

# Attendance Policy

Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School



|                            |                                        |                        |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Approved by:</b>        | Welfare Committee                      | <b>Date:</b> June 2026 |
|                            | Full Governing Board                   | July 2026              |
| <b>Last reviewed on:</b>   | February 2024 (amended September 2024) |                        |
| <b>Next review due by:</b> | January 2028                           |                        |

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## 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:

- 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. We want our pupils to succeed and develop their skills. To do this, pupils need to avoid missing lessons and days of school as much as possible. As a school, we want to reward high attendance and not just penalise pupils for poor attendance.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the [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 School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024
- [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](#)
- Ofsted's 2025 framework toolkit

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

### 3.1 The governing board

The governing board is responsible for:

- Promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school
- Making sure staff receive adequate training on attendance
- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy

Our Attendance Link Governor is Jo Blatherwick

### 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

### 3.3 The designated senior leader responsible for attendance

The designated senior leader is responsible for:

- Leading attendance across the school
- Offering a clear vision for attendance improvement
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Having an oversight of data analysis
- Devising specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data
- Building relationships with parents/carers to discuss and tackle attendance issues
- Creating intervention 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 T. Doig and can be contacted via email, [stafftdoig@kggs.org](mailto:stafftdoig@kggs.org) or by telephone 01476 563017[

### 3.4 The attendance manager

The school attendance manager 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 / (authorised by the headteacher) when to issue fixed-penalty notices

The attendance manager is Mrs S Green and can be contacted via email, [staffsgreen@kggs.org](mailto:staffsgreen@kggs.org) or by telephone 01476 563017 ext. 153

### 3.5 Class teachers/form tutors

Class teachers/form tutors are responsible for recording attendance on a daily basis, using the correct codes, and submitting this information to the school office on the same day following each lesson

### 3.6 School support staff

School support staff will:

- › Take calls from parents/carers and students about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system
- › Transfer calls from parents/carers and students to the head of year / attendance manager in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance.

### 3.7 Parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- › Make sure their child attends every day/ on time
- › Call the school to report their child's absence before 9:30am on the day of the absence and 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 school
- › Seek support from school by contacting the attendance or a member of pastoral if their child is struggling to attend school

### 3.8 Students

Students are expected to:

- › Attend every timetabled session on time
- › Sixth form: Call the school to report their absence before 9:30am on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence

## 4. Recording attendance

### 4.1 Attendance register

We will keep an 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 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 3 years after the date on which the entry was made.

Pupils must arrive in school by 8:50am on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 8:50am and will be kept open until 9:05am The register for the second session will be taken at 9:05am and will be kept open until 9:30am

## 4.2 Unplanned absence

The student's parent/carer must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9:30am or as soon as practically possible by calling the school staff (see also section 7).

Please include student's name, form, reason for absence and your relationship to the student

Key Stage 3 & 4 Years 7-11 please email [schoolabsence@kggs.org](mailto:schoolabsence@kggs.org)

Sixth Form Years 12 & 13 please email [sixthformabsence@kggs.org](mailto:sixthformabsence@kggs.org)

Alternatively, you can contact the school via telephone 01476 563017 and leave a message on our absence line

Years 7-11 phone 01476 563017 and choose extension 2

Sixth Form phone 01476 563017 and choose extension 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.

Where the absence is longer than 3 days or there are doubts about the authenticity of the illness, the school will ask for 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 / carers should complete and submit our Short Term Absence and Appointment Notification Form located on our school website under the heading Parents, sub heading, Student Absence

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

If a student arrives after 8:50 but before 9:10, they should sign in at pastoral / sixth form common room and proceed to their form room and will be marked late.

If a student is late due to transport issues, such as a bus or train running late / cancelled, they should inform school via email / phone as soon as possible.

Arrival after 9:10 will be marked as absent by the form tutor. The student must sign in at pastoral / sixth form common room, when they arrive, citing the reason for lateness, and proceed to their lesson promptly.

Consistent lateness will be followed up by the attendance team and form tutors. A member of SLT will monitor students arriving at the school gate between 08:50 and 09:10. Students who are persistently late will be issued with detentions.

## 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 conduct a home visit
- 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 and make a visit to the student's home address if required. If absence continues, the school will consider involving an education welfare officer from Lincolnshire County Council

## 4.6 Reporting to parents/carers

The school will regularly inform parents/carers about their child's attendance and absence levels via termly written reports, which also appear on My Child At School app

# 5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

## 5.1 Approval for term-time absence

The headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to a pupil during term time if they consider there to be '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.

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, where possible, at least 2 weeks before the absence, and in accordance with any leave of absence request form, accessible via our school website. The headteacher may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

Valid reasons for **authorised absence** include:

- Illness (including mental 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/carers belong. If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parents'/carers' religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart
- Traveller pupils 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

\*Approved sporting activities

## 5.2 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

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.

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). These penalty notices are not included in the National Framework, not subject to the same considerations about support being provided, and do not count towards the limit as part of the escalation process.

In these cases, the parent must pay £80 within 21 days, or £160.

### 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

Excellent attendance is recognised and celebrated. Students are awarded a badge for 100% attendance at the end of the academic year.

Letters are sent to parents/carers to highlight any concerns regarding attendance and offer support.

