



Exmouth
Community
College
Academy Trust

ATTENDANCE POLICY (Students)

Policy Details	Date
Written by	Devon Model Policy
Reviewed by	David Turner
Ratified by	Curriculum Committee
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Our six core values



We will always show **INTEGRITY** and operate in the best interests of the College. Our decisions are based on evidence, honesty and courage.



We recognise that achieving our best is difficult and requires hard work, determination and commitment. We value and aspire to be **RESILIENT INDIVIDUALS** who identify solutions and opportunities, seeing problems as challenges to resolve.



CREATIVITY and innovation are the hallmarks of active participants and good learners and are the key skills required for any successful organisation. We consistently look forward and find opportunities for ourselves and students to explore.



We all strive continuously to use our imagination and be curious about the world around us. We celebrate **DIVERSITY** and the **POWER OF EDUCATION**, and **LEARNING**.



We look beyond current expectations and are open to new ideas, feedback and best practice. We are outward facing, open and optimistic, **EMBRACE CHALLENGE**, persist in the face of setbacks and see effort as the path to mastery.



We are proud of our College. We do many things exceptionally well. As **REFLECTIVE LEARNERS** and **PRACTITIONERS** we find opportunities for feedback, listen to it and act where necessary to improve our performance. Fearless and dedicated we never give in or give up and, where we see others struggle, we reach out and give them support, strength and encouragement to be the best they can be.



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Statement of Intent

We want your child to thrive at Exmouth Community College every day. We build strong and enduring relationships because we believe this is the foundation pupils need to fully engage in our community, to feel a sense of belonging and succeed.

Every child has a right to access education, and **everyone** is responsible for supporting and promoting excellent college attendance and punctuality. Exmouth Community College are committed to providing the highest quality of education to our students and we recognise the clear link between attendance and the attainment of our students.

The aim of this Attendance Policy is to enable Exmouth Community College to provide a consistent practice that actively encourages and supports the highest possible levels of attendance for all our pupils. Exmouth Community College takes a whole-school approach to maintaining regular attendance and to achieve this, all members of our college community have an important contribution to make. It is vital that we work in partnership to ensure that any in-school or out-of-school barriers are removed at the earliest opportunity, this is achieved through early and meaningful support.

We support parents and carers to perform their legal duty to ensure their children of compulsory school age attend college regularly and in addition, promote and support punctuality when attending lessons.

We are committed to taking positive action in the line with the Equality Act (2010) regarding the needs of people with protected characteristics. These are age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and marriage and civil partnership. We make reasonable adjustments to avoid anyone with a protected characteristic being placed at a disadvantage. Our relentless approach to ensuring our students attend college and receive the education that they deserve, and are entitled to, is central to our college values of being engaged.

This policy is supported by policies relating to child protection and safeguarding, anti-bullying, behaviour, inclusive learning, equality, special educational needs and teaching and learning.

It is our duty to strive for a goal of 100% attendance for all students so that they can take full advantage of the opportunities offered. It is vital that your child is at college, on time, every day the college is open, unless the reason for absence is unavoidable. Therefore, this policy has been created to help support the school in effectively managing absences so that our students (your children) can make the most of the educational and life opportunities available to them.

In summary, Exmouth Community College aims to meet its obligations relating to college attendance by:

- Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence by effectively removing the barriers to attendance
- Ensuring every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence
- Minimising the disruption caused by late arrivals or non-attendance to the quality of the education and provisions for all students

1 Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all school leaders, staff, parents/carers, and students.

- 1.1 For the purposes of this policy, references to 'teachers' include all paid staff responsible for the supervision of pupils.
- 1.2 For the purposes of this policy, references to 'students' include all learners in our college.
- 1.3 For the purposes of this policy, references to 'college or school' refers to all education settings, regardless of type.
- 1.4 For the purposes of this policy and the procedures, we refer to Section 576 of the Education Act which defines the 'parent' of a pupil or young person as:
 - Both of their natural parents, whether they are married or not.
 - Any person who, although they are not the natural parent, has parental responsibility for the pupil or young person, as defined in the Children Act (1989).
 - Any person who, although not the natural parent, has the care of the pupil or young person i.e., a person with whom the pupil lives, irrespective of their relationship to the pupil.

2 Legal Framework

This policy meets the requirements of the working together to improve school attendance from the Department for Education (DfE) and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on school attendance parental responsibility measures.

These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- The Education Act (1996)
- The Education Act (2002)
- The Education and Inspections Act (2006)
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations (2006)
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations (Amendment 2010)
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations (Amendment 2011)
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations (Amendment 2013)
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations (Amendment 2016)
- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations (Amendment 2013)

This policy also refers to the DfE's guidance on the school census, which explains the persistent absence threshold.

Responsibilities

- 3.1 All children aged 5 - 16 years must receive suitable education. (Section 7, *Education Act (1996)*). A student of compulsory school age who is registered at a school must, by law, attend regularly.
- 3.2 By law, parents have the prime responsibility for ensuring that students of compulsory school age attend regularly. (Section 576, *Education Act (1996)*).
- 3.3 The Local Authority (LA) must offer educational provision for all children of school age.
- 3.4 By law, all schools (except those where all pupils are boarders) are required to keep an attendance register, and all pupils must be placed on this register from the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed or has been notified that the pupil will attend the school.
- 3.5 Every entry in the attendance register will be preserved for 3 years after the date on which the entry was made.
- 3.6 By law, all schools must keep an admissions' register, the contents of which includes all pupils, their personal details, (including at least two telephone numbers for different safe adults, to ensure that we can always contact someone in the event of an emergency), the date of admission (or re-admission), information regarding parents and details of the school last attended.
- 3.7 Pupils will be removed from roll only when they complete their education stage, transfer to another school, move out of the area or emigrate or following a parental request for elective home education. We follow statutory guidance for removing pupils from roll and notifying the local authority. Further information can be found in Appendix 6.
- 3.8 There is a clear link between attainment and attendance. Under **section 444 (1)** of the **Education Act 1996** (EA 1996), a parent commits an offence if they fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at a school where the child is registered. We therefore enforce the use of statutory action to encourage and promote attendance, this is done to ensure that all students can benefit from their legal right to receive an education.
- 3.9 College will communicate attendance concerns to the pupil's social worker, if they have one or The Virtual School Head, if the pupil is a looked after child. This will be done as soon as there is an attendance concern and immediately upon becoming a persistent absentee. Unexplained absences will also be communicated to the social worker and Virtual School Head, where relevant.
- 3.10 We have a roles and responsibilities framework outlined in Appendix 3 to complement this policy. This defines agreed roles and responsibilities for parents, students and staff. This includes the new responsibility for our School Attendance Champion who is the Deputy Headteacher , .

3 Definitions

- 4.1 A student is classed as absent if they arrive after the register has closed or if they do not attend for any reason.
- 4.2 An authorised absence is when approval has been given in advance for a student of compulsory school age to be absent for a specific (legal) purpose, or we have accepted an explanation offered afterwards as justification for absence from a parent or carer. This may include:
- An absence for illness for which we have granted leave
 - Medical or dental appointments may be granted leave where every attempt has been made to arrange outside of school hours, has been unsuccessful and so cannot be avoided, or where the appointment is a genuine emergency
 - Religious or cultural observances for which we have granted leave. The day must be exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the parents or student belong. Where necessary, we will seek advice from the parents' religious body about whether it has set the day apart for religious observance
 - An absence due to a change to exceptional circumstances
- 4.3 An unauthorised absence is defined as one where we are not satisfied with the reasons given for the absence. Reasons may include:
- Parents keeping children from attending unnecessarily or without reason
 - Missing sessions before or during the college day
 - Absences which have never been properly explained
 - Arrival after the register has closed
 - Day trips and holidays in term time that have not been agreed
 - Leaving our school without authorisation during the day
- 4.4 Persistent Absence is defined as: 10% or more of sessions missed (based on each pupil's possible sessions). Absences may be authorised or unauthorised.
- 4.5 Severe Absence is defined as: 50% or more of sessions missed (based on each student's possible sessions). Absences may be authorised or unauthorised.
- 4.6 Persistent lateness is defined as pupils who have five or more late marks recorded in a single half-term.

