



St Michael's
C.E. Primary School

Attendance Policy 2026-2027

Date Reviewed: September 2026

Date of Next Review: September 2027



"Courage to Flourish in the Love of God"

Introduction

The Governors and staff at St. Michael's Church of England Primary Academy are united in their belief that regular school attendance is key to enabling pupils to maximise the educational opportunities available to them, helping them to become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who can realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community. The school aspires to 100% attendance, with 96% used as an important school attendance benchmark. Across a 190-day school year, 96% attendance equates to approximately 7.5–8 days of absence.

St. Michael's values all children. As set out in this policy we will work with families to identify the barriers to achieving and maintaining excellent attendance and offer the right service at the right time to try to resolve any difficulties.

The Attendance Team (SLT, Attendance Officer and all class teachers) will monitor attendance and use attendance data to identify any patterns of concern, whilst also celebrating success! Where we have concerns, or lack of engagement from families to improve attendance, we will follow the school's escalated approach to improving attendance. The school's escalated approach is child-centred and prioritises support and developing strong working relationships with families. We will use the Early Help process to provide support prior to escalation and consider how we can work with families to enable your child to access their right to education (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 28).

Attendance is everyone's responsibility. All staff will receive appropriate attendance training and regular updates so that concerns are identified, understood and acted upon early.

At St Michael's CE Primary School, we place an emphasis on the importance of regular and punctual school attendance. We believe through good attendance at school children will achieve higher attainment, have better opportunities and establish good habits that will support them throughout their lives.

The school works with Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Ltd (CSAWS) to support attendance processes. CSAWS provides attendance monitoring, legal-process support and advice to help reduce persistent absence and improve whole-school attendance.

Where there is cause for concern, relevant information may be shared with CSAWS during attendance meetings, in accordance with data-protection requirements. CSAWS may support follow-up with parents and carers, appropriate interventions and attendance action plans.

The School Privacy Notice is available on our website and CSAWS privacy notice is available on www.csaws.co.uk.

Our approach to supporting good attendance

Our approach is to work in partnership with parents and carers to promote good attendance, safeguard pupils and remove barriers to regular attendance. To support good attendance and safeguarding at St. Michael's, we:

- Ensure the school is welcoming and every child feels a sense of belonging and connectedness.
- Ensure the school site is open at the stated times.

- Ensure the regular, efficient, and accurate recording of attendance is complete by every class teacher each day. This further supports our approach to safeguarding within the school.
- Take safeguarding seriously and we will always contact you on the first day that your child is absent from school, this includes before and after-school clubs. If your child arrives late after the close of registration, we will record their arrival at reception and transition the child to class.
- Consider any requests for leave in term time individually. This will be aligned to the Local Authority code of conduct.
- Notify the Local Authority within 5 days if a new child is joining the school roll.
- Inform the Local Authority of children whose parents have notified the school in writing and have opted for Elective Home Education.
- Work closely with the School Attendance Support Team.
- Notify the Local Authority of Children Missing in Education –
- Set clear expectations and aspirations that all pupils have a high standard of school attendance and punctuality.
- Make attendance a priority for everyone.
- Ensure there is a clear process to identify and address emerging attendance concerns
- Work effectively with parents, pupils, and partners through building trusted relationships to work together to remove barriers to attendance.

There are 190 days of learning during the course of an average school year. The table below summarises how many days absence equates to lost learning.

