



# Cambo First School

## Primary Attendance and Absence Policy

Date policy last reviewed: Aut 24

Signed by:

P Cummings

9/9/24

Headteacher

Date:

PAV Walker

23/9/24

Chair of governors

Date:

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## Statement of intent

Cambo First School believes that in order to facilitate teaching and learning, good attendance is essential. Children cannot achieve their full potential if they do not regularly attend school.

We understand that barriers to attendance are complex, and that some children find it harder than others to attend school; therefore, we will continue to prioritise cultivating a safe and supportive environment at school, as well as strong and trusting relationships with children and parents.

We take a whole-school approach to securing good attendance, and recognise the impact that our efforts in other areas – such as the curriculum, behaviour standards, bullying, SEND support, pastoral support, and the effective use of resources such as pupil premium – can have on improving attendance.

We are committed to:

- Promoting and modelling high attendance and its benefits.
- Ensuring equality and fairness for all.
- Ensuring this attendance policy is clear and easily understood by staff, children and parents.
- Intervening early and working with other agencies to ensure the health and safety of our children.
- Building strong relationships with families to overcome barriers to attendance.
- Working collaboratively with other schools in the area, as well as other agencies.
- Ensuring parents follow the framework set in section 7 of the Education Act 1996, which states that the parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause them to receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude, and to any SEND they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.
- Ensuring our attendance policy is clear and easily understood by all staff, parents and children.
- Regularly monitoring and analysing attendance and absence data to identify pupils or cohorts that require more support.

The school's attendance officer is the Head Teacher, and can be contacted via [Paula.Cummings@cambo.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:Paula.Cummings@cambo.northumberland.sch.uk). Staff, parents and children will be expected to contact the Head Teacher for queries or concerns about attendance.

## **1. Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (As amended)
- The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014
- Children and Young Persons Act 1963
- DfE (2022) 'Working together to improve school attendance'
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2023'
- DfE (2016) 'Children missing education'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy
- Children Missing Education Policy
- Pupils with Additional Health Needs Attendance Policy

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

The governing body has overall responsibility for:

- Monitoring the implementation of this policy and all relevant procedures across the school.
- Promoting the importance of good attendance through the school's ethos and policies.
- Working with the Head Teacher to set goals for attendance and providing support and challenge around delivery against those goals.
- Regularly reviewing attendance data.
- Ensuring that this policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds, including, but not limited to, ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
- Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.
- Having regard to 'Keeping children safe in education' when making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Ensuring there is a Children Missing Education Policy in place and that this is regularly reviewed and updated.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy and all relevant procedures across the school.

- Arranging attendance training for all relevant staff that is appropriate to their role.
- Ensuring all parents are aware of the school's attendance expectations and procedures.
- Ensuring that every child has access to full-time education and will act as early as possible to address patterns of absence.
- The overall strategic approach to attendance in school.
- Developing a clear vision for improving attendance.
- Monitoring attendance and the impact of interventions.
- Analysing attendance data and identifying areas of intervention and improvement.
- Communicating with pupils and parents with regard to attendance.
- Following up on incidents of persistent poor attendance.
- Informing the LA of any child being deleted from the admission and attendance registers.

Staff are responsible for:

- Following this policy and ensuring children do so too.
- Ensuring this policy is implemented fairly and consistently.
- Modelling good attendance behaviour.
- Using their professional judgement and knowledge of individual children to inform decisions as to whether any welfare concerns should be escalated.
- Where designated, taking the attendance register at the relevant times during the school day.

Children are responsible for:

- Attending their lessons and any agreed activities when at school.
- Arriving punctually to lessons when at school.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing accurate and up-to-date contact details.
- Providing the school with more than one emergency contact number.
- Updating the school if their details change.
- The attendance of their children at school.
- Promoting good attendance with their children.

