

Holy Cross Catholic Primary

One School Family, Achieving Together, Anchored in the Love of Christ.



School Attendance Policy

Policy Review

This policy was adopted and agreed by the Governing Body on 23rd September 2025 and will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body every year.

It is due for review in September 2026.

Signature

Headteacher

Date: 23rd September 2025

Signature

Chair of Governors

Date: 23rd September 2025

Revision Record

Revision No.	Date Issued	Prepared By	Approved	Comments
1	14.12.2023	SF	FGB	IW Council Education & Inclusion Service model policy. Newly written to provide consistency across Island schools and revised in September 2023 to reflect changes to statutory guidance ' Working together to improve school attendance '
2	17.9.2024	KM	FGB	Taken from the model policy on The Key, in line with the statutory (from 19 August 2024) working together to improve school attendance guidance, and adapted for school use.
3	23.9.2025	KM	FGB	Taken from the model policy on The Key, in line with the statutory (from 19 August 2024) working together to improve school attendance guidance, and adapted for school use. Changes made to persistent lateness, promoting attendance and pupils with complex barriers

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Contents

Policy Consultation & Review	3
1. Introduction/Aim	3
2. Legislation and guidance	3
3. Roles and responsibilities	4
3.1 The governing body	4
3.2 The headteacher	4
3.3 The Attendance Lead	5
3.4 Class Teachers.....	5
3.5 School Administrator	5
3.6 Parents	5
3.7 Pupils	6
Role of the Education and Inclusion Service (EWS)	6
4. Recording attendance	6
4.1 Attendance register	6
4.2 Planned Absence Medical Appointments and Absence Due to Illness	7
4.3 Unplanned Absence.....	7
4.4 Lateness and Punctuality.....	8
4.5 Following up Unexplained Absence.....	8
4.6 Reporting to parents	9
5. Authorised and unauthorised absence	9
5.1 Approval for term-time absence.....	9
5.2 Sanctions	10
6. Attendance Support Systems	11
7. Strategies for Promoting Attendance	11
8. Supporting Pupils who are absent or returning to school.....	11
8.1 Pupils who are absent due to complex barriers to attendance	12
8.2 Pupils who are absent due to mental or physical ill health or SEND	12
8.3 Pupils returning to school after a lengthy or unavoidable period of absence	12
9. Attendance monitoring	12
9.1 Monitoring attendance	12
9.2 Analysing attendance	12
9.3 Using data to improve attendance	12
9.4 Reducing persistent and severe absence	13
10. Links with other policies	13
11. Links with other policies	14
<i>Appendix 1: attendance codes</i>	15

Policy Consultation & Review

This policy is available on our school website and is available on request from the school office. We also inform parents about this policy when their children join our school and regularly thereafter through our school newsletter and other relevant opportunities.

We recognise the expertise our staff build by managing school attendance daily and we therefore invite staff to contribute to and shape this policy and associated attendance and safeguarding arrangements.

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on at least an annual basis.

1. Introduction/Aim

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, we believe that regular school attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential. We value the attendance of all pupils. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind and can put them at risk of wider harm. There is a [wide range of evidence](#) as to the health and wellbeing benefits of school-age education. [Research](#) commissioned by the Department for Education shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve their full potential. This policy aims to show our commitment to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance, including those laid out in the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#), through our whole-school culture and ethos that values good attendance, our attendance policy aims to give clear guidance to staff, parents, pupils, and governors to:

- Set high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils
- Promote good attendance and the benefits of good attendance
- Reduce absence, including persistent and severe absence
- Ensure every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- Act early to address patterns of absence
- Build strong relationships with families to make sure pupils have the support in place to attend school

We recognise that attendance is a matter for the whole school community. Our Attendance Policy should not be viewed in isolation; it is a strand that runs through all aspects of school improvement, supported by our policies on safeguarding, prevention of bullying, behaviour, and inclusive learning. This policy also considers the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other relevant legislation.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#) and [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). The guidance is based on the following pieces of legislation, which set 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 \(and 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2016 amendments\)](#)
- [The School Attendance \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#)
- [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 and the 2024 amendment](#)

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

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, we believe that improving school attendance is everyone's business. That it is a shared responsibility by governors, all school staff, parents, pupils, and the wider school community.