Attendance as a percentage	Numbers of days absence	Numbers of lessons missed
99% or better	3 or less days off	15 or less lessons missed
98%	4 days off	20 lessons missed
96%	Approximately 7.5–8 days off	Approximately 38 lessons missed
95%	10 days off	50 lessons missed
93%	13 days off	65 lessons missed
92%	16 days off	80 lessons missed
90% or less	19 days off or more	95 or more lessons missed

1. Aims

This policy aims to demonstrate our commitment to meeting our obligations in relation to school attendance, including those set out in the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory

guidance, Working together to improve school attendance (July 2026). Through our whole-school culture and ethos, we value and promote good attendance by:

- Setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils.
- Promoting good attendance and the benefits of 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 make sure pupils have the support in place to attend school.
- We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance (July 2026). 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 School Attendance \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#)
- [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024](#)

It also refers to:

- [School census guidance](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools](#)

3. Strategies for promoting attendance

At St Michael's CE Primary School, we are committed to promoting excellent attendance and ensuring that every pupil can succeed. Attendance rewards are used positively and sensitively to recognise strong attendance, improvement and collective class success, while taking account of individual circumstances.

Celebrating Good Attendance and Incentives to Encourage Attendance

• Recognition: Assemblies and attendance displays will celebrate excellent attendance, sustained improvement and positive progress by pupils and classes.

- Weekly Individual Recognition: Pupils who achieve 100% attendance for the week may receive a sticker or other simple recognition in class. Pupils making significant or sustained improvement will also be recognised.

- **Termly Recognition:** The school may use certificates, praise, vouchers or other proportionate rewards to recognise pupils who demonstrate excellent attendance or significant improvement.
- **Class Attendance Reward:** Each week, a class achieving 100% attendance earns the next letter towards spelling “ST MICS”. When “ST MICS” is completed, the class receives a class prize.
- **Half-Termly Attendance Reward:** Attendance is reviewed at the end of each half term. Pupils with attendance of 96% or above during that half term are invited to an attendance reward event, which may include the school disco or another special activity. Each half term provides a fresh opportunity to qualify. The school may also recognise exceptional or sustained improvement, taking individual circumstances into account so that rewards are used sensitively and fairly.

End-of-Year Recognition: Pupils who achieve 96% or above across the full academic year, or who have made significant and sustained improvement, may receive end-of-year recognition.

Improving Attendance

- **Early Intervention:** Our staff closely monitor attendance data and identify pupils who may be at risk of falling behind. We proactively reach out to these families to provide support and address any issues that may be affecting attendance.
- **Parent Communication:** We maintain open lines of communication with parents regarding their child’s attendance. Regular updates and reminders about the importance of attendance are sent via newsletters and emails.

Home-School Agreement

- **Purpose and Use:** Home-School Agreements are formal agreements between the school, the pupil, and their parents or guardians. These contracts are presented at the beginning of every year. Where a pupil’s attendance is regressing, an attendance agreement is made through a FAM process, and a contract is drawn up. The contract outlines specific attendance goals, support measures, and consequences for non-compliance.
- **Implementation:** If a pupil's attendance falls below acceptable levels, the school will invite the parent(s) to a FAM meeting to discuss the issues and draft an attendance contract. This contract will include:
 - **Attendance Goals:** Clear targets for improvement.
 - **Support Measures: Strategies and resources the school will provide to help the pupil achieve the goals.**
 - **Review Dates:** Regular check-ins to assess progress and make adjustments if necessary.
 - **Consequences:** Clear explanation of the actions that will be taken if attendance does not improve, which may include involvement of the local authority.
- **Follow-Up:** The school closely monitors the pupil’s attendance as per the contract and provides ongoing support. Regular meetings with parents will be scheduled to review progress and adjust the plan as needed.

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The governing board

The Local Academy Board is responsible for:

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

- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.
- The link governor for attendance as part of our safeguarding processes is Elizabeth Flannagan.

4.2 The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

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

4.3 The Senior Attendance Champion

The Senior Attendance Champion, Mrs Roberts (Headteacher), is responsible for:

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

The Senior Attendance Champion is Mrs Roberts (Headteacher) and can be contacted via 0121 464 4345 or office@stmichaelsb32.bdmatt.org.uk. Parents and carers may use this email address to raise attendance concerns or request support.

4.4 The Attendance Officer

The school attendance officer is responsible for:

- Monitoring and analysing attendance data (see section 10)
- Benchmarking attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Providing regular attendance reports to school staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the Senior Attendance Champion, 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 officer can be contacted via 0121 4644345.