4 Monitoring and Reviewing Attendance

- 5.1 We recognise that early intervention can prevent poor attendance. We monitor attendance and punctuality throughout the year. We recognise that certain groups of students may be more at risk of poor attendance and will provide support and assistance wherever possible.
- 5.2 We set challenging attendance targets for the whole college.
- 5.3 Student-level absence data is collected regularly and published at national and local authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases. We compare our attendance data to the national average.
- 5.4 Specific measures are taken to monitor attendance. These processes are embedded and regularly checked to ensure the effective safeguarding of all pupils through

specific tailored interventions. Data on attendance is collected and analysed a minimum of once a half term. Key analysis is made of:

- Patterns of absence
- Patterns of lateness
- Patterns of medical appointments
- Correct and consistent use of absence codes
- Trends in reasons for absence, for example, use of the C code, leave of absence and exclusions
- Trends in particular groups of children for example, pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

5.5 Attendance data informs action planning and supports the identification of key priorities in our school development plan and future revisions of this policy. The attendance data will be reported to the Headteacher and all other relevant staff, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families. Data will also be used by the school to monitor the impact of any interventions put in place to modify them and inform future strategies. Key attendance data and trends will also be regularly reported to the Governing Board.

5 Reviewing this Policy

This policy will be reviewed every three years or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As a result of any other significant change or event
- If the policy is determined not to be effective

Appendices

Appendix 1

1. Key Personnel

<i>Headteacher</i>		<i>Tom Inman</i>
Contact Details	Email	admin@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk
	Telephone	01395 264761
<i>Senior Attendance Champion</i>		David Turner – Deputy Headteacher
Contact Details	Email	david.turner@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk
	Telephone	01395 255677
<i>Attendance Officer</i>		Helen Parker
	Email	admin@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk
	Telephone	01395 264761
<i>Governor responsible for attendance</i>		Jason Hill
	Email	Jason.hill@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk
	Telephone	01395 255626

2. Maintaining an Attendance Register

2.1 The attendance register will be taken at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the pm session. It will mark whether each student is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

2.2 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 making the amendment

2.3 The college gates are open from: 8:00am. The school day starts at 8:25am. All students should be in their classroom at this time and arrive on site at 8:20am.

2.4 The first (morning) registration session starts at 8:25am with the register taken by their Period 1 teachers. Students will receive a late mark if they are not in their designated lesson by 8:25am, their name is taken upon arrival and they are given a blue Late Card to give to the teacher of their first lesson. The register closes at 8:50am. Students will receive a mark of absence if they do not attend before this time. Attendance after the register closes will receive a mark to show that the student is on site, (U) but will count as an absent mark.

- 2.5 Pupils arriving late should report to the main reception of the site they register and sign in via the electronic signing in pad.
- 2.6 The second (afternoon) registration session starts at 2pm and is integrated as part of Period 5, with the afternoon registration taken by Period 5 teachers.
- 2.7 If a student needs to leave college during the day, they must sign out at the agreed main reception on either Green Close or Gipsy Lane site with a parent once authorisation has been given from the relevant member of the pastoral team.
- 2.8 Students educated off-site are monitored daily for their attendance at the off-site/alternative provision. Staff work closely with the staff at the off-site provision, the student, and their parents to support the student to maintain good attendance.

3. Recording Attendance

- 3.1 The national absence and attendance codes enable schools to record and monitor attendance and absence in a consistent way which complies with the regulations. They are also used for collecting statistics through the Census. The data helps schools, local authorities, and the Government to gain a greater understanding of the level of, and the reasons for absence. See Appendix 4 for the DfE attendance codes.
- 3.2 There should be no pre-population of codes and individual school tracking systems which monitor the whereabouts of students educated off-site, must be robust and quality assured regularly.
- 3.3 Where students are dual registered, are on voluntary service or are taking part in other approved educational activities, the register will be updated following regular discussion and information sharing with the other establishment.
- 3.4 The Attendance Officer and team will check the missing register report throughout the day and report any registers that have not been completed.

4. Reporting Absence

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the parent to inform us of a student absence and to inform us of any changes to contact details.
- 4.2 Parents are expected to inform us of their student's absence before 8:30 a.m. on each day of absence providing the reason for absence and when their child will be returning to college. This should be done through the college daily absence online form available on the website. We will contact parents and/or other listed emergency contacts where no contact has been made. Where required, we may conduct reasonable enquiries with friends or neighbours and will carry out welfare home visits as necessary. If no contact is made, we may request a welfare check from the police.

5. Reasons for Absence

5.1 Appointments

- 5.1.1 As far as possible, medical, and dental appointments should be made outside of the college day. Where this is not possible, a note and appointment card should be sent to us prior to the appointment.

5.1.2 Students must attend before and after the appointment wherever possible. If the appointment requires the student to leave during the day, they must be signed out by an adult listed on the student's record. Should a student arrive late following an appointment, they should report to the appropriate main reception on either Green Close or Gipsy Lane site to be signed in by the receptionist through the sign in pad.

5.1.3 Absences for medical appointments will be recorded with an M code.

5.2 Religious Observance

5.2.1 Parents must inform us, in advance, if absences are required for days of religious observance. We will authorise absences where a reasonable request is made. The day must be exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the parents belong. Where necessary, we will seek advice from the parents' religious body about whether it has set the day apart for religious observance.

5.2.2 Absences for religious observance will be recorded with the R code.

5.3 Illness

5.3.1 In order to make informed decisions about their student's fitness for attending parents are encouraged to refer to the NHS guidance 'Is My Child Too Ill for School?'. Any authorisation of absence through illness is done so at the discretion of the Headteacher or member of staff delegated to carry out this task.

5.3.2 In the case of an illness which lasts for five days or more (or four days in the event of an INSET day or Bank Holiday), parents may be asked to provide additional medical evidence before authorising the absence, however this will only be requested if there is any genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity of the illness. In this instance, if medical evidence is not provided, the absence may be recorded as unauthorised.

5.3.3 Where attendance is of a serious concern, we may require medical evidence to authorise any further periods of absence through illness. This will be determined on an individual basis. Parents will be notified of this by email letter. Telephone calls and handwritten notes from a parent will not be accepted as medical evidence when attendance is a serious concern. For the purpose of this policy, 'serious concern' may be defined as: repeated unexplained/unauthorised absences or 20 sessions of illnesses within an academic year where no medical condition or underlying health issues have been identified.

5.3.4 Acceptable forms of medical evidence include:

- Medical card with one appointment entered with the pupil's name and surgery stamp included, signed by the receptionist
- Letter from a professional such as a hospital consultant
- Evidence of consultation with NHS 111
- Medication prescribed by a GP
- Copy of prescription
- Print screen of medical notes / call log
- Letters detailing hospital appointments Doctor or GP 'sick notes' are not required, and we do not expect parents to request these from their GPs.

