

Angram Bank Primary School



Attendance Policy

Responsibility	Governors & SLT
Date of last review:	Summer 2023
Date of next review:	Autumn 2024

Introduction

Angram Bank Primary School is committed to promoting good attendance to ensure all children are able to achieve their full potential both academically and socially. We positively promote inclusion, having an integrated resource for deaf and hearing impaired children which integrates them into the appropriate mainstream class, as well as local children with varying degrees of educational and social needs. We actively pursue an Equal Opportunities Policy and value differences.

Regular attendance and good punctuality are essential to the educational achievement and personal development of all children. Only children who attend regularly will fully benefit from the academic, personal and social opportunities offered to them by Angram Bank Primary School.

Aims

- To encourage maximum levels of attendance.
- To encourage parents/carers to work with school within a framework of good practice.
- To monitor and track pupils attendance and punctuality through effective systems.
- To address poor attendance through clear, consistent and effective procedures.
- To give recognition to pupils who achieve 100% attendance and punctuality.
- To raise awareness of the importance of attendance and punctuality and its impact on progress and attainment.

Expectations

What parents/carers can expect of the school:

- A broad and balanced education which is dependent upon regular attendance at school.
- Regular, efficient and accurate recording of attendance.
- Daily contact with parents/carers when a pupil fails to attend school without providing good reason. No contact from parents/carers may incur a home visit.
- The encouragement and promotion of good attendance.
- Prompt action to be taken when problems are identified.
- Close liaison with MAST and/or the Attendance and Inclusion team to support families where needed.
- Notification to parents/carers of their child's attendance through the school's reporting system.
- The encouragement and promotion of good attendance through assemblies, rewards and awards.
- Regular communication with parents/carers.

What the school expects of the children:

- To attend regularly and on time, ready to learn.
- They arrive prepared for the day with any appropriate equipment.
- They report to the school office should they arrive after the official registration times of 9.00am and 1.00pm

What the school expects of the parents/carers:

- To fulfil their legal responsibility to ensure their children regularly attend school. Section 7 of Education Act 1996 places a duty on parents/carers to secure education of children of compulsory school age.
- To ensure they contact school every day their child is unable to attend unless school has agreed otherwise.
- To ensure their child arrives on time and is prepared for the school day in school dress code.
- To contact the school in confidence whenever any problems occur that may keep their child from attending school.

- To inform the office of any forthcoming holidays and wherever possible to take these during the school holiday period. A Request for Exceptional Term Time Leave form must be completed.
- Where possible to make routine/emergency appointments out of school hours. Parents should provide evidence of the appointment in order for the absence to be authorised (an appointment letter, card or text should be shown at the office.) It is good practice to provide medical evidence where possible.

How attendance and punctuality will be monitored

- All classrooms are open and supervised from 8.50am. Registration is at 9.00am each morning and 1.00pm in the afternoon. If children arrive after these times they will be marked as late.
- Any child arriving after 9.00am and 1.00pm must report to the office where they will be marked as late (L). Any child arriving after 9.30am and 1.30pm will be marked as 'late after registers close' (U). This is then classed as an unauthorised absence. Parents/carers must accompany their child to the office.
- If no contact is made with school to allow the authorisation of the absence, school will try to contact the parent/carer by telephone. If there is no response, a home visit may be carried out.
- If school cannot make contact with a parent/carer when their child is absent then they will be given an O code (unauthorised absence) and add no reason for the absence in the comments. Attendance is monitored on a weekly basis.

The schools response to lateness

- Pupils who are late are recorded in SIMS with the reason for their lateness.
- Persistent lateness is discussed with parents/carers and a late letter may be sent with the number of late marks shown and a copy of the child's attendance registration certificate.
- If children still continue to be late then parents/carers may be invited to a SAP meeting in school with a Senior Leader, Governor, Learning Mentors or an Attendance and Inclusion Specialist.
- If necessary we may liaise with the attendance and inclusion team or MAST to assist and support pupils and their families in getting to school on time.
- If you know your child is going to be late then contact the school office. No contact may trigger a phone call or home visit.