4.5 Class teachers

Class teachers are responsible for recording attendance accurately for both morning and afternoon sessions each day, using the correct national attendance codes (see Appendix 1), and for submitting the register promptly. Detailed registration arrangements, including late and closing times, are set out in Section 5.1.

Pupils arriving after the pupil entrance gates close at 8:45am must report to the school office and sign in. See Section 5.1 for how late arrival is recorded.

The registers are monitored daily to identify pupils who are arriving late and regular late arrival for school will be challenged as not acceptable.

4.6 School admin staff

School admin staff will:

- Take calls from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system.
- Transfer calls from parents/carers to an SLT member where appropriate, to provide them with more detailed support on attendance.

4.7 Parents

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

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

Parents are expected to:

- Make sure their child attends every day and arrives on time. Children may arrive from 8:35am and should be on site before the pupil entrance gates close at 8:45am. Pupils arriving after the gates close must report through the main office.
- Call the school to report their child's absence before 9am on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence and advise when they are expected to return.
- Where reasonably possible, provide the school with more than one emergency contact number for their child and keep all contact details up to date.
- Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day.
- Keep to any attendance contracts that they make with the school through a FAM or the local authority.
- Seek support, where necessary, for maintaining good attendance from the Senior Attendance Champion or a member of the senior leadership team, who can be contacted via 0121 464 4345 or office@stmichaelsb32.bdmatt.org.uk.

4.8 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Attend school every day, on time.

5. Recording attendance

5.1 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
- Absent

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.

Pupils are permitted to arrive on site from 8:35am and should be on site before the pupil entrance gates close at 8:45am so that they are settled and ready to learn. The school day and morning session begin at 8:50am. The morning register is taken at that time and closes at 9:20am. The school day ends at 3:15pm.

Pupils arriving after the pupil entrance gates close at 8:45am must enter through the main office and sign in. Pupils who are present when the morning register is taken receive the appropriate present mark. Pupils arriving after registration has begun but before 9:20am are recorded as late (code L).

The morning register closes at 9:20am and is kept open for no more than 30 minutes. Pupils arriving after 9:20am are recorded using code U unless another attendance code is appropriate. The afternoon register is taken once during the second session, at the same time for all pupils, and closes at 1:45pm. Pupils arriving after afternoon registration has begun but before 1:45pm are recorded as late (code L); arrivals after 1:45pm are recorded using code U unless another attendance code is appropriate.

5.2 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 9am, or as soon as practically possible, by contacting the school office on 0121 464 4345 or office@stmichaelsb32.bdmatt.org.uk.

Schools should follow up with families if they are not satisfied with the reason as to why the pupil is not in school. Schools can request supporting evidence from the family. Where the school is not satisfied with the reason given for absence, they may record this using one of the unauthorised absence codes. See Section 5.5.

If you are unsure if your child should attend school, please contact the school who will offer advice and guidance and signpost you to the relevant service.

It is the Headteacher's decision whether to accept a reason for a child's absence and whether to authorise that absence. In most cases, a parent's explanation of their child's illness can be accepted without question or concern. In circumstances where there are concerns about a child's attendance or reason for absence, further evidence of a child's illness may be requested.

Where attendance concerns arise, the school will first seek to understand the reasons for absence and work with the family to identify appropriate support. Medical evidence will only be requested where it is reasonable and necessary to understand the pupil's needs or establish the appropriate attendance code; blanket requirements for medical evidence will not be used.

Examples of circumstances where supporting information may be helpful include:

- Where there is a concerning or repeated pattern of illness absence and further information would help the school understand barriers and offer support.
- Where attendance is below expected levels and there is a concerning pattern of absence or recurring reasons for absence.

- Where information from a health professional may help the school put appropriate support or reasonable adjustments in place.

Where further information is reasonably required, the school may accept suitable evidence such as an appointment card, prescription, hospital letter or other information relevant to the circumstances. The school will not routinely require a doctor's note or request 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.

