

Understanding School Attendance

Support First Approach

Early intervention in attendance is crucial. Schools are encouraged to closely monitor pupil attendance and punctuality using internal trackers and tools such as the schools' MIS (SIMS, Arbor etc.), FFT and View Your Education Data, tracking data and comparing it to local and national benchmarks.

Monitor the Data

Analyze Attendance, persistent absence (PA), and severe absence (SA), with subgroup comparisons to Islington and national data.

In the autumn term, use absence patterns instead of percentage thresholds due to the rolling nature of attendance data.

Deliver Targeted Interventions to Support Whole-School Strategies

Targeted interventions are tailored to pupils' needs based on schools' knowledge and data. These interventions vary by context and may address behavior, social and emotional learning, self-regulation, mental health, parental involvement, academic needs, or specific special educational needs.

Develop Expertise and In-School Support

Expanding Teams - Includes Pastoral Support, Attendance, Safeguarding, SEMH coaches, Attendance Mentor, EMO, Inclusion/SEND

CPD - Enhance expertise to understand pupil/family context for effective support

Holistic Understanding - Focus on learning needs, especially for SEND pupils.

Attendance is Everyone's Responsibility

Attendance is interconnected with teaching quality, school culture, and personal development.

Establish a clear policy with strong processes and procedures.

Implement a distributed leadership model, potentially developing attendance plans for classes, year groups, or houses.

Whole School Strategies

Includes school-wide initiatives to promote consistent attendance and punctuality.

- ### 1 Policy and Procedures

Attendance and Punctuality Policy
School target, roles and responsibilities, escalation process, first day, calling procedures, arrangements for late arrivals.

Escalation Process
Define thresholds, staff involved and support agencies, include Headteacher and Governors.

Registers
Consistent and child-centred attendance register coding.

School Attendance Champion
Should set a clear vision for good attendance, establish effective absence systems, ensure staff compliance, and use data to drive school efforts.
- ### 2 Communication and Updates

Attendance Noticeboard
Updates on trends, advice, and guidance for pupils and parents.

Structured Conversation
Outlining Islington approach.

Newsletter
Monthly tips, advice, trends, and interventions for families.

School Website
Attendance page with policy, advice, and tips for parents and pupils.

Staff Bulletin
Updates on trends, guidance, and research.

Staff, Pupil, and Parent Consultations
Gather views from all stakeholders.
- ### 3 Engagement and Education

Assemblies
Reinforce the importance of and celebrate positive attendances and punctuality.

Curriculum
Class / tutor time on expectations, procedures and benefits.

Parent Workshops
Topics like organisation, anxiety, self-harm, exam preparation, and stress.

Progress Evenings
Promote and discuss attendance and punctuality.

Discussions with Pupils
Reinforce the importance of positive attendance and punctuality.

Home Visits
Support to tackle poor attendance and provide additional family support.
- ### 4 Recognition, Rewards and Initiatives

Celebrations and Rewards
Termly events, Headteacher's afternoon tea, certificates, badges, non-monetary incentives.

Recognitions
Weekly zero absence/late positives, positive 'Thank You' texts, letters, or postcards to families.

School Council/Pupil Leadership
Strengthen attendances and punctuality efforts, manage notice board, contribute to the newsletter.
- ### 5 Building Resilience

Islington Mental Health and Resilience in Schools (IMHARS)
Improving mental health and wellbeing in schools by helping schools to identify the areas for improvement and plan steps that will best meet their needs, before putting measures in place.

Islington Trauma Informed Practice in Schools (ITIPS)
Understanding how the experience of trauma can impact on social and emotional development, the focus is on establishing trusting relationships, skills and competencies required to stay regulated and deal with setbacks and challenges.

Supported Transition Arrangements
Effective transition arrangements for all students; individualised for those identified as vulnerable.

Suggested Interventions

Targeted interventions should be based on a detailed analysis of each pupil's needs, whether related to behaviour, mental health, SEND or academic support. This might include:

<h3>In School Interventions</h3> <p>Academic Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional support in class Small group work Target Setting 	<p>Attendance Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance plan/contract Increased phone calls Home visits Meetings with form tutor or Head of Year Monitoring Report 	<p>Early Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate key adult Breakfast club Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting Home visits Personalised routines Reduced timetable 	<p>Enrichment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs and groups Homework club Extended projects Special events e.g. World Book Day School trips 	<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support from School Nurse Talking to pupils about their mental health 	<p>Incentives and Motivation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging and fun learning activities Rewards Incentives Walking bus (primary) 	<p>SEND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support from School SENCO Sensory audit (autism or social communication difficulties) Make reasonable adjustments 	<p>Social and Emotional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buddy system Counselling Pastoral support Mentoring
<h3>External Interventions</h3>							
<h3>Education Services</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative Provision Educational Psychology Service Islington Outreach Services Incl. NRC Outreach Mentors SEND Local Offer 	<h3>Health Services</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAHMS Adolescent Outreach Team Islington Additional Needs and Disability Services (IANDS) Incl. Speech and Language 	<h3>Young Islington</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Hubs The Emotional Wellbeing Team Targeted Youth Support Islington Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service (IYPDAS) 	<h3>Social Care and Early Help</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual School for CIA School Wellbeing Service Bright Start / Bright Futures / Family Hubs Adolescent Multi-Agency Support Service (AMASS) Transforming Care Prevention and Support Service (TCaPS) 	<h3>Other Support Services</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Benefits GP 			

Support from the Access and Engagement Service

Whole School Strategies and Interventions

Provide advice on developing and implementing effective school-wide attendance strategies and interventions

Individual Case Support

Offer guidance and support to manage individual attendance cases

Attendance Advice and Guidance

Respond to requests from schools with tailored advice and guidance on attendance issues

Intervention Signposting

Direct schools to appropriate interventions and resources (e.g. IslingtonCS)

Statutory Action and Prosecution

Implement statutory actions / prosecutions as a last resort in cases of persistent poor attendance or unauthorised term time leave

Targeting Support Meetings

Organise and facilitate meetings to target specific attendance issues and provide focused support

Attendance Profiles

Provide detailed attendance profiles to help schools monitor and improve attendance

Inclusion Hubs

Support the creation and operation of inclusion hubs to address attendance and inclusion challenges