



PROSPECT HOUSE
SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE, ABSENCE AND
REGISTRATION POLICY

September 2026

ATTENDANCE, ABSENCE AND REGISTRATION POLICY (pupils)

Policy Statement

Our purpose at Prospect House is to promote exceptional attendance for successful learning, wellbeing, and safeguarding.

The school has a continuing responsibility to proactively manage and improve attendance across their school community.

Attendance is the essential foundation to positive outcomes for all pupils including their safeguarding and welfare and will therefore be seen as everyone's responsibility in school.

That starts with the senior attendance champion on the school's leadership team, but includes all school staff.

Our Attendance Expectations

At Prospect House School, we expect all pupils to attend school every day, on time, and ready to learn. We believe that regular attendance is essential for pupils' academic success, wellbeing, and safeguarding.

Our attendance target is 96% or above for all pupils.

We recognise that some pupils may face barriers to attendance, and we are committed to working with families to overcome these barriers and support every child to attend school regularly.

We will:

- Promote the importance of good attendance and punctuality to pupils, parents, and staff
- Monitor attendance closely and intervene early when concerns arise
- Work collaboratively with parents, pupils, and external agencies to address attendance issues
- Celebrate and reward good attendance

We expect parents to:

- Ensure their child attends school every day, on time
- Notify the school by 8:30 AM on the first day of any absence
- Work with the school to address any barriers to attendance
- Only request term-time leave in exceptional circumstances
- Avoid booking holidays during term time

Attendance Thresholds and Interventions

We monitor attendance closely and will intervene early when concerns arise. We use the following thresholds to identify pupils who need support:

- **96% and above:** Good attendance. We will celebrate and reward this.
- **95% to 90%:** Attendance is a concern. We will monitor closely and may contact parents to discuss any barriers.
- **Below 90%:** Persistent absence. We will contact parents, arrange a meeting, and develop an action plan to improve attendance.
- **Below 50%:** Severe absence. We will arrange an urgent meeting with parents and may involve external agencies (e.g., Educational Welfare Service).

Our tiered approach:

Stage 1: Early identification (attendance 95-90%)

- Attendance Champion monitors and analyses data
- First-day email/call if no reason for absence provided
- Letter/email to parents expressing concern and offering support

Stage 2: Persistent absence (attendance below 90%)

- Meeting with parents, pupil, and Attendance Champion/Head
- Identify barriers to attendance and agree action plan

- Regular monitoring and review
- May involve external agencies (e.g., school nurse, SENCO, Educational Welfare Service)

Stage 3: Severe absence (attendance below 50%) or no improvement

- Urgent meeting with parents, pupil, Attendance Champion, and DSL
- Formal Attendance Contract agreed
- Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting may be convened
- Referral to Wandsworth Educational Welfare Service
- Consideration of legal action (Penalty Notice or prosecution) if no improvement

We will also intervene early if we notice:

- A pattern of absence (e.g., every Monday, or after weekends/holidays)
- Frequent lateness
- Medical absence without supporting evidence
- Any safeguarding concerns related to absence

Legal Basis:

- Parents must secure full-time education under the Education Act 1996, s. 7; failure may result in legal action under Education Act 1996, s. 444.
- Complies with Pupil Registration Regulations 2024, including new attendance codes.

[The School Attendance \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#)

- Meets statutory guidance in *Working together to improve school attendance* (Aug 2024)

[Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#)

Legislative Framework

- i. Prospect House School encourages good attendance and punctuality.
- ii. This policy implements the statutory guidance *Working Together to Improve School Attendance* (DfE) effective 19 August 2024
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf?utm
- iii. Complies with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, including updated register codes, retention, and leave provisions
- iv. Supports safeguarding as per KCSIE (Sept 2026) and the Children Missing Education statutory guidance
[Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK](#)
- v. Children missing education: statutory guidance for Wandsworth local authority
<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/schools-and-admissions/schools/school-absence-and-attendance>
- vi. Takes into account statutory guidance: [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#)

Responsibilities & Whole-School Culture

Governors:

- Recognise the importance of school attendance and promote it across the school's ethos and policies
- Ensure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties
- Regularly review attendance data, discuss, and challenge trends and help school leaders focus improvement efforts on the individual pupils or cohorts who need it most
- Ensure school staff receive adequate training on attendance.