### **3. Definitions**

The following definitions apply for the purposes of this policy:

**Absence:**

- Arrival at school after the register has closed
- Not attending school for any reason

**Authorised absence:**

- An absence for sickness for which the school has granted leave

- Medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall during school time, for which the school has granted leave
- Religious or cultural observances for which the school has granted leave
- An absence due to a family emergency

#### **Unauthorised absence:**

- Parents keeping children off school unnecessarily or without reason
- Truancy before or during the school day
- Absences which have never been properly explained
- Arrival at school after the register has closed
- Absence due to shopping, looking after other children or birthdays
- Absence due to day trips and holidays in term-time which have not been agreed
- Leaving school for no reason during the day

#### **Persistent absence (PA):**

- Missing 10 percent or more of schooling across the year for any reason

#### **4. Attendance expectations**

The school has high expectations for pupils' attendance and punctuality, and ensures that these expectations are communicated regularly to parents and pupils.

Children will be expected to attend school punctually every day they are required to be at school, for the full day.

The school day starts at 8.45am, and children will be in their classroom, ready to begin lessons at this time; therefore, children will be expected to be on the school site by 8:40am where possible [most children travel via school transport]. Children will have a morning break at 10/15 or 10.30 depending on class. This will last for 15 minutes, and a lunch break at 11.45am/11.55am depending on class, which will last until 1:00pm – Children will be expected to have returned from each break and be ready to recommence learning at the stated times.

Registers will be taken as follows throughout the school day:

- The morning register will be marked by 9:00am. Children will receive a late mark if they are not in their classroom by this time. Pupils attending after this time will receive a mark to show that they were on site, but this will count as a late mark
- The morning register will close at 9:15am. Children will receive a mark of absence if they do not attend school before this time
- The afternoon register will be marked by 1:00pm. Children will receive a late mark if they are not in their classroom by this time
- The afternoon register will close at 1:10pm. Children will receive a mark of absence if they are not present

Children will be encouraged to communicate any concerns related to attendance and absence as soon as possible to the relevant member of staff.

#### **5. Absence procedures**

Parents will be required to contact the school office via telephone before 9:00am on the first day of their child's absence – they will be expected to provide an explanation for the absence and an estimation of how long the absence will last, e.g. one school day.

Where a pupil is absent, and their parent has not contacted the school by the close of the morning register to report the absence, the school secretary will contact the parent by telephone call as soon as is practicable on the first day that they do not attend school.

The school will always follow up any absences in order to:

- Ascertain the reason for the absence.
- Ensure the proper safeguarding action is being taken.
- Identify whether the absence is authorised or not.
- Identify the correct code to use to enter the data onto the school census system.

The school will not request medical evidence in most circumstances where a child is absent due to illness; however, the school reserves the right to request supporting evidence where there is genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity of the illness.

In the case of PA, arrangements will be made for parents to speak to the Head teacher. The school will inform the LA, on a termly basis, of the details of children who fail to attend regularly, or who have missed 10 school days or more without authorisation.

If a child's attendance drops below 85 percent, the Head teacher will be informed, and a formal meeting will be arranged with the child's parent.

Where a child has not returned to school for 10 days after an authorised absence, or is absent from school without authorisation for 20 consecutive school days, the school will remove the child from the admissions register if the school and the LA have failed to establish the whereabouts of the child after making reasonable enquiries.

## **6. Attendance register**

The school uses SIMS to keep attendance registers to ensure they are as accurate as possible and can be easily analysed and shared with the appropriate authorities.

The School Secretary will take the attendance register at the start of each school day and at the start of the afternoon session. This register will record whether children are:

- Present.
- Absent.
- Attending an approved educational visit.
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

The school will use the national attendance codes to ensure attendance and absence are monitored and recorded in a consistent way. The following codes will be used:

- / = Present in the morning
- \ = Present in the afternoon
- L = Late arrival before the register has closed
- C = Leave of absence granted by the school
- E = Excluded but no alternative provision made



- H = Authorised holiday
- I = Illness
- M = Medical or dental appointments
- R = Religious observance
- B = Off-site education activity
- G = Unauthorised holiday
- O = Unauthorised absence
- U = Arrived after registration closed
- N = Reason not yet provided
- X = Not required to be in school
- T = Gypsy, Roma and Traveller absence
- V = Educational visit or trip
- P = Participating in a supervised sporting activity
- D = Dual registered – at another educational establishment
- Y = Exceptional circumstances
- Z = Pupil not on admission register

When the school has planned in advance to be fully or partially closed, the code ‘#’ will be used for the relevant pupils who are absent. This code will also be used to record year groups who are not due to attend because the school has set different term dates for different years, e.g. induction days.