5.3 Planned absence

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

Medical appointments

- Parents should avoid making routine medical appointments and dental appointments during the school day. In the majority of cases, appointments can be made outside of the school day/during the school holidays.
- Where appointments must be taken during the school day, parents should request permission for their child to be absent in advance whenever possible. Only the time for the appointment and travel to and from will be classed as an authorised absence. Pupils are expected to return to school for the remainder of the day/attend school prior to the appointment.
- Parents are required to provide a copy of the appointment letter or card prior to the day of the appointment. Absences will only be authorised when this information has been received.

Requests for Leave of Absence (exceptional circumstances)

- Requests for leave of absence will be considered in line with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and the Department for Education's current statutory guidance, Working together to improve school attendance (July 2026).
- Head teachers shall not grant any Leave of Absence during term time unless they consider there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.
- Parents do not have any entitlement to take their children on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must establish that there are exceptional circumstances, and the Head Teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.
- Head Teachers will determine how many school days a child may be absent from school if the leave is granted.
- The school can only consider applications for Leave of Absence which are made by those with parental responsibility. We would always notify parents with parental responsibility should such a request be made.
- Applications for Leave of Absence must be made in advance and failure to do so will result in the absence being recorded as "unauthorised". This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

- Applications for Leave of Absence which are made in advance and refused will result in the absence being recorded as “unauthorised”. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice, if the child is absent from school during that period.
- All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Education Legal Intervention Team.
- The Education Legal Intervention Team have the authority to consider issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for Leave of Absence.
- Each application for a Leave of Absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis and on its own merits.

The resident parent should complete a Leave of Absence Request form available from the school office. The head teacher may ask parents to provide supporting evidence when assessing a parent’s case for exceptional circumstances.

However, we encourage parents 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 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.

5.4 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.

The registers are monitored daily to identify pupils who are arriving late and regular late arrival for school will be challenged as not acceptable.

The following procedures are put in place to resolve poor punctuality:

- 10 Late arrivals in half term – Letter
- 6 U codes in half a term = a letter sent home, offer of school support
- 10 U codes = Stage 2 attendance letter, Meeting, Action Plan, and review.
- Further U codes and attendance below 90% - referral to Education Legal Intervention Team and Safeguarding Team.



It is important that pupils are punctual so that they do not miss out on the beginning of each school day. Children must attend on time to be given a present mark for the session.

If a pupil arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer. Above is a graph showing how being late to school every day over a school year adds up to lost learning time.

5.5 Following up unexplained absence

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

- Call or message via Arbor the pupil's parent 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 will follow the process of safeguarding. This includes telephone calls to other emergency contacts, home visits, and referrals to the police for a safe and well check.
- Where school staff have concerns about a child, they should use their professional judgement and knowledge of the individual pupil to inform their decision as to whether welfare concerns should be escalated, in line with Working together to improve school attendance (July 2026).

It is imperative that up-to-date contact numbers and details are provided to school.

Where reasonably possible, the school will hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026. Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring contact details are kept up to date.

Additionally, the school will:

- 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(s) for which the pupil was absent.
- Call the parent on each day that the absence continues without explanation, to make sure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, the school will consider involving an education welfare officer.
- Where appropriate, offer support to the pupil and/or their parents to improve attendance.
- Identify whether the pupil needs support from wider partners, as quickly as possible, and make the necessary referrals.
- Where support is not appropriate, is unsuccessful or is not engaged with, the school will consider referral to Birmingham City Council in line with the Support First approach and current local procedures. Where legal intervention may be appropriate, the school will follow the arrangements set out in Section 6.

5.6 Reporting to parents

The school will regularly inform parents about their child's attendance and absence levels. Emerging concerns, including attendance falling below 95% or concerning patterns of absence, may trigger contact, an offer of support and closer monitoring. Formal action will be

proportionate to the individual circumstances and will follow the school's Support First approach. Attendance will also be reported through school reports and parent meetings.

