

St Thomas a Becket Attendance Strategy for Parents

Why is good attendance important?

Regular attendance at school ensures that children get the best possible start in life. Good attendance supports learning, the development of social skills and friendships, as well as building good habits that are essential for adult life. School education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Research clearly demonstrates the link between regular attendance and educational progress and attainment.

Parents/carers and the school team

should work in partnership in making education a success and in ensuring that all children have full and equal access to all that the school has to offer.

The Government expect that pupils have at least 96% attendance.

If your child's level of absence concerns us or attendance falls below 95%, you will be contacted by the school to look at what support can be offered to improve your child's attendance. We want to work with you to ensure we give your child the best opportunities to grow and succeed.

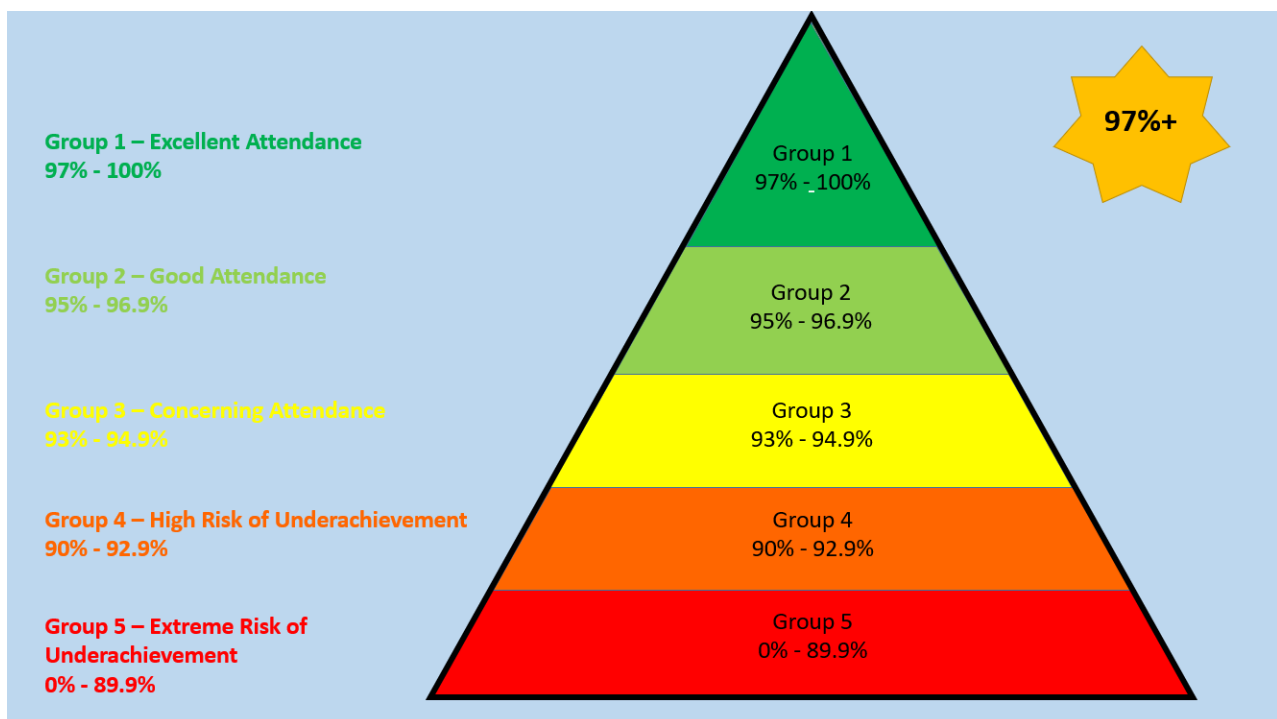
Attendance that falls below 90% is categorised as persistent absence. An attendance figure of 90% is the equivalent of a half day absence every week

Following DfE guidance, if your child arrives in school after 9.00am this is registered as a U code which is unauthorised absence for the session.

What will we do to support good attendance?

Attendance flowchart detailing processes for supporting families with attendance (attached)

Attendance pyramid clearly defining attendance groups:



Clear school policy and strategy shared with all stakeholders

Strong DSL team

Regular DSL and whole staff safeguarding 'catch ups' which include a focus on attendance

Robust monitoring and record keeping, particularly around persistent absence and unauthorised absence

Admin Officer included in training

ELSA and Parent Support Advisor working with key families and children

EBSA guidance and strategies

Engagement with parents and carers

Positive relationships established

Early communication via face to face meetings and phone calls from class teachers

Positive attendance celebrated through class attendance trophy each term and termly certificates for 100% and improved attendance

Targeted attendance meetings (SAMs and LAAMs)

Clear expectations and highlighting of importance of attendance – policy, parents evenings, new pupil induction, newsletters

Supportive strategies and reasonable adjustments e.g. meet and greet, morning routines, drop in chats, ELSA

Wrap Around Care including nurture breakfast

Assemblies

Staff training through staff meetings and INSET days

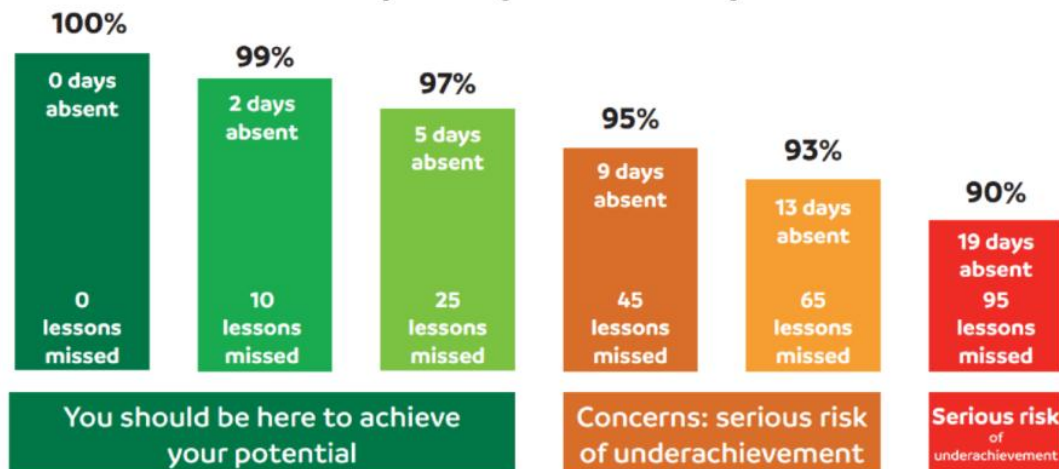
Alternative provision, flexi-schooling and educational support

Multi-agency working when required: ESAs, EWO, EBSA strategies, Emotional Wellbeing Service

Implementation of 'HERO' – here everyday ready on time

Be a HERO

Here Everyday Ready On time



Strategies to reduce lateness – sign-in book, working with families

Parent support drop ins and coffee mornings

How can families support good attendance?

Take trips during school holidays rather than term time

Don't allow your child to stay off school for a minor ailment – see attached NHS guidance [Is my child too ill for school?](#)

Arrive at school on time so your child doesn't get a Late mark – gates close at 8.45am and children will need to be signed in after this time.

Ensure your child has a good understanding of why attendance is important

Figure out the reasons for absence as this can help you understand where your child needs support in overcoming barriers to attending school.

Communicate with school about barriers to attendance so we can put reasonable adjustments in place.

Try to establish a good routine early so that when your child does start school, they have developed good habits such as getting plenty of sleep

If appointments are needed for health reasons, try to make them during after school hours or out of term time where possible. Provide the school with medical evidence of appointments.