Role	Name	Contact details
Attendance Lead – Designated Senior Leader responsible for Attendance	Kerrie Margetts (School Business Manager)	01983 292885 or fam@holycrossrcpri.iow.sch.uk
Assistant to Attendance Lead	Kelleigh Macfarlane (Office Administrator)	01983 292885 or admin@holycrossrcpri.iow.sch.uk
Named Governor for Attendance	Rebecca Colman (Safeguarding Governor)	01983 292885 or admin@holycrossrcpri.iow.sch.uk

3.1 The governing body

The governing body is responsible for:

- Setting high expectations of all leaders, staff, pupils, and parents so that children attend school every day and are safeguarded from harm.
- Identifying a member of the governing body to lead on attendance matters and ensuring that there is a named senior manager to lead on attendance.
- Ensuring school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties by rigorously evaluating the effectiveness of the school's attendance procedures so that consistent attendance support is provided for all pupils.
- Ensuring the school engages and work effectively with the local authority Attendance Team and wider local partners and services to address barriers to school attendance.
- Regularly reviewing attendance data, discussing, challenging trends, and helping school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most.
- Ensuring high aspirations are maintained for all pupils and processes for support are adapted to the individual needs of pupils including those with long term illnesses, special educational needs and disabilities, pupils with a social worker and pupils from cohorts with historically lower attendance such as those eligible for free school meals.
- Ensuring school staff receive adequate training on attendance and that relevant staff have access to opportunities to share and learn from good practice in other schools.
- Ensuring that attendance data is shared with the Local Authority or Department for Education as required and on time.
- Reviewing the school's Attendance Policy on at least an annual basis, ensuring that the required resources are available to fully implement the policy.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

3.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Overseeing the implementation of this policy at the school.
- Ensuring that there is a named Attendance Lead to lead on attendance and allocate sufficient time and resource.
- Monitoring school-level absence data and report the school's attendance and related issues to the Governors and to the lead governor for attendance.
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils.
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies.
- Approving fixed-penalty notices, where necessary, or authorising the school's Attendance Lead to be able to do so.
- Ensuring that there is a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance, with good teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve.

- Working with the SENDCO and 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.
- With the Attendance Lead, creating intervention or reintegration plans in partnership with pupils and their parents/carers.
- Authorising/ unauthorising pupil absence request forms. They may authorise the Attendance Lead to be able to do so in their absence.
- Communicating the school's high expectations for attendance and punctuality regularly to pupils and parents through all available channels.
- Setting out how Pupil Premium will be used to support pupils with irregular attendance.

3.3 The Attendance Lead

The designated senior leader (also known as the 'Attendance Lead') is responsible for:

- Actively promoting the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents.
- Forming positive relationships with pupils and parents.
- Monitoring the implementation of the Attendance Policy and ensure that the policy is reviewed annually.
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the Attendance Policy and adequately trained to address attendance issues.
- Ensuring that the regulations and other relevant legislation are complied with.
- Returning school attendance data to the Local Authority and the Department for Education as required and on time.
- Ensuring that systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site are implemented.
- Ensuring that attendance data is collected and analysed frequently to identify causes and patterns of absence.
- Interpreting the data to devise solutions and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families.
- Developing a multi-agency response to improve attendance and support pupils and their families.
- Documenting interventions/ responses used to a standard required by the local authority should legal proceedings be instigated.

3.4 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 no later than 8.50am and 12.50pm.

3.5 School Administrator

The **School administrator** at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School will:

- Take calls from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system and CPOMs.
- Transfer calls from parents/carers to the Attendance Lead where appropriate, and after the third day of absence, in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance.
- Complete the fixed penalty referrals once approved by the headteacher or Attendance Lead.
- Inform families of authorisation of absence request forms.

3.6 Parents

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School requests that parents:

- Take a positive interest in their child's work and educational progress.
- Ensure their child has regular attendance at school.
- Instil the value of education and regular school attendance within the home environment.
- Contact the school if their child is absent to let them know the reason why and the expected date of return, following this with a note wherever possible.
- Avoid unnecessary absences; for example, by making medical and dental appointments for outside of school hours.

- Ask the school for help if their child is experiencing difficulties with any aspect of their schoolwork or home and family life.
- Inform the school of any change in circumstances that may impact on their child's attendance.
- Support the school by becoming involved in their child's education, forming a positive relationship with school, and acknowledging the importance of children receiving the same messages from both school and home.
- Maintain effective routines at home to support good attendance.
- Attend all meetings requested to discuss attendance issues.