6. 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.

6.1 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.

Before a penalty notice is issued, 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.

6.2 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

7. Supporting pupils who are absent or returning to school

7.1 Pupils absent due to complex barriers to attendance

At St Michael's CE Primary School, we are committed to supporting pupils facing complex barriers to attendance. We address these challenges through the following strategies:

Early Identification and Assessment

- **Monitoring:** Track attendance patterns to identify pupils with frequent absences.
- **Assessment Meetings:** Discuss barriers with families to understand and address specific needs.

Personalised Attendance Support Plans: Where appropriate, the school will agree a tailored plan with the pupil and family, setting out identified barriers, achievable attendance goals, support to be provided, named staff/key workers where helpful, and clear review dates.

- **Resources:** Provide access to early help, health services, counselling, and academic support as needed.
- **Supportive Environment:** Ensure a safe, inclusive, and supportive classroom setting with allocated key workers for pupils if needed.
- **Family Support:** Work closely with families, offering home visits and workshops to address challenges.
- **External Partnerships:** Collaborate with community organisations such as early help and social services for additional support.
- **Ongoing Monitoring:** Continuously review and adjust support plans based on the pupil's progress and changing needs.
- **Feedback:** Maintain open communication with families to ensure effective support.
- **Respect:** Handle all information sensitively and confidentially, focusing on solutions rather than blame.

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

St Michael's CE Primary School is dedicated to supporting pupils with mental or physical health issues and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Our approach includes:

- **Personalised Adjustments:** Make necessary accommodations such as alternative learning methods.
- **Regular Check-ins:** Maintain ongoing communication with families to understand and address the child's needs.
- **Specialist Services:** Provide access to school pastoral staff, health professionals, and tailored academic support.
- **SEND Provision:** Implement specific strategies and interventions as outlined in the child's SEND plan.
- **Partnership:** Work closely with parents and carers to ensure their child's needs are met both at home and school.
- **STICK Referrals:** For further support, we can seek a STICK referral through Birmingham City Council to access additional resources and assistance.
- **Progress Tracking:** Regularly review the effectiveness of support plans and adjust as necessary.
- **Feedback:** Ensure open lines of communication with families to support the pupil's well-being and academic progress.

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

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

Absence can significantly interrupt the continuity of a pupil's learning. The school will use a supportive, planned approach to reintegration following a lengthy or unavoidable absence, with the aim of rebuilding confidence, removing barriers and supporting a sustainable return to regular attendance.

Key Principles:

- Maintain appropriate contact with the pupil and family during a lengthy absence, agree how the pupil will remain connected with school, and identify any support needed before their return.
- Ensure the pupil is positively welcomed back and, where appropriate, agree a reintegration plan with the pupil and family, including a named adult, reasonable adjustments, pastoral or academic support, and review arrangements.

The Headteacher, SENDCo and relevant staff will consider a time-limited phased return or other reasonable adjustments where appropriate, in line with Birmingham local authority processes and advice from relevant professionals. Any arrangement will be regularly reviewed and remain focused on increasing attendance towards full-time education as soon as appropriate.

Class Teachers should ensure that the pupil feels welcomed back to school in an appropriate way and take any necessary steps to support their re-integration.

8. Attendance, Safeguarding and Children Missing from Education

Children missing from education can be at significant risk of harm. The school will act promptly where a pupil's whereabouts or access to education is uncertain and will follow safeguarding procedures alongside the current statutory Children Missing Education guidance.

The school will make reasonable enquiries to establish a pupil's whereabouts, work with Birmingham City Council where required, and make notifications or referrals in accordance with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and local procedures.

Where a pupil does not return following authorised leave, or is absent without authorisation for a prolonged period, the school will follow the statutory criteria and local authority procedures before any decision is made about removal from the admission register. A pupil will not be removed from roll simply because they are absent.