Senior Attendance Champion (see below)

All Staff:

- Accurately mark registers twice daily using the revised 2024 codes
- Complete daily follow-up for absences

Parents/Carers:

- Notify the school by 8:30AM on day one of absence
- Only request term-time leave in exceptional circumstances per Regulation 11, 2024
- Support early intervention meetings and attendance contracts

Procedures

Registration & Record Keeping

- 1 Registration is carried out twice daily, prior to the morning and afternoon sessions. Registers are maintained electronically, with a full audit trail recording all entries and amendments. Registers close no later than 30 minutes after the session begins
- 2 Registers are marked in accordance with the updated national codes from 19 August 2024, including K, Y6, Y7, C2, J1, etc. All codes are clearly annotated and staff receive regular training on proper use.
- 3 Retention period: All attendance and admission registers retained for a minimum of six years
- 4 Registration is recorded on the school management system; however, in accordance with the The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 cited above, an additional back-up copy of the admission register and the attendance register is made not less than once a month in the form of an electronic and printed copy and are retained for a period of three years after the end of that school year.
- 5 Monthly backups are performed and securely stored.

Senior Attendance Leadership

Kelly Gray (Head) is our Senior Attendance Champion and is responsible for strategic oversight, data compliance, and audit functions with support, especially in terms of safeguarding, from the DSL. The Senior Attendance Champion acts as the operational Attendance Champion, liaising with the DSL, on occasion, parents, and external agencies, such as the Wandsworth EWS when necessary.



Early Intervention & Monitoring

- Identify and track students with attendance < 95%, < 90% (persistent), or < 50% (severe) plus any child for whom we are noticing a pattern of non attendance
- Tiered Response: First-day emails → Attendance Champion analysis → letters/emails → meetings → Attendance Contract/TAC meeting/Refer where necessary to LA and partner agencies

Persistent Absence

The school will 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 being persistent or severe.

Sickness Returns

The school will provide the local authority with the full name and address of all pupils of compulsory school age who have been recorded with the code I (illness) and who the school has reasonable grounds to believe will miss 15 days consecutively or cumulatively because of sickness. Only one sickness return is required for a continuous period of sickness in a school year.

Absence

Illness

The school will be particularly mindful of pupils absent from school due to mental or physical ill health or their special educational needs and/or disabilities, and provide them with additional support.

School staff play a critical role in communicating this expectation to parents. They should also work alongside families to ensure that such circumstances do not act as a barrier to regular attendance by mitigating anxious feelings in school as much as possible.

The school takes into account the following guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions or SEND

We recognise that some pupils may face additional barriers to attendance due to medical conditions, mental health needs, or special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

For pupils with medical conditions:

- We will work with parents, the pupil, and medical professionals to develop an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) where appropriate
- We will consider reasonable adjustments to support attendance (e.g., part-time timetable, rest breaks, access to medical facilities)
- We will provide work for pupils who are unable to attend due to long-term illness, in line with our policy on education for children with health needs
- We will liaise with the Local Authority to arrange alternative provision where appropriate

For pupils with SEND:

- We will work with parents, the pupil, and the SENCO to identify and address any barriers to attendance
- We will consider reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010 (e.g., adjustments to the school day, sensory breaks, additional support)
- We will ensure any adjustments are agreed with parents and regularly reviewed
- We will work with external agencies (e.g., Educational Psychologist, CAMHS) where appropriate

For pupils with mental health needs:

- We will work with parents, the pupil, and mental health professionals to develop a support plan
- We will provide a graduated response, including pastoral support, counselling, and referral to external agencies where appropriate
- We will consider adjustments to reduce anxiety (e.g., flexible start times, safe spaces, reduced timetable)
- We will ensure pupils and parents know how to access mental health support

We will never penalise pupils for absence related to their medical condition or SEND, provided parents keep us informed and work with us to support their child's attendance.

- 6 Parents must telephone the school office or contact it by email before 8:30 to inform us if their child is ill. The school contact details are

Prospect House School

- Tel: 020 8780 0456
- Email: absence@prospecths.org.uk

If we have not heard from parents by 9:00 AM, we will:

- Contact parents by phone and/or email to establish the reason for absence
- Continue to attempt contact throughout the day if we cannot reach parents
- Contact emergency contacts if we cannot reach parents
- If we still cannot establish the reason for absence, we will consider whether a home visit or welfare check is necessary (in consultation with the DSL)

If we have safeguarding concerns about a pupil's absence, we will follow our safeguarding procedures and may contact the police or Local Authority children's social care.

- 7 Email notifications are preferred to the relevant address shown above
- 8 If a pupil is absent because of illness for five consecutive days, the school may request supporting evidence.
- 9 If no reason for absence is received by the school, then the reason for the child's absence must be pursued by the school office. Any case where a parent refuses to give a reason for absence must be referred to the Head and may result in a referral to the Educational Welfare Officer.
- 10 If a pupil is persistently late or absent, the Head will write to the parents in the first instance and, if the problem continues, will invite them to a meeting. If the school's efforts to effect improvement are unsuccessful, it may be necessary to refer the matter to the Wandsworth EWS. In this case, the school will write to the parents informing them of the referral.