3.7 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Be aware of the school's attendance policy and when and where they are required to attend. This will be communicated to them by school staff, parents and through the school timetable.
- Speak to their class teacher or another member of staff if they are experiencing difficulties at school or at home which may impact on their attendance.
- Attend all lessons ready to learn, with the appropriate learning tools requested and on time for the class.
- Bring a note of explanation from their parents or guardians to explain an absence that has happened or is foreseen.
- Follow the school procedure if they arrive late. This will help the school to monitor attendance and keep accurate records for the child's individual attendance. This is also vital for health and safety in the event of a school evacuation.

Role of the Education and Inclusion Service (EWS)

The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility under the Education Act 1996 to enforce regular attendance of registered pupils at school, which is carried out by the EWS working with schools. Data on attendance is collected termly by the Research and Data Team and it is the responsibility of the EWS to audit pupils who fall below target levels.

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, where 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.

The school day starts at 8.40am and ends at 3.10pm.

Pupils must arrive in school by 8.40am on each school day.

The register for the first session will be taken at 8.40am and will be kept open until 9.00am. The register for the second session will be taken at 12.45pm and will be kept open until 12.50pm.

4.2 Planned Absence Medical Appointments and Absence Due to Illness

We encourage parents to make appointments outside of school hours, wherever possible. Where appointments during school time are unavoidable, we ask that parent notifies the school in advance of the appointment. The pupil should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment. In most circumstances, a child should not miss a whole day at school for an appointment. If a pupil must attend a medical appointment during the school day, they must be collected by parents/carers and signed out at the school office. No pupil will be allowed to leave the school site without parental confirmation. If a pupil is returning to school following an appointment they should be brought to the office and signed in by parents/carers.

A parent has a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly. If a child is unavoidably absent from school parents are expected to contact school by telephone call on the morning of the first day of absence, by 8.30am, and on each subsequent day, identifying the reason for absence and the expected date of return. If no contact is received, then unexplained absence protocols will be instigated.

In most cases, absences for illness which are reported following the school's absence reporting procedures will be authorised without the need for parents to supply medical evidence unnecessarily. In line with Department for Education guidance, if we do have a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness, we may ask the parent to provide medical evidence, such as a prescription, appointment card, or other appropriate form of evidence. If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

In certain circumstances the school may also:

- Visit the home of the pupil
- Write to the parents of a pupil to highlight attendance or punctuality issues
- Invite parents to discuss how school can support the family to make improvement
- Refer to Education Inclusion Service to offer support, guidance, and advice
- Refer to the Local Authority for joint enquiries to be made to establish the whereabouts of the child through the Isle of Wight CME Policy
- Refer to the Local Authority to consider issuing a penalty notice or to consider prosecution when all other interventions have failed, or an unauthorised leave of absence has been taken
- Refer the matter to an appropriate external agency for multi-agency support, such as implementing a Family Support Plan or consulting with the Children's Social Care or the police, where there are safeguarding concerns

Where a child has an emerging a pattern of non-attendance, we will discuss the reasons for absence with the child's parent/carer. We will invite parents to attend an Education Support Meeting as an appropriate early intervention strategy. As part of this support, we may seek consent from parents and the pupil as appropriate to make a referral to the School Nursing Team and/or to liaise with the child's healthcare professional.

Where a pupil has a verified and chronic health condition, we will aim to work with parents to ensure children have access to education and provide appropriate support in line with [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#) and Isle of Wight Council policies regarding supporting children with health issues. We will also consider whether an Individual Healthcare Plan is required.

4.3 Unplanned Absence

The pupil's parent must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 8.30am, or as soon as practically possible, by calling the school office, who can be contacted via 01983 292885 and/ or admin@holycrossrcpri.iow.sch.uk

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. The school may contact parents for further information relating to an absence through illness.

Where the absence is longer than 5 days, or there are doubts about the authenticity of the illness, the school may 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 will be notified of this in advance.

4.4 Lateness and Punctuality

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School all pupils are expected to arrive on time for every day of the school year. The school day begins at 8.40am. We advise all parents to ensure their child is on site prior to this, and the school is open from 8.30am to facilitate this.

A pupil who arrives late:

- Before the register has closed will be marked as late, using the appropriate code (L code)
- After the register has closed will be marked as late after the close of register, using the appropriate code (U code)

All pupils arriving after this time are required to report to the main office with their parents, who will be expected to sign their child in late and provide a reason for their absence. Parents will be contacted to discuss any patterns of late arrival.