The school will work jointly with the local authority and, where appropriate, the Children Missing Education (CME) officer to complete reasonable enquiries before a pupil is removed from the admission register on a relevant statutory ground.

This attendance policy forms part of the school's wider safeguarding arrangements and should be read alongside the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

9. Alternative Education Providers

On rare occasions, a small number of pupils may be accessing an alternative education provider or dual registered with another school, agreed by the school for all or part of their timetable. In this instance the pupil remains on roll at St Michael's CE Primary School. Attendance to approved alternative providers is monitored. When pupils are dual registered at another school or alternative provider their attendance will be recorded in the register as a D code (on days they are required to attend the other school/provision). The other school/provision will record the attendance or absence. For children who are educated off site but not dual registered their attendance will be recorded in St Michael's CE Primary School register as a B code if they are confirmed present or the appropriate absent code if absent. The responsibility of ensuring pupils are safeguarded and receiving appropriate education remains with St Michael's CE Primary School.

10. Attendance monitoring and use of data

The school will monitor attendance and absence data, including punctuality, routinely at pupil, year-group, cohort and whole-school level. The Senior Attendance Champion, Attendance Officer and attendance team will review attendance and punctuality data at least weekly to identify emerging patterns, pupils requiring support and the impact of current interventions. Leaders will also undertake half-termly, termly and annual analysis. The school uses Arbor, FFT and DfE data to support analysis, benchmarking and timely intervention.

When reviewing attendance, particular attention will be given to pupils who may face additional barriers to attendance, including pupils with SEND, pupils with a social worker,

young carers and pupils with long-term medical needs, so that support can be identified and provided as early as possible.

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

Data will be collected each term and published at national and local authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases. The underlying school-level absence data is published alongside the national statistics.

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

10.1 Analysing attendance

The school will:

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

10.2 Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

- Develop targeted actions to address patterns of absence (of all severities) of individual pupils, groups or cohorts that it has identified via data analysis
- Provide targeted support to the pupils it has identified whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence, and their families (see section 10.3 below)
- Provide regular attendance reports to class teachers to facilitate discussions with pupils and families, and to the governing board and school leaders (including special educational needs co-ordinator, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium lead)
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place 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

10.3 Reducing persistent and severe absence

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

The school will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence
- Consider potential safeguarding issues and, where suspected or present, address them in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Hold regular meetings with the parents of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable or at risk of persistent or severe absence, or who are persistently or severely absent, to:
 - Discuss attendance and engagement at school
 - Listen, and understand barriers to attendance
 - Explain the help that is available
 - Explain the potential consequences of, and sanctions for, persistent and severe absence
 - Review any existing actions or interventions
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance, in conjunction with the local authority, where relevant
- Consider alternative support that could be put in place to remove any barriers to attendance and re-engage these pupils. In doing so, the school will sensitively consider some of the reasons for absence
- Implement sanctions, where necessary (see section 6, above)

Birmingham Attendance Framework – Support First Approach

Step 1

Expect and Monitor

- Daily registration: Teachers record attendance accurately every morning and afternoon.
- Thresholds monitored: Attendance below 95% or emerging patterns of absence prompt closer review and support. Persistent absence is where a pupil misses 10% or more of sessions (attendance of 90% or below).
- First-day calling: Parents contacted immediately if a child is absent without explanation.
- Data tracking: Weekly reviews by attendance officer or SLT to identify patterns or emerging concerns.