- 5.3.5 In some cases, a student may be absent for long term due to an illness or injury. We will liaise with families to ensure children return to college quickly and that there are no safeguarding concerns. On occasions where this is not possible, and the section 19 threshold is met, we will make a referral to the Local Authority Medical Panel which provides educational opportunities for students who are unable to attend their regular school.

5.4 Traveller Pupils Travelling for Occupational Purposes

- 5.4.1 Traveller students travelling for occupational purposes covers Roma, English and Welsh Travellers, Irish and Scottish Travellers, Circus workers, Bargees (occupational boat dwellers), Showman 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 us, but it is not known whether the student is attending educational provision.

The aim for the attendance of Traveller students, in common with all other students, is to attend school as regularly and as frequently as possible.

To protect Traveller parents from unreasonable prosecution for non-attendance, the Education Act (1944), Section 86, states that a Traveller parent/carer is safe from prosecution if their child accrues 200 attendances (i.e., 200 half days) in a year. It is important to note that this is only relevant when the family are engaged in a trade or business that requires them to travel and when the child is regularly attending school when that trade/business permits following a request from parents (and the minimum 200 session criteria is met).

It does not mean that part-time education for Traveller students is legally acceptable, nor does it relieve parents/carers of their duties to ensure that their child is receiving a suitable education when not at school.

It is parent's responsibility to:

- Ensure that your child's ethnicity has been registered with the school. You can ask the school to correct this or update it.
- Ensure you tell your child's school ahead of time. 2 weeks' notice is useful.
- Your children should attend as much school as possible.
- It is the parent's responsibility to ensure their child is accessing at least 100 days (200 sessions) of school in any 12-month period.
- To have regular contact with their child's school whilst travelling. Once a week is suggested.
- To support their child to complete the work set by schools whilst travelling.
- If staying in a new area for a week or more, the parent/guardian can register their child for a temporary place at any school – called 'dual registration'.

It is the school's responsibility to:

- Allow Traveller students to travel with their parents for work purposes.
- Create work packs for their students to complete when away.
- Arrange times for at least a weekly 'check in' with the family. This can be through a call or email.

- Contact the Local Authority if they have concerns.
- Mark student's work and provide valuable feedback.
- Ensure missed opportunities such as parents evening, vaccinations and careers advice are supported on the pupil's return.

5.4.2 Pupils with medical conditions or special educational needs and disabilities

Some students face greater barriers to attendance than their peers. These can include students who suffer from long term medical conditions or who have special educational needs and disabilities. Their right to an education is the same as any other student and therefore the attendance ambition for these students should be the same as they are for any other student.

College will:

- Work with parents to improve attendance, be mindful of the barriers students face, make reasonable adjustments, and put additional support in place where necessary to help them access their full-time education. It is also expected that parents will engage with the support offered both internally and with external partners to ensure our children have all the support they need to thrive.
- Encourage positive conversations so that a good support plan can put in place including making reasonable adjustments.
- Consider possible explanations for absence including Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA). **See page 24 for further information.**
- Work with parents to consider whether additional support from external partners (including the local authority or health services) would be appropriate, making referrals in a timely manner and working together with those services to deliver any subsequent support.
- Ensure relevant referrals are made for students who are too ill to attend college, which may include medical panel (under section 19) and or medical agency support such as CAMHS.
- Establish strategies for removing the in-college barriers this may include considering support or reasonable adjustments for uniform, transport, routines, access to support in college and lunchtime arrangements.
- Ensure joined up pastoral care is in place and consider whether a time-limited, closely monitored and reviewed, phased return to college would be appropriate, for example for those affected by anxiety about college attendance.

6 Requesting Leave in Term Time

- 6.1 Absence for purposes of leave during term time can only be authorised by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher on his behalf within the boundaries set by the Education (Pupil Registrations) (England) Regulations (2006). "Head Teachers may not authorise leave during term time except where the circumstances are exceptional." Under the Regulations, retrospective authorisation for leave in exceptional circumstances is not permitted.
- 6.2 The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional circumstances' are that they are: 'rare; significant; unavoidable and short'. Holidays during term time will not usually be considered as exceptional circumstances. The following guiding principles apply:

- Term-times are for education. This is the priority. Children and families have 175 days off a year including weekends and school holidays. We will rightly prioritise attendance.
- The decision to authorise a student's absence is wholly at the Headteacher's discretion based on their assessment and merits of each individual request.
- If an event can be reasonably scheduled outside of term-time, then it would be normal to authorise absence for such an event – holidays are therefore not considered 'exceptional circumstances'. It is acceptable for the Headteacher to take a student's record of attendance into account when making absence-related decisions.
- We will take the needs of the families of service personnel into account if this prevents them from being able to take family holidays during scheduled holiday time.
- We have a duty to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with special needs and/or disabilities.

6.3 Family emergencies need careful consideration before decisions about attendance are made. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the student to miss education for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Being at college with support from staff and peers can provide children with stability. The school routine can offer a safe and familiar background during times of uncertainty. Relevant members of staff will work with parents to decide what is in the best interest of the student.

7 Persistent and Severe Absence

- 7.1 Pupils with 90% or less attendance are classified as Persistent Absence (PA). PA includes both authorised and unauthorised absences.
- 7.2 Pupils with 50% or less attendance are classified as Severe Absence (SA). SA includes both authorised and unauthorised absences
- 7.3 All PA students will have bespoke action plans to try to improve their attendance to above 97%. This will be monitored by tutors and relevant pastoral staff with the support of Heads of Year and the Deputy Headteacher (Attendance Champion). Students who are PA will be discussed as a potential concern at fortnightly attendance review and year group triage meetings. Where students have an identified special educational need, the colleges SENCO will also provide support, so that the impact of needs are clearly understood and appropriate, supportive actions are taken.
- 7.4 The college's strategy for tackling persistent absence, can be found in Appendix 7.

8 Following Up Absence and Taking Statutory Action

- 8.1 We will follow up any absences to ascertain the reason. Any pupils who fail to attend regularly or who are absent for more than one week will be referred to the Deputy Headteacher (DSL) for Pastoral / Attendance champion. Pastoral teams will also make calls on a Monday to students who have not attended the previous week.
- 8.2 Unexplained absences will be followed up on the morning of the first day of unexplained absence and the college will identify whether the absence is approved or not. The college will identify the correct code to use and will input it as soon as the

reason for absence is ascertained. This will take no longer than 5 working days after the session.

- 8.3 In the case where the reason for absence cannot be ascertained by the college and no reason has been issued for the student's absence, the college will initiate safeguarding procedures and the DSL will decide on the best course of action to ensure the safety of the pupil, following procedures for children missing in education as outlined in the document from the Department of Education.
- 8.4 Where it is appropriate, a member of staff may carry out a 'Return to School Interview' to discuss the absence and to offer any support. Following three separate periods of absence the interview will be carried out by a Heads of Year or Senior staff within the pastoral system of the college.
- 8.5 It may occasionally be necessary to inform parents that no further absences will be authorised for a particular student unless medical evidence is provided. This decision can only be made by the Deputy Headteacher(DSL) in consultation with the Attendance Lead, Heads of Year and where relevant, the SENCO as part of the college attendance escalation process.
- 8.6 It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their children receive appropriate education. Failing to send children to college regularly without good reason is a criminal offence. Schools can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their student, where the student is of compulsory school age. The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice ultimately rests with the Headteacher, in line with the local authority's code of conduct for issuing penalty notices. This may consider:
- A number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year
 - Singular incidences of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission
 - Where an excluded student is seen in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason
- 8.7 Issuing Penalty Notices: each parent receives a penalty notice for each student who has unauthorised absence. If issued with a penalty notice, parents must pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority. If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute the parent or withdraw the notice.
- 8.8 Taking Parents to Court for unauthorised absence: The Education Act (1996) Section 444 (1) states that courts can fine each parent up to £1000 per pupil, order payment of prosecution costs and/or impose a Parenting Order.
- 8.9 Taking Parents to Court for Persistent Unauthorised Absence: The Education Act (1996) – Section 444 (1A) states that courts can fine each parent up to £2500 per pupil, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Parenting Order and/or sentence parents to a period of imprisonment of up to three months.