Medical appointments

- 11 So as to avoid disruption to a child's education, wherever possible, medical or treatment appointments should be arranged to take place after school, at the weekends or during the school holidays, rather than during the school day. Where appointments during the school day cannot be avoided, such appointments should still be arranged with a view that these should occasion the least possible disruption to the child's education. Parents must notify the school of any intended absence of their child for such a reason, again by e-mail or telephone.

Other authorised absence

12 Absence from school may also be authorised if it is for one of the following reasons:

- Religious observance
- Exceptional family circumstances, e.g., bereavement
- Visits to or interviews at future schools

13 All absences must be explained by a parent or, in the case of a planned absence, permission requested in writing.

Lateness

14 Pupils who arrive at school after the registers have closed must report to the school office before joining their class. Department of Education codes will be used to record lateness. Registers close no later than 30 minutes after the session begins:

- Morning register closes at 9:00 AM (session starts at 8:30 AM)
- Afternoon register closes at 1:30 PM (session starts at 1:00 PM)

Pupils who arrive after these times will be marked as late after the register has closed (Code U - unauthorised absence).

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Requests for absence for any other reason

The school will consider adjustments to practice and policies to help meet the needs of pupils who are struggling to attend school, as well as making formal reasonable adjustments under section 20 of the Equality Act 2010 where a pupil has a disability. Any adjustments the school will aim to be agreed by, and regularly reviewed with the pupil and their parents

- 16 Requests from parents to take their child out of school for any other reason must be made through the Head (and not to the form teacher). Parents are requested to email or write to the school. All such correspondence will be kept in the child's file.
- 17 The school expects each parent to ensure that his or her child has the best attendance record possible. To this end, the schools publish calendar dates well in advance and it therefore expects total support from parents in this matter. Parents wishing to take a child out of school during term time for the purposes of holiday or other leisure or recreational events are advised that authorisation will not normally be granted, other than in the most exceptional circumstances.

Term-Time Leave (Exceptional Circumstances)

Parents do not have an automatic right to take their child out of school during term time.

The Headmistress will only authorise term-time leave in exceptional circumstances. Each request will be considered on its individual merits, taking into account:

- The reason for the request
- The pupil's attendance record
- The timing of the request (e.g., during exam periods, at the start of term)
- The length of absence requested
- The pupil's age and stage of education

Examples of what may be considered exceptional circumstances:

- Bereavement or serious illness of a close family member

- Parent's leave from the armed forces
- Significant family emergency
- Religious observance (where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the parents belong)

Examples of what will NOT normally be considered exceptional circumstances:

- Family holidays or visits to relatives abroad
- Cheaper holiday prices outside school holidays
- Availability of parents' leave from work
- Overlap with another child's school holiday dates
- Family celebrations (e.g., weddings, birthdays) unless there are exceptional circumstances

All requests for term-time leave must:

- Be made in writing to the Headmistress at least 4 weeks in advance (where possible)
- Include the reason for the request, dates, and any supporting evidence
- Be made by the parent with whom the child normally resides

If leave is not authorised and the pupil is still taken out of school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. This may result in a Penalty Notice being issued by Wandsworth Local Authority. The Headmistress's decision is final. If parents are unhappy with the decision, they may make a complaint in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

- 18 When, because of an imminent exceptional circumstance, a parent makes such a request, the Head, at her discretion, will make the final decision as to whether the absence will be authorised or not and thus the manner of the attendance record in the school's register and will communicate this to the parents in writing, usually reiterating a note about the disruption and disappointment often occasioned to a child by he or she missing lessons, sports activities and productions, etc.
- 19 Parents should also be made aware that future schools considering a candidate often ask for a history of attendance; a record of unauthorised absence may well prove unhelpful to a candidate and tip the balance against him or her. In addition, many officers do occasionally patrol ports and airports and have been known, during term time, to delay families with enquiries as to whether the child's absence has been authorised by his/her school.
- 20 While the school tries to be as helpful as it may within reasonable limits, it is the school's policy that staff should not normally be obliged to prepare work for a child to complete during any authorised absences. Nevertheless, the requirement for this in each case will be assessed on its individual merits and any potential offer of assistance determined by the Head.

Children missing from education

- 21 All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education that is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. Local authorities have a duty to establish, as far as it is possible to do so, the identity of children of compulsory school age who are missing education in their area. Appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures and responses are implemented for children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions.
- 22 In accordance with statutory guidance (KCSIE), the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Senior Admissions Officer will report to the local authority any pupil who fails to attend school regularly or has been absent, without the school's permission, for a continuous period of 10 school days or more.