All amendments made to the attendance register will include the original entry, the amended entry, the reason for the amendment, the date of amendment and the name and role of the person who made the amendment.

Every entry received into the attendance register will be preserved for three years.

## **7. Authorising parental absence requests**

Parents will be required to request certain types of absence in advance. All requests for absence will be handled by the headteacher/Chair of Governors – the decision to grant or refuse the request will be at the sole discretion of the headteacher/Chair of Governors, taking the best interests of the child and the impact on the child’s education into account. The headteacher’s/Chair of Governor’s decision is not subject to appeal; however, the school will be sympathetic to requests for absence by parents, and will not deny any request without good reason.

### **Leave of absence**

The school will only grant a child a leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. In order to have requests for a leave of absence considered, the school will expect parents to contact the headteacher in writing at least two weeks prior to the proposed start date of the leave of absence, providing the reason for the proposed absence and the dates during which the absence would be expected to occur.

Any requests for leave during term time will be considered on an individual basis and the child’s previous attendance record will be taken into account. Where the absence is granted, the headteacher will determine the length of time that the child can be away from school. The school is not likely to grant leaves of absence for the purposes of family holidays.

Requests for leave will not be granted in the following circumstances:

- Immediately before and during statutory assessment periods
- When a child's attendance record shows any unauthorised absence
- Where a pupil's authorised absence record is already above 10 percent for any reason

If term-time leave is not granted, taking a child out of school will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and may result in sanctions, such as a penalty notice. The school cannot grant leaves of absence retrospectively; therefore, any absences that were not approved by the school in advance will be marked as unauthorised.

### **Illness and healthcare appointments**

Parents will be expected to make medical or dental appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. Where this is not possible, parents will be expected to obtain approval for their child's absence to attend such appointments as far in advance as is practicable. Parents will be responsible for ensuring their child misses only the amount of time necessary to attend the appointment.

### **Performances and activities, including paid work**

The school will ensure that all children engaging in performances or activities, whether they receive payment or not, which require them to be absent from school, understand that they will be required to obtain a licence from the LA which authorises the school's absence(s).

Additional arrangements will be made by the school for children engaging in performances or activities that require them to be absent from school to ensure they do not fall behind in their education – this may involve private teaching. These arrangements will be approved by the LA who will ensure that the arrangements are suitable for the child.

The child will receive education that, when taken together over the term of the licence, amounts to a minimum of three hours per day that the child would be required to attend a school maintained by the LA issuing the licence. This requirement will be met by ensuring a child receives an education:

- For not less than six hours a week; and
- During each complete period of four weeks (or if there is a period of less than four weeks, then during that period), for periods of time not less than three hours a day; and
- On days where the child would be required to attend school if they were attending a school maintained by the LA; and
- For not more than five hours on any such day.

Where a licence has been granted by the LA and it specifies dates of absence, no further authorisation will be needed from the school. Where an application does not specify dates, and it has been approved by the LA, it is at the discretion of the headteacher to authorise the leave of absence for each day. The headteacher will not authorise any absences which would mean that a child's attendance would fall below 96 percent. Where a licence has not been obtained, the headteacher will not authorise any absence for a performance or activity.

## **Religious observance**

Parents will be expected to request absence for religious observance at least two weeks advance.

The school will only accept requests from parents for absence on grounds of religious observance for days that are exclusively set apart for religious observance by the relevant religious body. The school will define this as a day where the child's parents would be expected by an established religious body to stay away from their employment to mark the occasion.

The school may seek advice from the religious body in question where there is doubt over the request.

## **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller absence**

Where a child's parent belongs to a community covered by this code and is travelling for occupational purposes, the parent will be expected to request a leave of absence for their child at least two weeks in advance. Absences will not be granted for children from these communities under this code for reasons other than travel for occupational purposes.