9 Children Missing from Education (CME)

- 9.1 We have due regard to our statutory duty to safeguard pupils who are CME. We follow the Local Authority's processes for reporting pupils missing from education. [The DfE guide can be found here.](#)

- 9.2 If a student fails to return following a period of absence, investigations will be made by staff to their whereabouts. If our investigations fail to contact the parents/pupil the case will be referred to the Local Authority Children Missing Education (CME) Team within 20 days.

10 Attendance Causing Concern

- 10.1 Specific measures to monitor attendance are embedded and regularly checked to ensure the safeguarding of all students through specific and tailored interventions.
- 10.2 Exmouth Community College records and collects attendance data using our Data Management System, SIMS. We recognise that there are particular groups who nationally, and within our local setting, are more vulnerable and susceptible to lower attendance patterns such as children who are defined as Pupil Premium, and pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities. We work with families to overcome any specific barriers that children may be facing regardless of these needs to ensure that pupils access all their education.
- 10.3 Staff make daily use of Class Charts and parents have access to this platform to also monitor attendance trends and patterns of their child.
- 10.4 Where attendance is deemed to be a concern, we talk to students and parents. From this, there may be one of three Early Help outcomes:
- Initiate simple reasonable adjustments
 - Develop a college focused plan with the pupil and their parent as appropriate
 - Initiate a multi-agency Early Help Assessment (EHA)
- 10.5 If the conversation with the student indicates a serious safeguarding concern, we will follow our safeguarding procedures as set out in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

11 Supporting the Attendance of Every Student

- 11.1 We use a variety of strategies to encourage attendance:
- Building strong and enduring relationships with our pupils so they feel a sense of belonging in our college community
 - Verbal encouragement and praise
 - Create personalised and achievable targets for pupils, based on their medical needs and/or additional needs that is realistic and appropriate for each individual
 - Create safe spaces for pupils to thrive
 - Make decisions on targets in consultation with families, while understanding that a medical condition can worsen suddenly and taking this into account.
 - Create opportunities for dialogue with families about attendance, ensuring that we work in partnership with parents
 - Use different methods to encourage attendance; for instance, explaining the links between attendance and outcomes
 - Raise the profile of attendance with families, particularly when students start at the setting
 - Teach and model a love of learning, helping families to see the value of the education that is offered to them

- Look at the effect on attendance of decisions made at college level, for instance ending terms on a Monday or Tuesday
 - Be aware of the complexity of different contexts and the pressures that families might experience, which may in turn contribute to poor attendance; for instance, in areas where many parents perform seasonal work and are unable to take holidays over the summer break.
- 11.2 We recognise that not all children, particularly those who are most vulnerable, are able to achieve 100% attendance through no fault of their own. We celebrate improvements in attendance and contextualised good attendance for individual students.
- 11.3 Each student is supported and encouraged to achieve their individual highest possible attendance. Student's will be provided with SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time bound) individual targets for their attendance which should be reviewed regularly and include parental consultation where appropriate. Attendance effort awards will be awarded on a half termly basis for students who have made a clear effort to improve or maintain their attendance and/or punctuality.
- 11.4 Our Rewards and Sanctions Policy (including rewards, sanctions and suspensions) sets out the details of how we reward students for attendance and punctuality, and what sanctions we apply for lateness.

12 Ethnic Minority Students

- 12.1 Student registration regulations states that absence should only be granted due to the exceptional circumstances relating to that application. It is important to note that Headteachers/Principals can determine the length of the authorised absence, as well as whether absence is authorised at all.
- 12.2 The following might be considered as exceptional circumstance for ethnic minority students:
- Religious festivals: the college should authorise any absence where the parent/carer's religious organisation sets the day as a religious festival. For example: There are two key festivals in Islam, Eid-ul-Fitr (celebration that takes place at the end of Ramadan, the period of fasting) and Eid-ul-Adha (festival of sacrifice). The dates of these key events are set according to the Islamic calendar. Muslim families usually need to take one or two days to celebrate these important festivals. Absences may be recorded as R.
 - Religious rites e.g. Bar Mitzvah, Holy Communion. The Headteacher will consider each request for leave of absence individually to determine the number of days approved.
 - Close family wedding if dates cannot be during school holidays.
 - Illness or death of an immediate family member; the Headteacher should consider time needed for the length of journey when child needs to travel abroad.
 - Child, parent/carer requires medical treatment overseas or elsewhere in the UK due to language barrier or requiring specialist treatment elsewhere.
 - Length of journey from abroad; the Headteacher will consider length of journey or limited regional flights.

- Cultural celebrations such as Chinese New Year or Diwali. Cultural celebrations give children a feeling of belonging and make them feel part of their culture. This sense of identity is like a natural buoy for a child's emotional health.
- Children attending their annual exam in their home country. There are exams which are compulsory in some EU countries. They are normally during holidays but can occasionally be requested during term time.
- Child, parent/ carer's visa have been revoked and they need to return to their birth country whilst pursuing the renewal of a visa.

Appendix 2 – Framework of Responsibilities

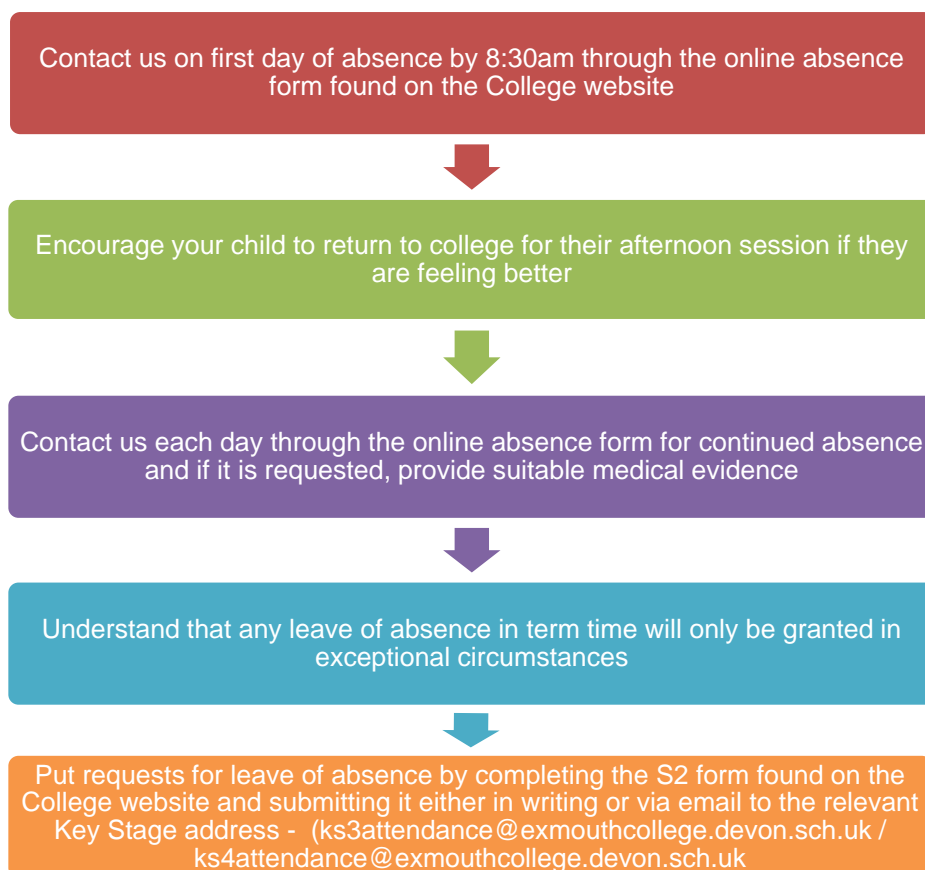
The foundation for good attendance is a strong partnership between the college, parents and the child, therefore, Exmouth Community College expects everyone to uphold their responsibilities for promoting attendance at college.