- 23 In addition, each school will inform its local authority within five days of any pupil who is added to the admission register other than those pupils who are registered at the start of the school's youngest year of entry, unless the local authority requests information on the youngest children.
- 24 Each school will also notify the local authority when a pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register (after 20 school days of no contact following exhaustive enquiries) under any of the any of the grounds set out in regulation 9 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, or under any grounds set out in regulation 9 if the pupil is not of compulsory school age, as soon as the ground for deletion is met and no later than the time at which the pupil's name is deleted from the register (and in any event within five school days). This duty does not apply where the pupil has completed the school's final year, unless the local authority requests such information is provided.
- 25 For deletion grounds based on prolonged absence or unauthorised leave (Regulation 9(1)(h) and (i)), the school and local authority must have jointly undertaken reasonable enquiries—consistent with statutory guidance on Children Missing Education—before deletion occurs.¹
- 26 Children missing education raises a safeguarding issue particularly when a child leaves with no known destination. For this reason, although the legal requirement under the registration regulations is met by the school reporting to its 'own' local authority, the school may in some circumstances also contact the local authority where the child is normally resident.
- 27 LA informed within 5 days of any mid-year admissions or deletions per regulation.
- 28 If there are any concerns at all, these are raised with all relevant parties and may be logged on CPOMS with resulting actions.

Promoting attendance/punctuality

- 29 The school has an Attendance Champion, currently the Head, who works with school staff to regularly promote to pupils and parents the value and importance of good attendance and punctuality.
- 30 During Curriculum Evenings in the autumn term, staff share with parents information about the importance of attendance and share the expectations for being in school regularly.
- 31 Staff will set a good example by being punctual.
- 32 Staff will use the school's rewards and sanctions procedures to encourage punctuality.
- 33 Parents will be kept fully informed of any concerns regarding attendance and punctuality.
- 34 Individual cases where pupils experience attendance or punctuality difficulties will be investigated by the form teacher and, where appropriate, referred to the Head.
- 35 We also share attendance data with parents regularly (e.g., in reports, parent meetings) so they can see how their child is doing.

Monitoring

The school will regularly monitor and analyse attendance and absence data to identify pupils or cohorts that require support with their attendance and put effective strategies in place.

- 36 Attendance statistics will be monitored by the Attendance Champion and SLT each term to identify individuals or cohorts whose attendance causes concern.

- 37 Any member of staff who has concerns about any absence, or any pattern of absence, must inform the Head and Admissions Champion promptly.

Data Protection

Attendance data is personal data and is processed in accordance with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

We collect and use attendance data to:

- Monitor and improve attendance
- Identify pupils who need support
- Meet our statutory duties to report to the Local Authority
- Safeguard pupils

We share attendance data with:

- Wandsworth Local Authority (statutory requirement)
- External agencies (e.g., Educational Welfare Service, social care) where necessary to support pupils
- Senior schools (as part of the admissions process)

Parents have the right to:

- Access their child's attendance data
- Request correction of inaccurate data
- Complain to the Information Commissioner's Office if they believe we have not handled their data correctly

For more information, see our Privacy Notice on the school website.

Attendance Codes

Present (Statistically Counted as Present)

Code	Description
/	Present (morning session)
\	Present (afternoon session)
L	Late arrival, before register closes
P	Participating in a supervised sporting activity
V	Attending an educational visit or trip
B	Other approved off-site educational activity (strictly supervised)
K	Attending local authority arranged provision

Authorised Absence (Statistically Not Present)

Code	Description
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C1	Leave for regulated performance or education abroad
C2	Leave for a part-time timetable (compulsory school age pupils under medical timetable)
C	Exceptional circumstances leave, as per Regulation 11
I	Illness
M	Medical or dental appointments
J1	Interview — senior school
R	Religious observance
S	Studying for public examinations
T	Parent's occupational travel
E	Suspended or permanently excluded <i>with no alternative provision in place</i>

Unauthorised Absence (Statistically Not Present)

Code	Description
G	Holiday not granted by the school
N	Reason not yet established
O	Other/unknown reasons (not accepted)
U	Arrived after registration closed

Other (Not Possible Attendance)

Code	Description
Q	Unable to attend due to lack of access arrangements (e.g. accessibility issues or LA transport failure) *
X	Pupil not of compulsory school age and timetable does not require them to attend
Y1	Unable to attend due to usual transport not available
Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread travel disruption
Y3	Partial site closure at school (e.g. facility unavailable)
Y4	Whole school unexpected closure

- Y5 Pupil detained in youth justice facility
- Y6 Advised not to attend due to public health guidance
- Y7 Other unavoidable causes
- D Dual registration at another school
- Z Prospective pupil (not on admission register; admin use only)
- # Planned whole-school closure (admin use only)

