9:30am

Class teachers must:

- Encouraging good attendance through verbal praise and rewards.
- Ensure that registers are correctly and promptly marked, using correct codes (Appendix 1).
- Set a good example in matters of attendance and punctuality.
- Ensure that parents are informed of their child's attendance during parent consultations.
- Continue to provide a safe and secure environment in which to learn.
- Provide engaging and worthwhile learning experiences that encourage students to regularly attend lessons.
- Promote the importance of a good routine and a healthy lifestyle, ie: getting lots of sleep and drinking lots of water.

3.6 School Office/ Medical Team Staff

School office staff will:

- Take calls from parents about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system
- Transfer calls from parents to the Medical/Well being team in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance

3.7 Parents/carers

Where this policy refers to a parent, it refers to the adult the school and/or local authority decides is most appropriate to work with, including:

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not
- All those who have parental responsibility for a child or young person
- Those who have day-to-day responsibility for the child (i.e. lives with and looks after them)

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Make sure their child attends every day on time
- Call the school to report their child's absence before 855am on the day of the absence or alternatively report their child's absence through the Reach More Parents communication app. This needs to be completed for each subsequent day of absence, and advise when they are expected to return
- Provide the school with more than 1 emergency contact number for their child
 - Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day
- Keep to any attendance contracts that they make with the school and/or local authority
 - Seek support, where necessary, for maintaining good attendance, by contacting the school office via email: enquiriesprimary@fountains.staffs.sch.uk. Phone: 01283247600 or the Reach More Parents App.

3.8 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Attend school every day, on time
- Encourage friendship and a sense of belonging.

- Be happy and encourage others to feel happy.
- Develop resilience engage in learning by using the Zones of regulation to help them
- Understand the importance of a good routine and a healthy lifestyle, ie: getting lots of sleep and drinking lots of water
- Inform a trusted adult if they feel that they are being bullied or feel unhappy in school.

4. Recording attendance

4.1 Attendance register

We will keep an electronic attendance register, and place all pupils onto this register.

We will take our attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session. It will mark, using the appropriate national attendance and absence codes from the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, whether every pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

Any amendment to the attendance register will include:

- The original entry
- The amended entry
- The reason for the amendment
- The date on which the amendment was made
- The name and position of the person who made the amendment

See appendix 1 for the DfE attendance codes.

We will also record:

- Whether the absence is authorised or not
- The nature of the activity if a pupil is attending an approved educational activity
- The nature of circumstances where a pupil is unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

We will keep every entry on the attendance register for 6 years after the date on which the entry was made.

Pupils must arrive in school by 855am on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 905am and will be kept open until 930am. The register for the second session will be taken at 1:15pm and will be kept open until 1:30pm.

4.2 Unplanned absence

The pupil's parent/carers must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 8:55am or as soon as practically possible by calling the school office (see also section 7).

We will mark absence due to physical or mental illness as authorised, unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.

If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, the school may ask the pupil's parent/carer to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily.

If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and parents/carers will be notified of this in advance.

4.3 Planned absence

Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment.

Parents should request a leave of absence either in writing via email or the Reach More Parents App. Or they may do this verbally by contacting the main office by telephone or in person. Evidence of the appointment will need to be obtained and kept in the child's main file as well as on the Arbour system.

However, we encourage parents/carers to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

The pupil's parent/carer must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence. Go to section 5 to find out which term-time absences the school can authorise.

4.4 Lateness and punctuality

A pupil who arrives late:

- Before the register has closed will be marked as late, using the appropriate code
- After the register has closed will be marked as absent, using the appropriate code
- Ongoing punctuality issues will be brought to the Senior Leaderships attention through Leadership Team meetings. The Deputy Headteacher discuss issues with the most appropriate team eg... transport providers, Early Helps Teams such Malachi, East Staffs Family Support Team; The Esteem MATs Family Support Team (FASST), East Staffordshire Advice Support Service, Social Services, Derbyshire Starting Point and Fountains Primary Schools Well Being Team.