## **8. SEND- and health-related absences**

The school recognises that children with SEND and/or health conditions, including mental health issues, may face greater barriers to attendance than their peers, and will incorporate robust procedures to support children who find attending school difficult.

In line with the SEND Policy and Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy, the school will ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for disabled children to reduce barriers to attendance, in line with any EHC plans or IHPs that have been implemented. The school will secure additional support from external partners to help bolster attendance where appropriate.

Where the school has concerns that a child's non-attendance may be related to mental health issues, parents will be contacted to discuss the issue and whether there are any contributory factors to their child's lack of attendance. Where staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, they will inform the DSL and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be followed. All children will be supported with their mental health in accordance with the school's Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy.

If a child is unable to attend school for long periods of time due to their health, the school will:

- Inform the LA if a child is likely to be away from the school for more than 15 school days.
- Provide the LA with information about the child's needs, capabilities and programme of work.
- Help the child reintegrate at school when they return.
- Make sure the child is kept informed about school events and clubs.
- Encourage the child to stay in contact with other children during their absence.

The school will incorporate an action plan to help any child with SEND and/or health issues cope with the stress and anxiety that attending school may cause them. Such plans will be regularly monitored and reviewed until the child is attending school as normal and there has been signs of significant improvement.

To support the attendance of children with SEND and/or health issues, the school will consider:

- Holding termly meetings to evaluate any implemented reasonable adjustments.
- Incorporating a pastoral support plan.
- Carrying out strengths and difficulties questionnaire.
- Identifying children's' unmet needs through the Common Assessment Framework.
- Using an internal or external specialist.
- Enabling a child to have a reduced timetable.
- Ensuring a child can have somewhere quiet to spend lunch and breaktimes.
- Implementing a system whereby children can request to leave a classroom if they feel they need time out.
- Temporary late starts or early finishes.
- Phased returns to school where there has been a long absence.
- Small group work or on-to-one lessons.
- Tailored support to meet their individual needs.

Truancy will be considered as any absence of part, or all, of one or more days from school, during which the school has not been notified of the cause behind such absence.

All staff will be actively engaged in supporting the regular attendance of pupils, and understand the importance of continuity in each pupil's learning.

## **9. Missing children**

Children will not be permitted to leave the school premises during the school day. The following procedures will be taken in the event of a child going missing whilst at school:

- The member of staff who has noticed the missing child will inform the headteacher immediately.
- The secretary will also be informed as they will act as a point of contact for receiving information regarding the search.
- A member of staff will stay with the rest of the class, and all other available members of staff will conduct a thorough search of the school premises as directed by the headteacher.
- The following areas will be systematically searched:
  - All classrooms
  - All toilets
  - Any outbuildings
  - The school grounds
- Available staff will begin a search of the area immediately outside of the school premises, and will take a mobile phone with them so they can be contacted.

- If the child has not been found after 10 minutes, then the parents of the child will be notified.
- The school will attempt to contact parents using the emergency contact numbers provided.
- If the parents have had no contact from the child, and the emergency contacts list has been exhausted, the police will be contacted.
- The missing child's teacher will fill in an incident form, describing all circumstances leading up to the child going missing.
- If the missing child has an allocated social worker, is a looked-after child, or has any SEND, then the appropriate personnel will be informed.
- When the child has been located, members of staff will care for and talk to the child to ensure they are safe and well.
- Parents and any other agencies will be informed immediately when the child has been located.

The headteacher will take the appropriate action to ensure that children understand they must not leave the premises, and sanctions will be issued if deemed necessary. Appropriate disciplinary procedures will be followed in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.

The headteacher will carry out a full investigation and will draw a conclusion as to how the incident occurred. A written report will be produced, and policies and procedures will be reviewed in accordance with the outcome where necessary.