## 7. Attendance monitoring

The Attendance Manager at our school monitors student absence daily. A student's parent / carer is expected to email / call the school by 9:30am if their child is going to be absent due to ill health (see section 4.2)

If a student absence goes above 3 consecutive days, the school will contact the parent / carer of the student to discuss the reason for this and ascertain if any further support is needed from the school. Exceptions to this are if a student does not return to school at the start of a new term or if we have additional concerns about a student, such as safeguarding.

If a student's absence continue to rise after contacting their parent / carer, we will consider seeking external support. The persistent absence threshold is 10%. If a student's individual overall absence rate is greater or equal to 10%, the student will be classified as a persistent absentee.

Student-level absence 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 attendance data is collected and stored by Bromcom, weekly attendance reports used by Heads of Year and members of the senior team to monitor attendance. This includes:

To track the attendance of individual students

To identify whether or not there are groups of students whose absence might be a concern

To monitor the attendance of groups of students such as PP or SEND

To monitor students who are in need of intervention and support

### 7.1 Attendance Baseline Improvement Expectation (ABIE)

From September 2026 every school will receive a minimum expected improvement, known as ABIE, from the DfE. At the end of each academic year the DfE will compare the school attendance outcome against the ABIE to understand progress and impact.

## 7.2 Monitoring attendance

The school will:

- Monitor attendance and absence data half-termly, termly and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil level
- Identify whether or not there are particular groups of children whose absences may be a cause for concern
- Prepare for and attend Targeted Support Meetings annually, with the Local Authority,

Pupil-level absence 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.

## 7.3 Analysing attendance

The school will:

- Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify pupils or cohorts that need additional support with their attendance, and use this analysis to provide targeted support to these pupils and their families
- Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns

## 7.4 Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

- Provide regular attendance reports to Heads of Year [and other school leaders, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies

## 7.5 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.

The school will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence
- Hold regular meetings with the parents/carers of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable, or are persistently or severely absent, to discuss attendance and engagement at school
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance
- Hold regular meetings with Heads of Year, senior leadership team and wellbeing team to discuss students causing concern
- Create an attendance watchlist to monitor students whose attendance is causing concern

## 8. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority or DfE is updated, and as a minimum every 2 years by the Deputy Headteacher and the Attendance Manager. At every review, the policy will be approved by the full governing board.

## 9. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy

## Appendix 1: Attendance Codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's guidance on school attendance.

| Code | Definition                    | Scenario                                                                        |
|------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| /    | Present (am)                  | Pupil is present at morning registration                                        |
| \    | Present (pm)                  | Pupil is present at afternoon registration                                      |
| L    | Late arrival                  | Pupil arrives late before register has closed                                   |
| B    | Off-site educational activity | Pupil is at a supervised off-site educational activity approved by the school   |
| D    | Dual registered               | Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered  |
| J    | Interview                     | Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment    |
| P    | Sporting activity             | Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school |
| V    | Educational trip or visit     | Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised, or approved, by the school     |
| W    | Work experience               | Pupil is on a work experience placement                                         |

| Code                        | Definition                        | Scenario                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Authorised absence</b>   |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>C</b>                    | Authorised leave of absence       | Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances                                                                                                                        |
| <b>E</b>                    | Excluded                          | Pupil has been excluded but no alternative provision has been made                                                                                                                                |
| <b>H</b>                    | Authorised holiday                | Pupil has been allowed to go on holiday due to exceptional circumstances                                                                                                                          |
| <b>I</b>                    | Illness                           | School has been notified that a pupil will be absent due to illness                                                                                                                               |
| <b>M</b>                    | Medical/dental appointment        | Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>R</b>                    | Religious observance              | Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>S</b>                    | Study leave                       | Year 11 pupil is on study leave during their public examinations                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>T</b>                    | Gypsy, Roma and traveller absence | Pupil from a traveller community is travelling, as agreed with the school                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Unauthorised absence</b> |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>G</b>                    | Unauthorised holiday              | Pupil is on a holiday that was not approved by the school                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>N</b>                    | Reason not provided               | Pupil is absent for an unknown reason (this code should be amended when the reason emerges, or replaced with code O if no reason for absence has been provided after a reasonable amount of time) |
| <b>O</b>                    | Unauthorised absence              | School is not satisfied with reason for pupil's absence                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>U</b>                    | Arrival after registration        | Pupil arrived at school after the register closed                                                                                                                                                 |

| Code     | Definition                                        | Scenario                                                                                                               |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>X</b> | Not required to be in school                      | Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend                                                           |
| <b>Y</b> | Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances | School site is closed, there is disruption to travel as a result of a local/national emergency, or pupil is in custody |
| <b>Z</b> | Pupil not on admission register                   | Register set up but pupil has not yet joined the school                                                                |
| <b>#</b> | Planned school closure                            | Whole or partial school closure due to half-term/bank holiday/INSET day                                                |

## 10.0 Configuration History

| Version: | Date:          | Author | Contributors                    |
|----------|----------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| 6.0      | February 2024  |        | Deputy Head, Attendance Manager |
| 6.1      | September 2024 |        | Deputy Head, Attendance Manager |
| 7.0      | June 2026      |        | Deputy Head, Attendance Manager |

### Audit trail of change

| Version | Date           | Reason for Change |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|
| 6.0     | February 2024  | New Policy        |
| 6.1     | September 2024 | Amendment         |
| 7.0     | June 2026      | Policy Review     |

### Authorisation

| Name                 | Date      | Signature |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Mrs J Blatherwick    | June 2026 |           |
| Full Governing Board | July 2026 |           |