Please note: L or U codes will also be used if a pupil arrives after the close of the afternoon register for the PM session.

In cases of persistent lateness (at least 10 sessions of unauthorised lateness over a period of 12 weeks) a Notice to Improve will be issued and appropriate interventions being instigated, including a meeting with parents to discuss improvement strategies and action. Should lateness continue, this may also result in a penalty notice being issued or prosecution.

4.5 Following up Unexplained Absence

The pupil's parent/carer must notify the school on the first day of an unplanned absence – for example, if their child is unable to attend due to ill health – by 8.30am, or as soon as practically possible on the same day. Parents must maintain contact throughout the absence and are expected to call the school each day their child is ill, unless they have been advised from the school to keep them off for a set time e.g. 48 hours for sickness and diarrhea.

To make the process of reporting unplanned absence, such as illness, easier for parents and carers, we have also set up an email account specifically for reporting absences, should you be unable to telephone - admin@holycrossrcpri.iow.sch.uk

If a child is absent unexpectedly the class teacher will record the absence in the register and the following actions will be initiated by the school:

- First day calling procedures will be activated for all pupils who are not in school after close of register and where no reason for absence is known.
- If there is still no contact made from the pupil's parents, a further telephone call home will be made again that morning. If no response can be gained, the child's named emergency contact will be telephoned. The school will also text parents asking them to contact the school as a matter of urgency.
- If school cannot contact a parent by 12 mid-day and are concerned about a pupil, the school will take whatever actions it deems necessary to safeguard the child and a home visit may be carried out.

4.6 Reporting to parents

When necessary, parents may receive written information regarding their child's attendance, and/ or an initial attendance telephone call. If attendance continues to concern the school, parents will be invited into school to discuss how we can support their child, and the family, to improve attendance.

The school will also regularly inform parents about their child's attendance and absence levels through an attendance printout at parent's evenings, and through the end of year school report.

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 specific circumstances:

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

We believe that children need to be in school for all sessions so that they can make the most progress possible. However, we do understand that there are times where a parent may legitimately request leave of absence for a child due to 'exceptional circumstances'. At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, leave of absence is only granted at the discretion of the Headteacher and shall not be granted unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. Holy Cross Catholic Primary School will respond to all applications for leave of absence in writing.

Parents wishing to apply for leave of absence during term time must apply in writing to the Headteacher at least a month before the planned leave. The form can be found on the website: [Pupil Absence Request Form](#). If a written request for leave of absence is not completed and the leave is taken without a request being submitted, the leave will not be considered by the Headteacher, and it will be marked as unauthorised. Holy Cross Catholic Primary School will treat each application individually and discuss with you the circumstances of the application before a decision is made. Retrospective requests will not be considered and therefore will result in the absence being categorised as unauthorised. In such cases the school may make a referral to the Local Authority to request that a fixed penalty notice is issued or consider prosecution.

A penalty notice request or a referral for prosecution may be submitted to the Local Authority if:

- The parent fails to submit a leave of absence request in advance of taking the leave.
- An application for a leave of absence is not agreed by the Headteacher but is still taken.
- A longer period is taken more than the agreed number of days.

When absence is granted by the Headteacher, the parents will need to agree a date of return. If a pupil fails to return on the expected date and contact is not received from, or made with the parents, school will seek advice from the Local Authority. This could result in possible children missing from education procedures being instigated.

Other valid reasons for **authorised absence** include (but are not limited to):

- Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parent(s) belong(s). Holy Cross Catholic Primary School acknowledges the multi-faith nature of British society and recognises that, on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods or weekends. Where this occurs, the school will consider either authorising the pupil absence or making special leave for religious observance. Parents are requested to

give advance notice to the school. If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parent's 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
- 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 Sanctions

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, we 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 (on behalf of the local authority), the 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 them 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. Attendance Support Systems

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, we recognise that poor attendance can be an indication of difficulties in a family's life. This may be related to problems at home and or in school. Parents are encouraged to inform school of any difficulties or changes in circumstances that may affect their child's attendance and or behaviour in school, for example, bereavement, divorce/separation, emerging health concerns. This will help the school identify any additional support that may be required.

We also recognise that some pupils are more likely to require additional support to attain good attendance. The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance based on the individual needs and circumstances of the child.

To plan the correct support, we will always invite parents and pupils to attend a meeting to discuss the concerns and devise a plan to support the child's regular attendance. Support offered to families will be child-centred and planned in discussion and agreement with both parents and pupils.