4.5 Following up unexplained absence

Where any pupil we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, without reason, the school will:

- Call the pupil's parent/carer on the morning of the first day of unexplained absence to ascertain the reason. If the school cannot reach any of the pupil's emergency contacts, the school may call the family's social worker/first response.
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not
- Identify the correct attendance code to use and input it as soon as the reason for absence is ascertained – this will be no later than 5 working days after the session
- Call the parent/carer on each day that the absence continues without explanation to ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, the school will consider involving an education welfare officer
- Where relevant, report the unexplained absence to the pupil's youth offending team officer
- Where appropriate, offer support to the pupil and/or their parents to improve attendance
- Identify whether the pupil needs support from wider partners, as quickly as possible, and make the necessary referrals

- Where support is not appropriate, not successful, or not engaged with: issue a notice to improve, penalty notice or other legal intervention (see section 5.2 below), as appropriate.

4.6 Reporting to parents/carers

The school will regularly inform parents about their child's attendance and absence levels through half termly reports attached to each child's progress report. The School has a legal duty to publish its absence figures to parent/carers and to promote good attendance. Equally, parent/carers have a duty to make sure that their children attend. School staff are committed to working with parent/carers as the best way to ensure as high a level of attendance as possible.

5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

5.1 Approval for term-time absence

The Headteacher will allow pupils to be absent from the school site for certain educational activities, or to attend other schools or settings.

The Headteacher will only grant a **leave of absence** to a pupil during term time if the request meets the specific circumstances set out in the [2024 school attendance regulations](#). These circumstances are:

- Taking part in a regulated performance, or regulated employment abroad
- Attending an interview
- Study leave
- A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable
- Exceptional circumstances

A leave of absence is granted at the Headteacher's discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for.

We define 'exceptional circumstances' as situations such as weddings/funerals/ death of a close relative/ housing crisis/ safeguarding crisis, issues relating to transport.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request.

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and in accordance with any leave of absence request form, accessible via the school website. The headteacher may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

Valid reasons for **authorised absence** include:

- Illness and medical/dental appointments (see sections 4.2 and 4.3 for more detail)
- Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parents belong. If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parents' religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart
- Parent(s) travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh gypsies, Irish and Scottish travellers, showmen (fairground people) and circus people, bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and new travellers. Absence may be authorised only when a traveller family is known to be travelling for occupational purposes and has agreed this with the school, but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision pupil is attending educational provision.
- If the pupil is currently suspended or excluded from school (and no alternative provision has been made)

Other reasons the school may allow a pupil to be absent from the school site, which are not classified as absences, include (but are not limited to):

- Attending an offsite approved educational activity, sporting activity or visit or trip arranged by the school
- Attending another school at which the pupil is also registered (dual registration)
- Attending provision arranged by the local authority
- Attending work experience
- If there is any other unavoidable cause for the pupil not to attend school, such as disruption to travel caused by an emergency, a lack of access arrangements, or because the school premises are closed

5.2 Legal sanctions

Our school will make use of the full range of potential sanctions – including, but not limited to, those listed below – to tackle poor attendance. Decisions will be made on an individual, case-by-case basis.

Penalty notices

The Headteacher (or someone authorised by them), local authority or the police can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age, by issuing a penalty notice.

If the school issues a penalty notice, it will check with the local authority before doing so, and send it a copy of any penalty notice issued.

Before issuing a penalty notice, the school will consider the individual case, including:

- Whether the national threshold for considering a penalty notice has been met (10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks)
- Whether a penalty notice is the best available tool to improve attendance for that pupil
- Whether further support, a notice to improve or another legal intervention would be a more appropriate solution
- Whether any obligations that the school has under the Equality Act 2010 make issuing a penalty notice inappropriate

A penalty notice may also be issued where parents allow their child to be present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification, during the first 5 days of a suspension or exclusion (where the school has notified the parents that the pupil must not be present in a public place on that day).

Each parent who is liable for the pupil's offence(s) can be issued with a penalty notice, but this will usually only be the parent/parents who allowed the absence.

The payment must be made directly to the local authority, regardless of who issues the notice. If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice.

If issued with a **first** penalty notice, the parent must pay £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days.

If a **second** penalty notice is issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil, the parent must pay £160 if paid within 28 days.