To do this everyone must understand their role in promoting a positive culture of attendance and be clear about what is required of them individually as well as how they need to work together in partnership with others.

Parents

- Ensure pupils attend regularly and punctually.
- Promote the value of good education and the importance of regular college attendance at home
- Do everything you can to prevent unnecessary college absences, such as by making medical and dental appointments outside of college hours.
- Work with the college and your child to address any in-college barriers to attendance and support their learning by taking an interest in what they have been doing at college.
- Enforce a regular routine at home in terms of homework, bedtime, etc. so that your child is used to consistency and the college day becomes part of that routine. It is vital that your child receives the same message at home as they do at college about the importance of attendance.
- Provide the college with more than one emergency contact for your child.
- Provide proof of medical appointments that can only be attended during the college day.
- Make early contact with us when you become aware of problems with your child attending college.
- Attend meetings if concerns are identified.
- Participate in Early Help Meetings if required.
- Support attendance contracts where appropriate.
- Support us in actioning agreed interventions/action plans.

Please follow this process if your child is going to be absent from college:



Students

- Attend college every day and every timetabled lesson punctually
- Acknowledge positive behaviours needed both inside and outside of our college
- Adhere to our systems for late registration
- Adhere to attendance contracts if they are in place
- Aim for the highest possible attendance

- Discuss concerns about your attendance or punctuality with a trusted adult in our college, especially if you are experiencing difficulties at college or at home which may impact on your attendance and/or learning
- Attend all lessons ready to learn with the appropriate learning tools requested and on time for your class. Lesson times will be made clear through your college timetable

Support Staff

- Understand that promoting student attendance is the responsibility of all staff. Be curious, aware, vigilant, well-informed and listen to what children say about the barriers to accessing education
- Assist in ensuring attendance has a high profile within the college
- Build on a culture of challenge when addressing persistent illness absences with parents
- Challenge parents when no reason has been provided for an absence
- Tutors to complete return to college conversations with students when required
- Escalate concerns where required as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Participate in training in relation to attendance

Teachers

- Understand that promoting student attendance is the responsibility of all staff. Be curious, aware, vigilant, well-informed and listen to what children say about the barriers to accessing education
- Ensure attendance has a high profile within the class
- Consider whether a student's known, or not yet identified, SEN could be impacting on attendance and whether provision and/or further reasonable adjustments should be made
- Take registers at the beginning of every lesson including when the lesson is also the legal registration session
- Build a culture of challenge when addressing absences with parents. Treat all students and parents with dignity and model respectful relationships to build a positive relationship between home and college
- Challenge parents when they do not provide a reason for absence
- Communicate with parents positively. Teachers should discuss the link between attendance and attainment and wider wellbeing. Teachers should challenge parents' views where they have misconceptions about what 'good' attendance looks like (this is outlined in more detail in figure 1 below).
- Tutors to complete return to college with students when required.
- Escalate concerns as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Analyse and report attendance figures for each student to parents regularly.
- Discuss attendance with parents at every opportunity (celebrate good attendance as well as concerning attendance).
- Participate in training relating to attendance as appropriate

Where a student or family need support with attendance, the best placed person in the college will support the family. In most cases this may be the child's tutor. This person should remain consistent, and the college will draw on positive relationships to listen to and understand the barriers to attendance the student or family is experiencing.

Heads of Year

- Monitor the registration process of tutors in conjunction with the attendance administrator.
- Reinforce good practice at tutor meetings.
- Liaise with their assistants on a weekly basis to discuss specific students.
- Attend meetings with EWOs as necessary.
- Heads of Year will oversee and should be fully aware of all matters concerning attendance and ensure the escalation process is being consistently applied (see appendix 1).
- Ensure the Attendance Intervention Tracker is completed for individual students.
- Refer students to the EWO as necessary.
- Organise the phased reintegration of long term absentees.
- Produce data for tutors.
- Organise action plans for students whose attendance is beginning to cause concern.

Pastoral assistants to HoYs

- Phoning students who have not arrived at College the previous week on a Monday morning - (Monday Protocol).
- Oversee reintegration of long term absentees.
- Organise late detentions.
- Ensure the Attendance Intervention Tracker is completed for individual students.
- Keep staff registers up to date with letters sent to persistent absence students in accordance with the attendance escalation process (see appendix 1).

The Tutor

- Have a back to College conversation with a tutee when they return to College
- Complete all registers promptly on SIMS and ensure all registers are accurate, raising any attendance concerns swiftly with the Key Stage and Year offices if appropriate and necessary.
- Promote the importance of full attendance.
- Consistently apply the Attendance Escalation Process (see appendix 1).
- In conjunction with the HoYs impose appropriate sanctions on students arriving late to registrations without good reason.
- Class teachers should arrange catch up time for lates to Period 5.

The Attendance Officer

- Take calls from parents about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system
- Offer support and guidance on attendance where needed
- Monitor and analyse attendance data
- Benchmark attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Monitor pupils with attendance below 95% with regular communication with both the pupil and their parents, holding attendance meetings where required and agreeing individual action plans
- Attend welfare home visits where required

- Escalate concerns where required as per the Safeguarding and Pupil Protection Policy
- Work with Education Welfare Officers to tackle persistent absence
- Advise the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher responsible for attendance when to issue fixed-penalty notices

School Attendance Champion and Attendance Lead

- Take a lead in promoting student attendance ensuring it is the responsibility of all staff. Be aware, vigilant, well-informed and listen to what children say about the barriers to accessing education
- Develop a clear strategy and vision for improving attendance
- Work with the SENCO / Assistant Headteacher for Progress and Intervention, where relevant, to ensure any SEND needs are fully understood, including how these may impact on attendance, and to ensure that the provision in place meets needs and supports good attendance
- Monitor daily attendance for vulnerable students and track weekly attendance patterns and trends for all students, delivering intervention and support in a targeted way to pupils and families. This needs to include patterns of attendance for individual students, cohorts, and groups but particularly for students with attendance below 90%
- Support all staff to monitor attendance patterns and tackle attendance concerns effectively by providing regular attendance reports/online dashboards through Class Charts to class teachers or tutors / subject leaders so they are able to facilitate discussions with students (this also includes any special educational needs coordinators, designated safeguarding leads and pupil premium lead).
- Conduct thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full year data to identify patterns and trends including analysis of students and cohorts and identifying patterns in uses of certain codes, days of poor attendance and where appropriate, subjects which have low lesson attendance.
- Work with the leadership team and the School Attendance Governor to benchmark the college's attendance data (at whole school, year group and cohort level) against local, regional, and national levels to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Monitor in the data the impact of college wide attendance efforts, including any specific strategies implemented ensuring there is regular and positive communication with parents
- Ensure attendance is a standing agenda item for every team meeting and use practice examples to explore safeguarding themes and review relevant policy, procedures and code of conduct on a regular basis
- Provide rewards for improving attendance, punctuality and overall high attendance while not penalising students with complex medical or additional needs which impacts on their ability to attend college regularly
- Set annual college attendance targets with the Headteacher
- Work on proactively on building strong relationships with families
- Follow the LA Fast-Track procedure and support staff to offer Early Help where necessary and work with Education Welfare Officers to tackle persistent absence.
- Work with the LA, agencies, and safeguarding partners to overcome barriers to attendance
- Advise the Headteacher when to issue fixed-penalty notices
- Attend welfare home visits where required
- Escalate concerns when deemed appropriate as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Lead attendance training for staff and governors

- In conjunction with key pastoral and senior staff, communicate attendance concerns to the student's social worker, if they have one or The Virtual School Head, if the student is a looked after child. This will be done as soon as there is an attendance concern and immediately upon becoming a persistent absentee. Unexplained absences will also be communicated to the social worker and Virtual School Head, if the student has one.

