

Ambleside Academy Attendance Statement

Vision

Ambleside Academy stakeholders know and believe that all children are better when they are in school every day. They are better academically, mentally, physically and socially. We aim for every child to be in school for at least 96% of the time. Where there are children who fall below this, we listen to families and offer support to remove barriers to attendance. Every second of learning counts, so we want all children to be punctual and accessing a full curriculum.

Staff roles

Everyone in our school has an important role to play in supporting a child's attendance.

Our Senior Attendance Champion is Louise Marsh.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team welcome children and families at the school gates and on the playground as they arrive at school. Class teachers and Teaching Assistants open their doors and welcome the children into their classrooms. Our site staff are also on the playground and the office staff know that they are the welcoming face to our school for any visitors, or for any children who arrive late.

Absences are reported to parents as days of learning missed, and punctuality is recorded as minutes of learning lost as well as any specific lessons that have been repeatedly missed. This is to help recognise the importance of children accessing their full curriculum entitlement. This information is passed to the class teacher so that they can speak with the parents and find out about any barriers to attendance or punctuality that they can overcome together. The teaching team can also call upon the Raleigh Education Trust Attendance Team for further support.

Family roles

All children need to be on time as every lesson counts. The children are expected to show they are ready for learning by being in the correct uniform and bringing anything that they need for the day.

Recognition of attendance

Recognition of good attendance takes place in a variety of ways. It could be that all children who achieve 100% for each half term receive a prize; or it may be that those children who are the focus for that half term and make an improvement to their attendance receive a prize. Each half term there is a fresh focus.

What happens if attendance needs to improve?

As outlined in the Trust Policy, attendance concerns will be discussed with parents/carers. In the first instance, a range of supportive interventions are offered to try to reduce the barriers to attendance. All support is tailored to each individual child's needs.

If poor attendance continues, then the family's case will be passed to the Raleigh Education Trust Attendance Team who will carry out formal meetings and where necessary, put in place attendance plans. If poor attendance continues, a discussion will be held with a representative from the Education Welfare Service to decide whether a more formal route of support is required.

At Ambleside Academy however, we believe that the most important thing is to support our families who are struggling with their child's attendance. This support is bespoke and tailored to the individual case according to their need. The packages of support may include: daily phone calls to ensure the family are awake and getting ready for school; home visits, and good communication to ensure the family's views are heard; building strong relationships between teaching staff and the family; practical help for those with poor mental or physical health; the offer of breakfast club provision; early morning tutoring incentives; meet and greets with key adults. Family rewards are also given out if consistent improvements in attendance are sustained.

Personalising our approach when speaking with parents helps to establish good working relationships. Showing an understanding of each individual case allows parents to express their views. By avoiding generalising children as "all having the same needs and experiences" we can ensure that parents do not feel that they are not being listened to.

Conclusion

Having good attendance and being on time is essential for all: it is an important life skill to develop at an early age. At Ambleside, we make good use of data analysis and act upon what it shows, to offer the right support where it is needed. All staff understand their roles within raising attendance and punctuality - **attendance and punctuality are the talk of our school!**