A **third** penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the issue of the first penalty notice. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead.

Notices to improve

If the national threshold has been met and support is appropriate, but parents do not engage with offers of support, the school may offer a notice to improve to give parents a final chance to engage with support.

Notices to improve will be issued in line with processes set out in the local code of conduct for the local authority area in which the pupil attends school.

They will include:

- Details of the pupil's attendance record and of the offences
- The benefits of regular attendance and the duty of parents under section 7 of the Education Act 1996
- Details of the support provided so far
- Opportunities for further support, or to access previously provided support that was not engaged with
- A clear warning that a penalty notice may be issued if attendance doesn't improve within the improvement period, along with details of what sufficient improvement looks like, which will be decided on a case-by-case basis
- A clear timeframe of between 3 and 6 weeks for the improvement period
- The grounds on which a penalty notice may be issued before the end of the improvement period

6. Strategies for promoting attendance

At Fountains Primary School we use a variety of strategies to promote good attendance and improve overall attendance.

- We employ (partly subsidised from our pupil premium money) a full time medical team and wellbeing team to support and improve school attendance. They support families with all medical issues and appointments, ensuring that wherever possible, all possible medical appointments are made outside of school hours. We also invite a range of professionals into school (doctors, speech therapists, physiotherapist etc..) to hold meetings and carry out assessments during the day.
- We use the schools varied Early Help offer (partly subsidised from our pupil premium money) to support good attendance. This can be our own wellbeing team or the Esteem MATs Team (FASST).
- The Deputy Headteacher offers proactive support and guidance for families to improve and sustain their child's attendance by using a range of professional to provide home visits, phone calls, advice on medicals appointments, referrals to and working in partnership with outside agencies to achieve this aim.
- All classes offer stay and play/learn sessions, during these times staff remind parents of the importance of good attendance.
- The school sends out a half termly attendance report
- The school sends out outstanding attendance certificates to anyone who has over 95% attendance alongside celebrating all improving attendance and these children are celebrated on the attendance display
- All children who have 100% attendance in a half term are celebrated in assemblies at the end of every half term, regardless of the previous terms' attendance. At the end of the year all children who have 100% attendance receive an award and a prize.

7. Supporting pupils who are absent or returning to school

7.1 Pupils absent due to complex barriers to attendance

A Fountains Primary School, we understand that supporting pupils who are absent due to complex barriers to attendance requires a multifaceted and compassionate approach.

When pupils are absent due to complex barriers to attendance we maintain regular contact with the family through phone calls home and home visits from the well being team. Where appropriate we will refer families to tailored interventions from a range of agencies such as our internal well being team, the Esteem MAT FASST team or Early Help services provided by the local authority.

7.2 Pupils absent due to mental or physical ill health or SEND

When pupils are absent due to mental or physical ill health or SEND we maintain regular contact with the family through phone calls and home visits from the well being team. We also maintain regular communication with health professionals involved with the child through TAF (Team Around the Family) and Multi Professional Meetings. Where appropriate we will refer families to tailored interventions from a range of agencies such as our internal well being team, MHST, the Esteem MAT FASST team or Early Help services provided by the local authority.

Where a pupil has an education health and care (EHC) plan and their attendance falls, or the school becomes aware of barriers to attendance that related to the pupil's needs, the school will inform the local authority.

7.3 Pupils returning to school after a lengthy or unavoidable period of absence

When pupils are returning to school following a lengthy absence, we will ensure that during our regular contact that we reach out to the pupil and their family before they return to discuss concerns, expectations, and any support needed and this will be provided by the appropriate agency as necessary. We will continue to keep the pupil's family informed about their progress and any concerns and involve them in the reintegration process to ensure consistent support at home and school. We will ensure that teachers and relevant staff members are aware of the pupil's situation and any specific needs or adjustments required.

8. Attendance monitoring

8.1 Monitoring attendance

The school will monitor attendance and absence data (including punctuality) half-termly, termly and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil, year group and cohort level. Identify whether or not there are particular groups of children whose absences may be a cause for concern

Specific pupil information will be shared with the DfE on request.