Senior Leadership Team

- Take a lead in promoting student attendance ensuring it is the responsibility of all staff. Be curious, aware, vigilant, well-informed and listen to what children say about the barriers to accessing education
- Ensure attendance has a high profile across the college.
- Work on proactively on building strong relationships with families.
- Build on a culture of challenge when addressing persistent illness absences with parents.
- Attend welfare home visits where required.
- Escalate concerns where required as per the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Liaise with Attendance Lead, Deputy Headteacher/DSL, Behaviour Lead and SENCO as appropriate to discuss attendance concerns for individual pupils.
- Participate in appropriate training in relation to attendance.
- Ensure there are designated staff with day-to-day responsibility for attendance matters and ensure that adequate, protected time is allocated to discharge these responsibilities.
- Take overall responsibility for ensuring our college conforms to all statutory requirements in respect of attendance e.g., deletion from college roll is adhered to for example.

Headteacher

- Take a lead in promoting pupil attendance ensuring it is the responsibility of all staff. Be aware, vigilant, well-informed and listen to what children say about the barriers to accessing education
- Ensure the attendance policy is implemented consistently across the college
- Ensure attendance is a target in performance appraisals
- Ensure attendance has a high profile across the college in all communications
- Monitor college level absence data with the College Attendance Champion / Lead and report data to the Local Governing Board
- Support other staff in monitoring the attendance of individual students
- Agree with the Deputy Headteacher and Attendance Lead when to issue fixed-penalty notices
- Decide whether to grant leave during term time for exceptional circumstances
- Ensure attendance training is including provided to staff annually

Local Governing Board

- Recognise the importance of college attendance and promote it across the college's ethos and policies
- Review the implementation of the School Attendance Policy
- Ensure the college fulfil their statutory duties

- Ensure the importance of college attendance is promoted across policies and procedures
- Ensure staff receive adequate training on attendance
- Discuss the targets for attendance with the Headteacher and review progress towards these at Board meetings.
- Regularly monitor attendance figures through data analysis at Board meetings. Ask questions about attendance trends and be curious about what is being done to challenge and prevent persistent poor absence

The Education Welfare Service

The Attendance Improvement Officer (AIO) will liaise with the Deputy Headteacher, Attendance Lead, Assistant Headteachers and Heads of Year as appropriate – and on a regular basis and;

- Accept referrals that meet current EWS criteria and initiate contact with parents and undertake assessments and home visits.
- Supply feedback to the College and advise on appropriate action.
- Undertake work with children and / or parents and / or teaching / pastoral staff.
- Provide strategic / policy advice and support in relation to matters of attendance and other legal matters relating to children.
- Attend attendance panel meetings.
- Undertake legal action.

Other Agencies

In addition to The Education Welfare Service, the following agencies may be asked to work with the College to overcome attendance problems:

- Education Behaviour and Support Services
- Educational Psychologist
- SEND Services
- Social Services or Early Help
- Careers and Guidance Service (Careers South West)
- Youth Service
- School Nurse (Medical Services)
- Counselling Services
- Police Community Support Officer
- Action for young carers
- Transport Service Group
- Youth Offending Services

Figure 1:

There are 190 school days each year, this means that there are 175 non-school days a year.

Attendance %	Rating	Days absent	Description
100%	Perfect Attendance	0	This is the best chance of success for your child
97%	Good Attendance	5	
95%	Improvement Required	9	Less chance of your child succeeding as it is harder for them to make progress
92%	Cause for Concern (Persistent Absence*)	19	
90%	Serious Concern **	30	Serious Concern Missing this much education is not fair on your child and will result in legal action

*Persistent Absence is defined as: 10% or more of sessions missed (based on each pupil's possible sessions). Absences may be authorised or unauthorised.

** Severe Absence is defined as: 50% or more of sessions missed (based on each pupil's possible sessions). Absences may be authorised or unauthorised.



Exmouth
Community
College
Academy Trust

Good Attendance

Good Attendance means being in school at least **95%** of the time (between 180 & 190 days)

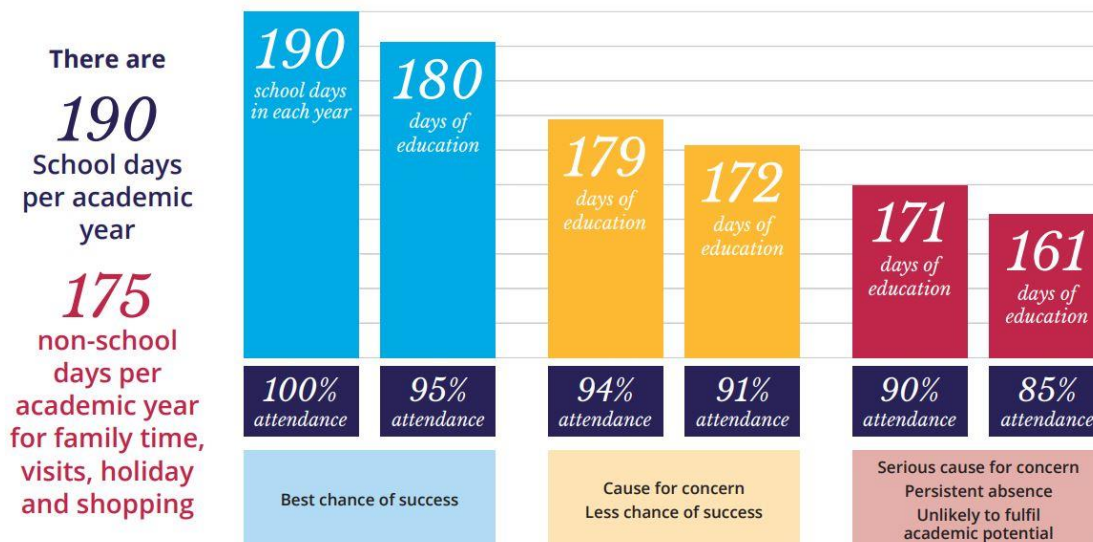


Figure 2:

Exmouth Community College support attendance escalation Process

Tutor/class teacher to have a “back to school” conversation with the pupil (age appropriate) the day that they return to school or as soon as possible after this date if exceptional circumstances mean that it cannot happen on the first day. Aim of conversation:

- See the pupil on his/her return to school to show a genuine interest in their wellbeing and to ask how they are.
- Check that they are feeling sufficiently fit to be in school
- Explain what actions/events have taken place in their absence which have had an impact on their learning and to “bring them up to speed” with events in school
- Offer support if required for those pupils whose absence may be linked to personal/domestic problems and escalate if appropriate.
- If there is any suggestion of a school related absence, the causes of this must be discussed and solutions sought.
- Relate absence percentage and time off to attainment.
- Highlight any patterns of absence
- All discussions must be recorded on the school system

Illness Absences

Considerations for each absence

- Is the level of absence in line with the reasons given by parents?
- Does the pupil have an ongoing medical condition that needs further clarification?
- Do you have evidence or any medical professional guidance that it may affect attendance?
- What was their attendance last year?
- Is it ad hoc absence or 1 bout of illness?