## **10. Attendance intervention**

In order to ensure the school has effective procedures for managing absence, the Headteacher, supported by staff will:

- Establish a range of evidence-based interventions to address barriers to attendance.
- Monitor the implementation and quality of escalation procedures and seek robust evidence of the escalation procedures that work.
- Attend or lead attendance reviews in line with escalation procedures.
- Establish robust escalation procedures which will be initiated before absence becomes a problem by:
  - Sending letters to parents.
  - Having a weekly staff review where pertinent.
  - Engaging with LA attendance teams.
  - Using fixed penalty notices where pertinent.

The school will use attendance data, in line with the '[Monitoring and analysing absence](#)' section of this policy, to develop specific strategies to improve attendance where patterns of absence are emerging. These strategies will be developed on a case-by-case basis, and will consider the particular needs of the children whom the intervention is designed to target.

The school will acknowledge outstanding attendance and punctuality in the following ways:

- Celebrated in community assemblies/end of term services
- Postcards home
- visits

School trips and events will be considered a privilege. Where attendance drops below 90 percent, these privileges may be taken away. The school will develop strategies for ensuring that children with health needs or home circumstances that result in additional absences are not unfairly excluded from attendance rewards, e.g. by setting individualised targets.

### 11. Working with parents to improve attendance

The school will work to cultivate strong, respectful relationships with parents and families to ensure their trust and engagement. Open and honest communication will be maintained with children and their families about the expectations of school life, attendance and performance so that they understand what to expect and what is expected of them. The school will liaise with other agencies working with children and their families to support attendance, e.g. social services.

The school will ensure that there are two sets of emergency contact details for each child wherever possible to ensure the school has additional options for getting in touch with adults responsible for a child where the child is absent without notification or authorisation.

The school will ensure that parents are aware of their legal duty to ensure that their child attends school regularly and to facilitate their child’s legal right to a full-time education – parents will be made aware that this means their child must attend school every day that it is open, save for in certain circumstances, e.g. sickness or absences that have been authorised by the headteacher in advance. The school will regularly inform parents about their child’s levels of attendance, absence and punctuality, and will ensure that parents are aware of the benefits that regular attendance at school can have for their child educationally, socially and developmentally.

If a pattern of absence becomes problematic, the headteacher will work collaboratively with the child and their parents to improve attendance by addressing the specific barriers that prevent the child from being able to attend school regularly. The school will always take into consideration the sensitivity of some of the reasons for child absence and will approach families to offer support rather than immediately reach for punitive approaches.

Where these barriers are related to the child’s experience in school, e.g. bullying, the Head teacher will work with any relevant school staff, e.g. the DSL /SENCO, to address this. Where the barriers are outside of the school’s control, e.g. they are related to issues within the child’s family, the Head Teacher will liaise with any relevant external agencies or authorities, e.g. EWO, children’s social care or the LA, and will encourage parents to access support that they may need.

<b>100% Attendance</b>	190 days+ 1 school year	With no absences
<b>95% Attendance</b>	180 days	Equates to 2 weeks of absence
<b>90% Attendance</b>	171 days	Equates to 4 weeks of absence
<b>85% Attendance</b>	161 days	Equates to 6 weeks of absence

Being frequently late for school also adds up to lost learning.

Arriving 5mins late each day adds up to three days of lost learning

Arriving 15mins late each day adds up to two weeks of lost learning

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>98% - 100%</b>	<b>Excellent Attendance</b>
<b>95% - 97%</b>	<b>Good attendance</b>
<b>92% - 94%</b>	<b>Satisfactory attendance</b>
<b>90% - 91%</b>	<b>Attendance could be better/unsatisfactory</b>
<b>below 90%</b>	<b>Classed as persistent absenteeism</b>

## 12. PA

There are various groups of pupils who may be vulnerable to high absence and PA, such as:

- Children in need
- LAC
- Young carers
- Children who are eligible for FSM
- Children with EAL
- Children with SEND
- Children who have faced bullying and/or discrimination

The school will use a number of methods to help support children at risk of PA to attend school. These include:

- Offering catch-up support to build confidence and bridge gaps.
- Meeting with children to discuss patterns of absence, barriers to attendance, and any other problems they may be having.
- Establishing plans to remove barriers and provide additional support.
- Leading weekly check-ins to review progress and the impact of support.
- Making regular contact with families to discuss progress.
- Assessing whether an EHC plan or IHP may be appropriate.
- Considering what support for re-engagement might be needed, including for vulnerable groups.