7. Strategies for Promoting Attendance

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, we promote good attendance through a variety of incentives for pupils. Each week we publish our school attendance in the school's newsletter.

At the end of half term, pupils with 100% attendance will receive a certificate.

For every school day a child is in school on time, they are placed into a school raffle that is pulled at random at the end of every term and that child wins a prize for the whole family. This is promoted in weekly assemblies and families are notified in the school newsletter.

Children that fall into persistent absence, or persistent lateness, that show improvement over a 4-week cycle will also receive a certificate for improvement.

8. Supporting Pupils who are absent or returning to school.

8.1 Pupils who are absent due to complex barriers to attendance

We will review individual cases and circumstances with the families and come to an agreement about planned absence that will support specific needs. This could include working with external agencies, such as the Regulation and Engagement Support Team (REST) and/ or Social Care.

8.2 Pupils who are absent due to mental or physical ill health or SEND

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

If a pupil has a long-term medical need, we will work with the medical experts and take advice from them to support the children with accessing education.

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

We will arrange a meeting with families to discuss the absence and current wellbeing of the child. We will then create a plan for the return to school. This could include a phased return to ensure a successful transition.

9. Attendance monitoring

9.1 Monitoring attendance

The school will monitor attendance on a daily basis by office staff and absence data (including punctuality) will be monitored half-termly, termly and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil, year group and class level.

Specific pupil information will be shared with the DfE on request. The school has granted the DfE access to its management information system so the data can be accessed regularly and securely. 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 benchmark its attendance data at whole school, year group and class level against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement, and share this with the governing body.

9.2 Analysing attendance

The school will:

- Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify pupils, groups or classes 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

9.3 Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

- Develop targeted actions to address patterns of absence (of all severities) of individual pupils, groups or classes 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 absences, and their families
- Provide regular attendance updates to class teachers, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families, and to the governing body and other school leaders (special educational needs co-ordinator)
- 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

9.4 Reducing persistent and severe absence

Persistent absence (PA) is where a pupil misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence (SA) 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

Reduced timetable

All schools have a statutory duty to provide full-time education for all pupils and we are committed to every child's right to a suitable, full-time education offer. In very exceptional circumstances, we may decide to implement a temporary, reduced timetable to meet a pupil's individual needs and only where it is safe to do so. We will not use a reduced timetable to manage a pupil's behaviour. A reduced timetable will not be treated as a long-term solution and will have a time limit by which point the pupil is expected to attend full-time or be provided with alternative provision. We will never put a reduced timetable in place without written agreement from parent/carer and/or other professionals working with the family as appropriate. This intervention will only be used as part of a comprehensive package of support for the pupil; it will be reviewed regularly in partnership with the child, parent and any other relevant professionals working with the family. In line with Isle of Wight Council guidance, we will notify the Education & Inclusion Service of all reduced timetables as soon as a plan has been agreed.

If a parent fails to engage with support and their child continues to have unsatisfactory attendance/punctuality, a request may be made to the Local Authority to pursue legal proceedings either through a penalty notice, consideration of an Education Supervision Order or prosecution via the Magistrates' Court. Parents found guilty of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school under the provisions of the Education Act 1996, will receive a criminal record and a maximum penalty of a £1000 fine under a Section 444 (1) offence or a £2500 fine or up to a 3-month prison sentence, under a Section 444 (1a) offence.

10. Links with other policies

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, we will add and will only delete pupils from our school roll in line with the Pupil Registration Regulations. In most circumstances, we will know in advance about pupils leaving our school; this will be planned and discussed with the parent in advance of the pupil leaving. The school will

always work with families to gain information about the pupil's next school and/or address before the pupil leaves to reduce the risk of pupils becoming a child missing education through lack of shared information.

The school follows Isle of Wight Council's Child Missing in Education procedures and will inform the Education & Inclusion Service of all removals from our school roll no later than the date the child is removed in line with statutory responsibilities.

If a child is removed from roll to home educate, the school can only de-register the child if we receive, in writing, the parent's intention to educate their child other than at school. The pupil will be de-registered on receipt of such a letter and Isle of Wight Council will be informed of the removal from roll as outlined above. Holy Cross Catholic Primary School will follow Isle of Wight Council's CME Policy when a pupil's whereabouts is unknown, and the school will carry out joint enquiries with Isle of Wight Council to establish the whereabouts of the child.

11. 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
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