



ATTENDANCE AND REGISTRATION POLICY FOR EYFS PUPILS (6 MONTHS TO 5 YEARS)

Aims

This policy outlines Forfar Education's commitment to ensuring excellent attendance for pupils the Early Years at its schools and nursery settings (6 months to 5 years). It sets out our approach to meeting statutory obligations regarding pupil attendance, as guided by the Department for Education's statutory guidance "Working Together to Improve School Attendance." This policy details how we manage the registration process and the strategies we employ to encourage consistent attendance. Our commitment includes:

- Setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils.
- Promoting the benefits of excellent attendance.
- Reducing absenteeism, including persistent and severe absence.
- Acting early to address emerging patterns of absence.
- Fostering strong relationships with families and, when necessary, local partners, to support pupils in attending nursery regularly.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **The Board of Governors** is responsible for ensuring Forfar Education meets its statutory duties regarding attendance, including maintaining accurate attendance records and collaborating with local partners to address any attendance-related barriers.
- **The Board of Governors** delegates responsibility for implementing this policy to the Nursery Managers:
 - Overseeing the implementation of this policy.
 - Reporting attendance data to the Board.
 - Supporting staff in monitoring individual pupil attendance.
 - Working with families of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and those with a social worker or who are looked-after children, to ensure regular attendance.

- Coordinating with local authorities on attendance issues, particularly concerning looked-after children or pupils with an education, health, and care plan (EHCP).
- Each school and nursery has an **Attendance Champion** and they are responsible for:
 - Collaborating with the wider team to ensure attendance policies are followed.
 - Identifying staff training needs related to attendance.
 - Overseeing attendance data analysis and identifying areas for intervention.
 - Liaising with parents, pupils, and external agencies when necessary.
 - Developing and implementing intervention plans for pupils with attendance concerns.

Children Below Statutory School Age

Whilst attendance at an early years setting is not mandatory until the start of term following a child's 5th birthday, regular poor attendance may be indicative of safeguarding and welfare concerns and will be followed up by the nursery.

The setting manager, or those with delegated responsibility for attendance, will follow up on absences in a timely manner. If a child is absent for a prolonged period of time, or if a child is absent without notification from the parent or carer, attempts must be made to contact the child's parents and/or carers, and/or alternative emergency contacts. Staff must consider patterns and trends in a child's absences and their personal circumstances and use their professional judgement when deciding if their absence should be considered as prolonged.

Consideration must be given to the child's vulnerability, parent's and/or carer's vulnerability and their home life. Any concerns must be referred to local children's social care services and/or a police welfare check requested.

The following procedure will be followed:

- In the first instance the nursery manager/school Attendance Champion should discuss a child's attendance with their parents to ascertain any potential barriers i.e. transport, working patterns etc and should work with the parent/s to offer support where possible.
- If poor attendance continues and strategies to support are not having an impact, the setting manager/Attendance Champion must review the situation with the head of early years and decide if a referral to a multi-agency team is appropriate.

- Where there are already safeguarding and welfare concerns about a child or a child protection plan is in place, poor/irregular attendance at the setting is reported to the Social Care worker without delay.

Registration Process

Each nursery maintains an accurate attendance register.

Attendance is recorded at the following times:

- 8am-6pm
- 8am-1pm
- 1pm-6pm
- 8.30am-3.30pm

Absences are recorded promptly every morning and afternoon via Ovivo. Absences that are not reported with half an hour of the session start time are followed up with parents to ensure the safety and well-being of pupils. If a child has not arrived at nursery and no valid explanation for this has been provided, the **Missing Child Policy** will be followed.

Safeguarding Considerations

Registration is crucial for safeguarding. The setting will follow up on absences in a timely manner. If a child is absent for a prolonged period of time, or if a child is absent without notification from the parent or carer, attempts must be made to contact the child's parents and/or carers and **alternative emergency contacts**. Providers must consider patterns and trends in a child's absences and their personal circumstances and use their professional judgement when deciding if their absence should be considered as prolonged. Consideration must be given to the child's vulnerability, parent's and/or carer's vulnerability and their home life. Any concerns must be referred to local children's social care services and/or a police welfare check requested.

Nursery registers take place on Ovivo. If the system is unavailable, the attendance is manually recorded. Attendance records should accurately reflect whether a pupil is present or absent.

The Role of Parents

Parents play a vital role in ensuring the nursery maintains accurate attendance records and supports pupil well-being. If a child is unable to attend nursery due to illness or any other reason, parents must inform the nursery as soon as possible—ideally before the start of the school day. Notification should be made via the designated communication channels, such as a phone call or via Ovivo.

In cases of prolonged absence, parents may be required to provide medical documentation or further details. Regular communication between parents and the

nursery helps ensure appropriate support is in place for the pupil upon their return and allows the nursery to fulfil its safeguarding responsibilities. Consistently failing to report absences may result in follow-up actions from the nursery in line with this policy.

If children are absent without cause, or are absent for a prolonged period of time and it has not been possible to make contact with parents then the nursery may:

- follow up with the parents and/or carers and contacting emergency contacts if parents and/or carers are not contactable.
- implementing the setting's safeguarding procedures

Educational Visits

Pupils attending educational visits are registered at the start of each activity. Attendance is tracked, and any discrepancies are investigated.

Absence and Leave Requests

Absences should be reported to the nursery as soon as possible. The Nursery Manager, or their respective deputies, are responsible for approving absences under exceptional circumstances.

Follow-up on Absences

If the absence remains unexplained after unsuccessfully contacting parents and emergency contacts, the DSL will be informed, and the safeguarding policy will be followed.

Monitoring Attendance

Attendance records are reviewed regularly to identify any issues. Attendance is also monitored monthly by the Attendance Champion, who provides reports to the Head of Early Years.

Working with Local Partners

Forfar Education and its schools and early years settings work closely with local authorities to ensure that all attendance matters are addressed in accordance with the law. This includes:

- Notifying the local authority when a pupil's name is added to or removed from the nursery register.
- Providing attendance returns to the local authority for pupils with unauthorised absences or extended illnesses.

Breach of this Policy

Failure to comply with the attendance and registration policy may result in disciplinary action. Nurseries are legally obligated to maintain accurate attendance records and follow up on absences as part of its duty of care.

Legislative Framework & Further Guidance

In addition to 'Working Together To Improve School Attendance', this policy draws on the following pieces of legislation, which set out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance generally:

- The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework
- Part VI of the Education Act 1996
- Part 3 of the Education Act 2002
- Part 7 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (and 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2016 amendments) and School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024
- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/757/regulation/2/madelt> also refers to:
- School census guidance
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Children Missing in Education
- Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for school

Policy Owner: Group Head of Early Years

Last Reviewed: April 2026

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