12 sessions absence	(Letter 1) Initial letter sent to parent advising concern regarding the amount of absence due to illness. Early help offered
20 sessions absence	<p>Further illness – (Letter 2) inviting parent to communicate with the college, possibly explaining that all absence will be recorded as unauthorised.</p> <p>Where required, develop a plan of action for parents/child/school/PHN/other professionals, include an Individual Healthcare Plan if appropriate Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).</p> <p>Offer Early Help.</p> <p>Discuss the unauthorising of medical absences depending of the individual circumstances of the pupil.</p>

Review meeting	<p>(Letter 3) optional letter to send after the first meeting to enclose a copy of the plan and confirm the date of the next meeting (within 2-4 weeks). It is recommended you phone the parents prior to the review meeting to remind them.</p> <p>Review Meeting - Review targets set at first meeting and choose from following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Target met, continue to review ➤ Absences were changed to authorised as further documentation received ➤ Targets not met, confirm that it could be escalated to consider legal action if nothing changes ➤ Some changes have been made, but further support and actions required
Outcome	<p>(Letter 4) to parent to confirm outcome of review</p> <p>(Letter 4a) to parent to confirm a further review meeting date. (This is optional and only if you feel that adjustments made to the plan at the initial review may have an impact on attendance, or you feel that it may keep the parents on track with the improvements)</p>
Did not attend	<p>(Letter 5) to be sent to parent if they did not attend meeting offering them a chance to contact you to rearrange the meeting and possible reconsideration for legal intervention. If appropriate an attendance plan could be made in absence and sent to the parent.</p>
Keep a copy of all letters on school system including the Plan(s)	
<p>Consider legal proceedings –</p> <p>at least 10 sessions of unauthorised absence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Copy of letters sent to parents ➤ Copy of supportive plan (including IHCP if appropriate) ➤ Outcome of support given ➤ Registration Certificate

<u>Unauthorised Absences</u>	
10 sessions of unauthorised	unauthorised absences – (Letter 1a) sent to parents reminding them of their duties to ensure their child is in school and on time, to phone in every day their child is absent. Explaining that U codes are unauthorised late marks. Offer Early Help.
Further unauthorised absence	If further unauthorised absences after letter 1a is sent – (Letter 2a) sent inviting parents to a meeting to discuss absences. Develop a plan of action for parents/child/school/other professionals. Early Help offered
Review meeting –	<p>(Letter 3) optional letter to send after the first meeting to enclose a copy of the plan and confirm the date of the next meeting (no longer than 2-4 weeks) If you do send the letter, it is recommended you phone the parents prior to the review meeting to remind them.</p> <p>Review Meeting - Review targets set at first meeting and choose from following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Target met, continue to review regularly

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Absences were changed to authorised as further documentation received ➤ Targets not met, confirm that it could be escalated to consider legal action if nothing changes ➤ Some changes have been made, but further support and actions required
Outcome	<p>(Letter 4) to parent to confirm outcome of review</p> <p>(Letter 4a) to parent to confirm a further review meeting date. (This is optional and only if you feel that adjustments made to the plan at the initial review may have an impact on attendance, or you feel that it may keep the parents on track with the improvements)</p>
Did not attend –	<p>(Letter 5) to be sent to parent if they did not attend meeting offering them a chance to contact you to rearrange the meeting and possible legal intervention. If appropriate an attendance plan could be made in absence and sent to the parent.</p>
Keep a copy of all letters on school system including the Plan(s)	
Consider Legal proceedings – STAGE 5 at least 10 sessions of unauthorised absence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Copy of letters sent to parents ➤ Copy of supportive plan ➤ Outcome of support given ➤ Registration Certificate

To ensure flexibility for individual students, when the escalation process is not being followed for a student, Attendance Lead should be notified, consulted and reasons to be recorded on the college system.

The College system should have logged:

- **Active support plans to improve attendance**
- **Support plans must be actioned, reviewed, and renewed robustly**

The percentage and sessions of absences can conflict with each other; therefore, it is recommended that for weekly monitoring you obtain a percentage report and then look at each pupils' records on an individual basis alongside O code and U code reports.

Appendix 4 – Post 16 attendance

1. Good attendance plays a crucial part in student success and this combined with good performance will ensure that students can be entered for their examinations.

2. We expect a **minimum attendance of 95%** in each subject. It is vital that students, parents and staff work together to achieve at least this minimum target.
3. Students will be logged as late when they arrive late and punctuality is monitored
4. We encourage students to take responsibility for attendance to prepare them effectively for work and higher education progression routes.
5. We aim to celebrate good attendance

Objectives

- To encourage full attendance and punctuality.
- To record and monitor attendance and absenteeism and apply appropriate strategies to minimise its occurrence.
- To acknowledge and reward a successful record of post-16 attendance.
- To ensure an approach consistent with the rest of the College.

Procedures

- Students are required to attend one to ones as required by their tutor once per half term, timetabled lessons, and Lesson 42 or Post 16 Assembly. Attendance and punctuality concerns will be recorded on the College system and may be used in all references.
- Students will be registered in every timetabled lesson.
- Post 16 students must report an absence through the online daily absence form found on the website or email KS5attendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk by **10am** on the morning of an unavoidable absence to inform staff, and the reason for absence will be recorded in the registers. A member of staff will contact parents where a student's reason for absence is not acceptable or where we believe that the reason given is not accurate.
- Students should inform the Head of Post 16, all their teachers and their Personal Tutor in advance of any planned absence and complete a Holiday Form. We are only able to authorise term time holiday for post 16 students in exceptional circumstances (e.g. attendance at a specialist education event, foreign travel with educational value, university open days etc.). Holidays will not be authorised during mocks or examination periods or during teaching time after internal Year 12 examinations. Students must ensure that they complete all missed work.
- Unsatisfactory attendance at lessons may result in students not being entered for their examinations and/or being required to leave the Post 16. (see attached protocol).
- Student attendance data will be monitored throughout the year. Appropriate action that may include letters home or a meeting with the Head of Post 16 will be taken in all instances where a student's attendance drops to less than 95%.

Acceptable and unacceptable reasons for absence at Post 16.