The school will focus particularly on children who have rates of absence over 50 percent, and will work with the LA and other partners to engage all relevant services needed to identify and address the wider barriers to attendance these children are facing.

Where a child at risk of PA is also at increased risk of harm, the school will work in conjunction with all relevant authorities, e.g. social services, to support the child in line with the school's duty of care. The school will also bear in mind that the continuation of severe PA following intervention may, in itself, constitute neglect, and will escalate any concerns in this regard in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## 13. Legal intervention

The school will allow sufficient time for attendance interventions and engagement strategies to improve children's attendance; however, where engagement strategies to improve attendance have not had the desired effect after one term, the Head teacher will consider:

- Holding a formal meeting with parents and the EWO
- Working with the LA to put a parenting contract or an education supervision order in place.
- Engaging children's social care where there are safeguarding concerns.

Where the above measures are not effective, the headteacher will issue a fixed penalty notice in line with the LA's code of conduct.

Where attendance still does not improve following a fixed penalty notice, the school will work with the LA to take forward attendance prosecution as a last resort.

#### **14. Monitoring and analysing absence**

The Head teacher will monitor and analyse attendance data regularly to ensure that intervention is delivered quickly to address habitual absence at the first signs.

The school will collect data regarding punctuality, truancy, and authorised and unauthorised absence, for:

- The school cohort as a whole.
- Individual year groups.
- Individual children.
- Demographic groups, where pertinent
- Other groups of children, e.g. pupils with SEND, LAC and children eligible for FSM.
- Children at risk of PA.

The Head Teacher will conduct a thorough analysis of the above data on a half-termly, termly and full-year basis to identify patterns and trends. This will include identifying, for each group:

- Patterns in uses of certain codes.
- Particular days of poor attendance.
- Historic trends of attendance and absence.
- Barriers to attendance.

The Head Teacher will provide regular verbal reports to staff across the school to enable them to track the attendance of children and to implement attendance procedures. The Head teacher will also be responsible for monitoring how attendance data changes in response to any interventions implemented to increase attendance in future.

The governing body will regularly review attendance data, including examinations of recent and historic trends, and will support the Head Teacher in setting goals and prioritising areas of focus for attendance support based on this data.

The school will also benchmark its attendance data against local-, regional- and national-level data to identify areas of success and areas for improvement, and will share practice which has been shown to be effective with other schools.

#### **15. Training of staff**



The school will recognise that early intervention can prevent poor attendance. As such, staff will receive training in identifying potentially at-risk children as part of their induction and refresher training.

The governing body will ensure that teachers and support staff receive training in line with this policy as part of their induction. Following this initial training, staff will receive regular and ongoing training as part of their development.

Training will cover at least the following:

- The importance of good attendance
- That absence is almost invariably a result of wider circumstances
- The legal requirements on schools, e.g. the keeping of registers
- The school's strategies and procedures for monitoring and improving attendance
- The school's procedures for multi-agency working to provide intensive support for children who need it

Staff will receive training to ensure they understand that increased absence from school could indicate a safeguarding concern, and know how such concerns should be managed.

## **16. Monitoring and review**

Attendance and punctuality will be monitored throughout the year. The school's attendance target is 96 percent – full details of the school's absence levels can be found on the school website.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher. The next scheduled review date for this policy is January 2024

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

**Aut 22/ Spring 2022/23** – School has been hit by several viruses/infections which are impacting on attendance

**Aut 22 – Attendance at 96%.** Children absent with genuine illness. Influenza 1, winter vomiting bug, tonsillitis, coved, scarlet fever.