The schools response to poor attendance

- The school operates an absence call system. If parents/carers have not contacted school every day their child is absent then school will use all contact details to get a reason for their absence. If unsuccessful a home visit will be carried out.
- Where relevant a parent/carer may be invited to a meeting in school with a Senior Leader, Learning Mentors, Governor or an Attendance and Inclusion Specialist.
- All attendance below 93% will be closely monitored and may be unauthorised unless medical evidence can be provided. Parents/carers will be informed of this by letter and invited into school if they wish to discuss the matter further.
- If there is still no improvement then a child may be referred to the Attendance and Inclusion team for support.
- If the attendance of a pupil still remains a concern following support offered, the school may refer the case to the Local Authority who will consider issuing a Penalty Notice fine or a Court Summons, whichever is appropriate.
- School will continue to support school attendance.

Term time leave of absence

- At Angram Bank we follow the Sheffield City Council policy for “Exceptional Leave During Term Time”.
- All term time holidays will be classed as unauthorised, unless deemed as exceptional circumstances by the Headteacher, and marked with code G in the register. Anyone with parental responsibility may be referred to the LEA for a fixed penalty notice to be issued.
- A Request for Exceptional Term Time Leave form should be completed for every leave of absence. A home visit may be carried out if school have reason to believe your child is on holiday and we have not been notified.
- Penalty notices (fines) will be requested for all unauthorised term time leave of 5 consecutive school days or more.

Rewards

Class Rewards

Each class has an attendance reward chart. The class achieving the highest percentage of attendance for each week will receive a certificate, class trophy and reward sticker for their chart. Five stickers will earn the class a reward. If 100% is achieved then they will also receive our ‘secret reward’ where each child will get a surprise.

If the whole class arrives on time all week then children will receive punctuality stickers. Our attendance boards have a different theme each year, so far we have used Pirates, World Cup, Olympics, Sponge Bob, Toy Story, Bingo, Harry Potter, ‘Classopoly’ and football.

Individual Rewards

Children who achieve 100% attendance and 98+% for each term will receive a certificate. School occasionally runs a termly attendance and punctuality incentive, where children with 100% attendance and punctuality will receive a mini reward such as hot chocolate, popcorn or ice cream.

Parent’s Involvement

- A school attendance information letter will be given out yearly to outline the schools expectations and procedures.
- Parent/teacher consultations are used as an opportunity to discuss attendance/punctuality concerns and to celebrate good attendance.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to contact school with any concerns that may have an impact on their child’s attendance.
- School will act as swiftly and sensitively as possible to any parental concerns.

Returning children after prolonged absence

- Meetings with parents/carers to discuss the specific needs of the child.
- Phased return as determined by individual circumstances.
- School and outside agencies will liaise closely on the issue.
- Monitoring and support from the schools learning mentors.
- Regular review meetings.

Persistent Absence

Children who have a low attendance percentage (below 90%) will be considered as persistent absentees. These children will be monitored regularly and any absences will have been unauthorised from 93% and below. It is good practise to provide medical evidence to school in order for the absence to be authorised. If attendance doesn't improve then a referral to the Attendance and Inclusion team may be necessary.

Attendance Panel

Where attendance or punctuality continues to be an issue, the school will invite parents/carers to attend a School Attendance Panel (SAP) Meeting to discuss problems and offer support. These meetings will be led by the Learning Mentors in school and could also be attended by an Attendance and Inclusion Specialist from the Local Authority.

Deleting children from the school roll

Angram Bank Primary School follows guidance and procedures as set out by the Government, including 'The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006'. These state that schools and Primary Admissions will be able to remove a child from school roll if:

- Primary admissions re-allocate the child to another Sheffield Community or Foundation or Voluntary Aided School and the new school confirms that they have started.
- The School or Primary Admissions have received a letter from the parent/carer that confirms alternative arrangements such as home schooling.
- The child has been continuously absent for a period of not less than 20 school days, absence has been unauthorised and both the school and local authority have been unable, after reasonable enquiries, to ascertain where the child is and have been given authorisation from the Child Missing in Education (CME) Team.

At Angram Bank Primary School we believe that attendance is essential in ensuring that our children have the best possible opportunity to achieve their full potential and succeed in all they participate in at our school.