Step 2

Listen, Understand, Facilitate Support

- Initial contact: Informal conversation with parents to explore reasons for absence.
- Barriers identified: Consider illness, SEND, mental health, transport, housing, or family issues.
- Support offered:
 - ❖ In-school mentoring or pastoral support
 - ❖ Referral to Early Help or external agencies
 - ❖ Use of the Frequent Illness Absence Protocol where appropriate, including proportionate requests for supporting information when necessary

❖ Pupil voice and other appropriate tools to understand barriers to attendance • Record actions: All interventions logged on CPOMS or equivalent system.
Step 3 Formalise Support • Formal Attendance Meeting (FAM): ❖ Held with parent/carer, pupil (if appropriate), and school staff ❖ Attendance contract agreed with clear targets and review date ❖ Support plan documented • PF1 Letter issued: Confirms meeting outcomes and warns of legal consequences if no improvement
Step 4 Monitor Progress • Review period: Typically, 4–6 weeks • Attendance tracked: If improving, continue support and celebrate progress • If no improvement: ❖ PF2 Letter: Issued if parent/carer did not attend the FAM ❖ PF3 Letter: Issued if parent/carer refused to engage or sign the contract
Step 5 Enforce • Referral to Education Legal Intervention Team (ELIT) or issue a Notice to Improve ❖ School issues a notice to improve ❖ School submits evidence of support and non-engagement • Legal outcomes may include: ❖ Notice to Improve ❖ Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN): £80 if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 ❖ Prosecution: Under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996
Step 6 Review and Reflect • Evaluate impact: Has attendance improved? Was support effective? • Continue support: For families still facing challenges • Celebrate success: Certificates, praise assemblies, or rewards for improved attendance

11. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority and/or DfE is updated, and as a minimum every year by Mrs Roberts (Headteacher). At every review, the policy will be approved by the full governing board.

12. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Positive relationships and behaviour policy

13. Glossary of acronyms

- CME - Children Missing from Education
- CPOMS - Child Protection Online Management System
- CSAWS - Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Ltd
- DfE - Department for Education
- EHC plan - Education, Health and Care plan
- ELIT - Education Legal Intervention Team
- FAM - Formal Attendance Meeting
- FFT - Fischer Family Trust (attendance benchmarking and analysis platform)
- FPN - Fixed Penalty Notice
- KCSIE - Keeping Children Safe in Education
- SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- SENDCo - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator
- SLT - Senior Leadership Team

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, including school holidays

Appendix 2: Explanation of PF Letters (Birmingham Local Authority)

PF Letters form part of Birmingham's Support First graduated response to improving attendance. They may be used following a Formal Attendance Meeting (FAM) where appropriate and should be applied in line with the Support First approach and current local authority processes.

PF Letter	Purpose	When Issued	Content Summary	Next Steps
PF1	Post-FAM warning letter	After a Formal Attendance Meeting (FAM) and attendance contract have been completed	Reiterates the expectations set during the FAM, confirms the attendance contract, and warns of legal consequences if no improvement	Attendance is monitored; if no improvement, PF2 may follow
PF2	DNA (Did Not Attend) letter	When parents/carers fail to attend the scheduled FAM	Documents the missed meeting, outlines the importance of attendance, and warns of potential legal action	School may reschedule the FAM or proceed to PF3 depending on circumstances
PF3	Refusal to engage letter	When parents/carers refuse to sign the attendance contract or engage with the process	Highlights refusal to cooperate, confirms school's efforts to support, and warns of imminent legal action	May lead to referral to the Education Legal Intervention Team (ELIT) for prosecution or Fixed Penalty Notice

Appendix 3: Fixed Penalty Notices for School Attendance

What is a Fixed Penalty Notice?

A Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) is a fine issued to parents when a child has unauthorised absences from school. It is part of the legal process to help improve school attendance.

How Much Does It Cost?

The cost of an FPN depends on how quickly you pay:

- • £80 if paid within 21 days
- • £160 if paid within 28 days
- • No reminders are sent – please act quickly
- • Instalment plans are not available

What Happens If It Happens Again?

If you receive another FPN for the same child within 3 years:

- • You must pay the full £160 – the £80 discount is not available
- • After two fines in three years, the school may take further legal action
- • This could include a Parenting Order or Prosecution

What if I do not pay?

If the fine is not paid within 28 days, the case may go to court under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996.

Possible court outcomes include:

- • A fine of up to £1,000
- • A criminal record
- • Additional court costs and victim surcharge