Reported to Public Health/NCC- concerns re number s of children and staff ill. School deep cleaned over Christmas period

**Spring 23 Attendance at 96%** two-week break has not helped the situation. Revisited policy re infections, messages reiterated to children e.g. how to wash hands, catching sneezes and washing hands etc. Covid, Tonsillitis, Hand Foot and Mouth, Chicken Pox, vomiting bug , influenza

**Overall Attendance for 22-23** 97%.Autumn 23 has begun with illness once again re staff and children. Covid and other viruses in school. 50% of staff absent in first four weeks of school. [covid]

Overall attendance for 23-24 is 97.3%. No child is below 92%. Attendance is very good/outstanding. Holidays in term time is down on 22-23 - 0.4%

Illnesses as in 22-23

## Attendance Monitoring Procedures

Cambo First School has adopted the following attendance monitoring procedures, to ensure that pupils' attendance meets the expected standard, and effective intervention is provided where pupils' attendance falls below the standard:

1. The Headteacher monitors weekly, and annual attendance to date.
2. Attendance is discussed by classroom teachers Any attendance/punctuality trends noticed by classroom teachers are passed immediately to the Head teacher
3. Contact is made with parents on the first day of absence for any child absence not reported. 'N' codes are used to indicate that the pupil is absent for a reason not yet provided; these N codes are reported to the Head teacher daily.
4. Contact is made to the parents of any children marked using the N code. Any N codes not established after a week are recorded as an unauthorised absence.
5. If a child's attendance falls below 96 percent unexpectedly, then the Headteacher speaks to the child in school to discuss any issues or problems to ascertain how the school can help to improve their attendance. The Head teacher also makes a phone call home to discuss this with parents, if necessary. A good attendance leaflet is also sent home outlining how parents can work with the school and their child to improve attendance.
6. If a child's attendance falls below 90 percent, a letter is sent home explaining that the child's attendance is now being monitored, and the Headteacher contacts the parents to discuss this.
7. The pupil's attendance is monitored for two weeks and, if attendance does not improve after this time, parents are required to attend a meeting in school with the classroom teacher and set targets for their child. If parents are unwilling to cooperate, or are genuinely unable to attend, a referral may be required to the local education welfare officer (EWO), who will then conduct a home visit.
8. After the two-week monitoring period, and if targets are met, a letter is sent home from the SLT to congratulate the pupil and their parents on improving attendance. Monitoring and communication with the parents continues until attendance stabilises.
9. If targets are not met, the Headteacher makes a referral to the EWO. Education welfare protocol is followed, and a parental contract is drawn up. A four-week monitoring period is established and, if there are no improvements, a final written warning is issued to the parents if there is no improvement after an additional four weeks, then NCC protocols will be followed re fixed notice.

### NCC Protocols

Under the requirements of s7 of the Education Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act") it is the duty of a parent to ensure that every child of compulsory school age receives efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs or additional learning needs they may have.

New legislation comes into force on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 regarding the issue of Penalty Notices to address attendance concerns to commence, there will be a transitional period, but this new legislation will take effect for absences recorded from the start of the new academic year commencing in September 2024.

The following changes have been made:

- There will be a new “National Framework” which introduces consistency in the use of Penalty Notices across England by introducing a new national threshold at which they are considered. This will be met when a pupil has been recorded as absent for 10 sessions ( 5 school days) within a rolling period of 10 school weeks
- The National Framework also introduces a new national limit of 2 Penalty Notices within a 3-year rolling period.
- Penalty Notices can be requested by schools and academies and will be issued by the Local Authority to the parents/carers of statutory school age children, per parent, per child as appropriate.
- For a first offence, the Penalty Notice will be £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days rising to £160 if paid after the 21 days – it must be paid within 28 days.
- For a second offence, the amount is £160 per parent per child to be paid within 28 days.

Please note that a third penalty notice **cannot** be issued to the same parent for the same child within three years of the date of issue of the first. Prosecution / other interventions will be considered.

Should a Penalty Notice remain unpaid and it is not withdrawn then a prosecution for the substantive offence of failing to secure the regular attendance of a child of compulsory school age at school will be considered.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

Email [educationwelfare@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfare@northumberland.gov.uk)

You can also ring/email your child’s school.

Yours sincerely,



Refer also to NCC Code of Conduct