



Attendance review - September 2021 – December 2021

Reflecting on the previous year's attendance there was a great sense of pride that despite the challenges faced, whole school attendance was significantly above the national figure and up on previous years. Although it is acknowledged that the validity of this data can be challenged due to the disruptions in education, we believe as a school, this demonstrated a significant shift in expectations.

The school has continued to highlight that it was critical that pupils attended school when it has been safe to do so; by prompting this philosophy it provides pupils with stability, structure, and safety for all. To monitor attendance in a meaningful manner, we have based our attendance target at 96%, this could be argued as high given the COVID climate, although, it is felt that the benefit of this high expectation ultimately supports pupils during this time.

The information below indicates the attendance rates of key groups across the Autumn term (up to Tuesday 14th December 2021):

	Present	Auth Abs.	Unauth Abs.
Whole School	91.9%	6.6%	1.6%
Male	92.2%	6.2%	1.6%
Female	91.5%	6.9%	1.6%
EAL	93.7%	5.5%	0.8%
Non EAL	90.9%	7.1%	2.0%
PP	88.6%	8.3%	3.1%
Non-PP	93.5%	5.7%	0.8%
FSM	87.8%	8.8%	3.4%

Analysis shows that we did not achieve our target of 96%, which was disappointing given the significant investment of staff to promote attendance and support all pupils to be in school. When completing data comparison, it is evident that boy's attendance was slightly higher than girl's (0.7%), that EAL pupils attended more than non EAL pupils (3.7%) and non-PP pupils were in school more than PP pupils (4.9%). Despite this being the case, it could be suggested that this gap could have been significant higher, however, as a school we quickly recognised the increased link / vulnerability of our disadvantaged groups during the ongoing pandemic and undertook considerable work to addressing attendance across the school.

One of the most successful ongoing initiatives has been 'breakfast club', this activity is a targeted intervention for specific pupils who were able to access school support from 8am; the purpose of this fundamentally is to address any attendance concerns but also acts as mechanisms to support PP families. The sessions run on a formal and informal basis, where pupils are supported individually (nurture-based support), in small groups (to support the development of self-esteem, confidence and making friends) and academic intervention such as 'switched on' reading.

Tackling attendance

As a strategy when we identify attendance concerns and continues to become persistent, a further line of support is provided by the school Family Support Worker (FSW); the FSW completes home visits, holds 1:1 meetings and signposts to external professionals where required. Should attendance continue to be a barrier to learning, this is the challenged directly by the Headteacher through a formal meeting, where clear next step actions and targeting setting are implemented.



Detailed monitoring

Additional to the attendance summary, we also complete more detailed weekly analysis against available comparisons. The information below is the attendance information for autumn term 1; this provides data that we use to gain a wider understanding of how the pandemic has continued to impact school attendance and how comparatively as a school are we being impacted.

Sadly, this comparative data has not been readily available during autumn term 2, due to the lack of reporting to the local authority, however, as a school we have continued to monitor this daily.

Autumn term 1

2021/22	SW	EHCP	FSM
89%	100%	91.70%	84.30%
95%	94.90%	98.40%	94.10%
94.50%	95.30%	95.20%	92.70%
94.30%	91.10%	78.50%	92.80%
93.80%	100.00%	100%	90.20%
93.50%	91.70%	97.70%	87.50%
91.20%	93.20%	92.10%	87.90%
88.50%	76.00%	78.50%	81.70%

WEST NORTHANTS	NATIONAL
Total 83%, SW 76%, EHCP 82%, FSM 76%	Total 80%, SW 72%, EHCP 75%, FSM 75%
Total 91%, SW 87%, EHCP 89%, FSM 89%	Total 91%, SW 85%, EHCP 87%, FSM 90%
Total 89%, SW 86%, EHCP 85%, FSM 87%	Total 88%, SW 82%, EHCP 83%, FSM 86%
Total 87%, SW 82%, EHCP 84%, FSM 85%	Total 89%, SW 83%, EHCP 84%, FSM 88%
Total 89%, SW 84%, EHCP 86%, FSM 85%	Total 88%, SW 82%, EHCP 83%, FSM 86%
Total 92%, SW 89%, EHCP 90%, FSM 89%	Total 91%, SW 85%, EHCP 87%, FSM 90%

Autumn 2

2021/22	SW	EHCP	FSM
92.50%	83.30%	81.50%	87.20%
92.20%	70%	81.50%	85.50%
93.30%	81.10%	88.50%	87.90%
91.30%	91.70%	85.40%	91.40%
85.10%	66.10%	90.80%	83.90%
90.10%	78.30%	89.20%	82.60%