Data will be collected each term and published at national and local authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases. The underlying school-level absence data is published alongside the national statistics. The school will compare attendance data to the national average, and share this with the governing board.

The school will benchmark its attendance data at whole school, year group and cohort level against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement, and share this with the governing board.

8.2 Analysing attendance

The school will:

- Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify pupils, groups or cohorts that need additional support with their attendance, and
- Identify pupils whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence
- Conduct thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full-year data to identify patterns and trends
- Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns

8.3 Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

- Develop targeted actions to address patterns of absence (of all severities) of individual pupils, groups or cohorts that it has identified via data analysis
- Provide targeted support to the pupils it has identified whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence, and their families (see section 8.4 below)
- Provide regular attendance reports to class teachers, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families, and to the governing board and school leaders (including special educational needs co-ordinators, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium leads)
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies
- Share information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, local authorities and other partners where a pupil's absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe, including keeping them informed regarding specific pupils, where appropriate

8.4 Reducing persistent and severe absence

Persistent absence is where a pupil misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence is where a pupil misses 50% or more of school. Reducing persistent and severe absence is central to the school's strategy for improving attendance.

The school will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence
- Consider potential safeguarding issues and, where suspected or present, address them in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Hold regular meetings with the parents of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable or at risk of persistent or severe absence, or who are persistently or severely absent, to:
 - Discuss attendance and engagement at school
 - Listen, and understand barriers to attendance
 - Explain the help that is available
 - Explain the potential consequences of, and sanctions for, persistent and severe absence
 - Review any existing actions or interventions

- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance, in conjunction with the local authority, where relevant
- Consider alternative support that could be put in place to remove any barriers to attendance and re-engage these pupils. In doing so, the school will sensitively consider some of the reasons for absence
- Implement sanctions, where necessary (see section 5.2, above)
- Once a child appears on persistent absence we will investigate the reasons, then if these reasons do not meet an exceptional circumstance, parent will receive first stage monitoring letter.
- **Stage 1** – After 3 trending weeks of persistent absence, the parent will be sent a notice to improve letter outlining the expectations for attendance and the repercussions of being a persistent absentee.
- **Stage 2** – After 6 trending weeks of persistent absence, the parents will be invited to attend a persistent absence panel meeting with the Head of School and Pastoral Lead.
- **Stage 3** – After 9 trending weeks of persistent absence a review will be held for the child's attendance, during this review our team will make the decision to offer further preventative work or consider further action. If further action is taken, the parents will receive a 15-day monitoring period (3 weeks) in order to improve attendance.
- **Stage 4** – After 12 trending weeks of persistent absence, the attendance will be reviewed, if no improvement is made, attendance will be sent to the local authority for a Penalty Notice Request.

(See Appendix 3)

9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority or DfE is updated, and as a minimum annually by Laura Kobylanski (Head of School). At every review, the policy will be ratified by the full governing board.

9. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour policy

Appendix 1: attendance codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's [guidance on school attendance](#).

Code	Definition	Scenario
I	Present (am)	Pupil is present at morning registration
l	Present (pm)	Pupil is present at afternoon registration
L	Late arrival	Pupil arrives late before register has closed
Attending a place other than the school		
K	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority	Pupil is attending a place other than a school at which they are registered, for educational provision arranged by the local authority
V	Attending an educational visit or trip	Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised or approved by the school
P	Participating in a sporting activity	Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school
W	Attending work experience	Pupil is on an approved work experience placement
B	Attending any other approved educational activity	Pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is not a sporting activity or work experience
D	Dual registered	Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered
Absent – leave of absence		
C1	Participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad	Pupil is undertaking employment (paid or unpaid) during school hours, approved by the school
M	Medical/dental appointment	Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment
J1	Interview	Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment
S	Study leave	Pupil has been granted leave of absence to study for a public examination
X	Not required to be in school	Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend

C2	Part-time timetable	Pupil is not in school due to having a part-time timetable
C	Exceptional circumstances	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
Absent – other authorised reasons		
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	Pupil is a 'mobile child' who is travelling with their parent(s) who are travelling for occupational purposes
R	Religious observance	Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	Pupil is unable to attend due to illness (either related to physical or mental health)
E	Suspended or excluded	Pupil has been suspended or excluded from school and no alternative provision has been made
Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause		
Q	Lack of access arrangements	Pupil is unable to attend school because the local authority has failed to make access arrangements to enable attendance at school
Y1	Transport not available	Pupil is unable to attend because school is not within walking distance of their home and the transport normally provided is not available
Y2	Widespread disruption to travel	Pupil is unable to attend because of widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national or international emergency
Y3	Part of school premises closed	Pupil is unable to attend because they cannot practicably be accommodated in the part of the premises that remains open
Y4	Whole school site unexpectedly closed	Every pupil absent as the school is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to adverse weather)
Y5	Criminal justice detention	Pupil is unable to attend as they are: • In police detention • Remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or • Detained under a sentence of detention

Y6	Public health guidance or law	Pupil's travel to or attendance at the school would be prohibited under public health guidance or law
Y7	Any other unavoidable cause	To be used where an unavoidable cause is not covered by the other codes
Absent – unauthorised absence		
G	Holiday not granted by the school	Pupil is absent for the purpose of a holiday, not approved by the school
N	Reason for absence not yet established	Reason for absence has not been established before the register closes
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	No reason for absence has been established, or the school isn't satisfied that the reason given would be recorded using one of the codes for authorised absence
U	Arrived in school after registration closed	Pupil has arrived late, after the register has closed but before the end of session
Administrative codes		
Z	Prospective pupil not on admission register	Pupil has not joined school yet but has been registered
#	Planned whole-school closure	Whole-school closures that are known and planned in advance, including school holidays

Daily Attendance Monitoring

Parents must report absence by 8:45am each morning via enquiries-primary@fountains.staffs.sch.uk, by calling the main office on 01283 247600 or by using the Reach More Parents messaging service. Parents must clearly state the child's name, class and reason for absence.

1st Action – No reason Provided

Parents/carers who have not contacted the school office regarding their child's absence will receive a telephone call from the attendance officer. If the call isn't answered a message will be sent via the Reach More Parents App.

Reason Provided: End Process.
Absence will be recorded using the appropriate code.

2nd Action – No reason Provided

If no reason is provided, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and the DSL will be informed. The DSL will monitor the absence and consider whether a home visit is necessary (following advice from ESAS). Further phone calls/ messages/ emails will be sent to the parent/ carer and other contacts on the MIS system.

Reason Provided: End Process.
Absence will be recorded using the appropriate code.

3rd Action – No reason Provided

If concerns remain, Social Services and/or the Police will be contacted.

Reason Provided: End Process.
Absence will be recorded using the appropriate code.

Persistence Absence Monitoring

Once a child appears on Persistence Absence 90% or below, we will investigate the reasons. If these reasons do not meet an exceptional circumstance *refer to the attendance policy. The child will go to the first stage of attendance.

Stage 1 – Persistent Absence

Outcome: Notice to improve

After 3 weeks of persistent absence, the parent will be sent a letter outlining the expectations for attendance and the repercussions of being a persistent absentee.

Attendance has improved:
End process.

Stage 2 – Persistent Absence

Outcome:
Attendance Panel Meeting

After 6, to approve attendance. weeks of persistent absence, the parent will be invited to attend a panel meeting with the head teacher and DSL. The parent will then be given 3 weeks (15 days) in line with legal proceedings.

Attendance has improved:
Letter to acknowledge & monitoring to continue, back to stage 1.

Stage 3 – Persistent Absence

Outcome: Review

After 9 weeks, a review of attendance will be held. During this review our team will make the decision to offer further preventative work or consider further action. If further action is taken, the parents/carers will receive a 15 Day monitoring period (3 weeks) to improve attendance in line with legal proceedings.

Attendance has improved:
Letter to acknowledge & monitoring to continue. Back to stage 1.

Stage 4 – Persistent Absence

Outcome: Penalty Notice

After 12 weeks of persistent absence, the attendance will be reviewed. If no improvement is made, attendance data will be sent to the local authority for a Penalty Notice Request.

Attendance has improved:
Letter to acknowledge & monitoring to continue. Back to stage 2.