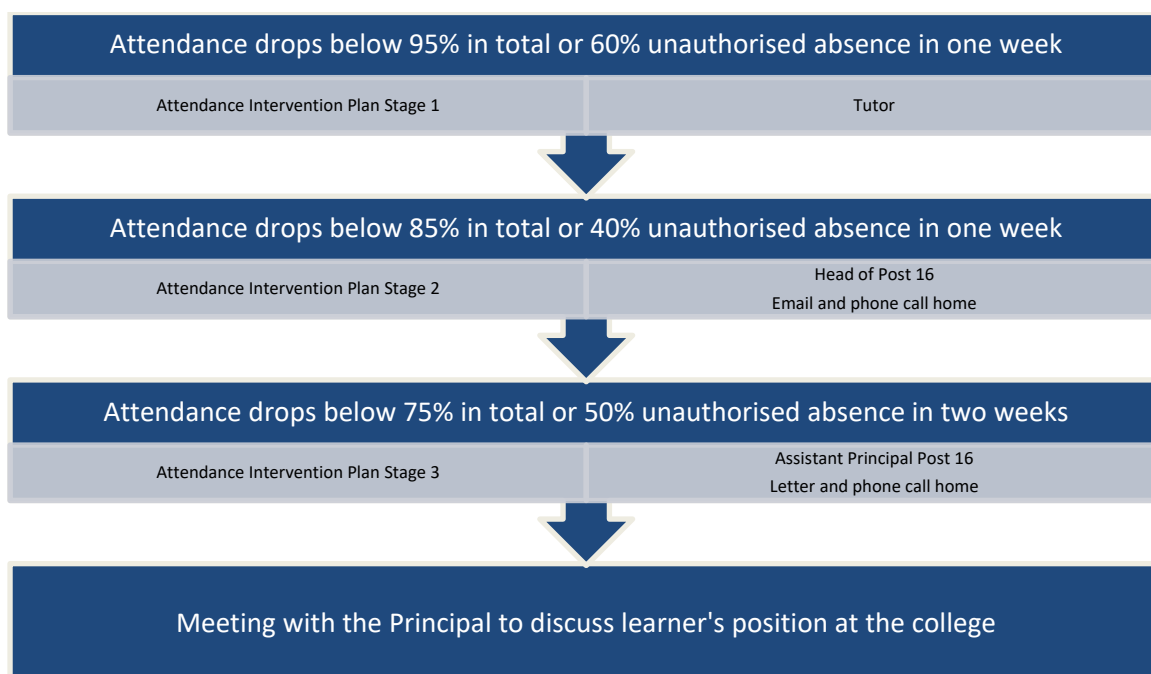
Examples include (this list is not exhaustive and the College reserves the right to assess every application for authorised leave on its merits):

Acceptable	Unacceptable
Emergency Medical/Dental appointment	Shopping
Courses and College Trips	Looking after siblings or sick relatives (unless student is a carer)
College approved work experience	Part-time work
University visits	Birthdays
Study Leave	
Driving test	Driving lessons

Escalation of non-attendance – Exmouth Community College (Post 16)

Attendance Intervention Plans

The aim of this process is to give learners the chance to set targets to improve attendance and rapidly identify and address reasons for persistent absence. The percentages are guidelines and don't work at the beginning of the year well.



Appendix 5 – Attendance Codes

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

Code	Definition	Scenario
/	Present (am)	Pupil is present at morning registration
\	Present (pm)	Pupil is present at afternoon registration
L	Late Arrival	Pupil arrives late before register has closed
B	Off-site educational activity	Pupil is at a supervised off-site educational activity approved by the school
D	Dual registered	Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered

J	Interview	Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment
P	Sporting activity	Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school
V	Educational trip or visit	Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised, or approved, by the school
W	Work experience	Pupil is on a work experience placement

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

Y	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	School site is closed, there is disruption to travel because of a local/national emergency, or pupil is in custody
Z	Pupil not on admission register	Register set up but pupil has not yet joined the school
#	Planned school closure	Whole or partial school closure due to half term/bank holiday

Appendix 6 – Creating a Positive Attendance Culture

The foundation for good attendance is a strong partnership between the college, parents and the child, therefore, Exmouth Community College expects everyone to uphold their responsibilities for promoting attendance at college.

To do this everyone must understand their role in promoting a positive culture of attendance and be clear about what is required of them individually as well as how they need to work together in partnership with others.

Our college aims to meet its obligations with regards to college attendance by:

- Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence
- Ensuring every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence

For a positive attendance culture to be fully embedded across our college, it needs to be a holistic approach and not seen in isolation.

- A strong emphasis on wanting children to come to college and value education
- Improving the college experience for children and parents
- Offering an enriching curriculum instilling a sense of pride and responsibilities
- A relational approach, establishing strong relationships and trust between all members of the college community.
- A rewards culture centred around the four core expectations of Be Respectful, Be Kind, Be Engaged and Be Prepared.

Summary

- A focus on 'routines, responses, and relationships'
- Exploit the opportunities to work together
- Using data to underpin all attendance strategies
- Access the school's wider support network
- An emphasis on the college are working in partnership – especially where there are barriers out of colleges control – treating parents, carers and families as partners
- Senior leaders lead the culture of attendance being everyone's responsibility
- All staff take responsibility; attendance is a common thread running through the college
- Initiate support and maintain a relentless focus on parental engagement
- Ensure targets for improving attendance are specific, measurable, achievable, recorded and timed (SMART)

Appendix 7 – Removing a child from the school roll

Elective Home Education (EHE):

The Statutory Notification and the EHE form, together with the Safeguarding form must be submitted on the day of receiving the de-registration letter from the parent with a copy of the letter. The student should be taken off roll from the day the college receives the letter or in cases where the parent is giving advance notice of the date requested. It should not be backdated to an earlier than the date of the receipt of the letter even if the parent requests this. The college should confirm that the student has been registered with the LA as EHE to ensure that they have assumed responsibility for the student. Do not just assume that because the college has submitted the paperwork it has all gone through.

Pupil Moves Out of Area: unreasonable distance to travel. The college will submit the Statutory Notification as soon as it finds this out. The college will continue to track destination and liaise with LA admissions team. They will advise the college when a pupil may be removed from roll if it has been established that the student/family have left the last known address and their new location is known. They may allow the college to backdate the leaving date if they or the college receives confirmation of the student starting at another college or within the care of a different LA. The college must have written confirmation from the LA to backdate the leaving date. If the college does not receive this and the college has no other confirmation of where the pupil is the college must keep them on roll for 20 days.

Pupil Emigrates: The college must follow the procedure above for moving out of area but also need to have ascertained from the parent the forwarding address, details of destination school and moving date.

Pupil Transfers to a New School: The college will confirm the student's start date at the new school and that the student has started there. The college will submit the Statutory Notification on the day the college has it confirmed that the student started at their new school. The college can take the student off roll from the confirmed start date or the last college day if it precedes it e.g., a Friday and they started on a Monday. If the start date is the first day of a school term the college can back date the leaving date for the college's student to the last day of the previous term. If the college must investigate in the new term to find out why the student is 'absent' keep them on roll until the college gets a confirmed start date at the new school. If there is a gap between the leaving date the college has been given by a parent and the start date for a student, the student should remain on the college's roll, marked absent, until the transfer school confirms the student has started there. If after ten days, the pupil has still not started, the college should submit a CME form. The college cannot remove a CME pupil from the college's roll for a further ten days from the initial notification or safeguarding referral (so 20 days in total from the first day of absence) unless the LA confirms where the student has gone.

Appendix 8 - Strategy for reducing persistent

- Attendance is high profile within the college and is communicated continuously to children and parents/carers through Class Charts
- Incentives are used to actively promote high or improved attendance within the college. Where needed, this considers student's individual needs

- All students who are PA (persistently absence below 90%) will be supported through an Action Plan on a weekly basis.
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- Attendance of the whole college is reviewed weekly by the Deputy Headteacher
- An initial email/letter is sent to parents/carers explaining that their child's attendance is causing the college concern, and this will be closely monitored. The attendance champion (or delegated member of staff) will ensure that all possible support has been offered. For some young people, poor attendance could be indicative of additional needs including anxiety typically referred to as emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA). [Anxiety based school avoidance \(ABSA\) – Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families).
- If attendance continues to decline further emails/letters are issued as per Appendix 2 (*Figure 2*).
- Further decline in attendance will result in a meeting to look at proactive strategies to improve attendance. Future actions are outlined to parents/carers and children should this continue to decline.
- The local authority is notified of any further decline for consideration of next steps, this may involve legal action.