



**Admissions, Attendance and
Children Missing from Education Policy**

(Including Attendance Guidance for Parents)

**ELIS VILLAMARTÍN
2021-22**

Policy Statement

The school maintains its Admissions and Attendance Registers in accordance with BSO Standards, as amended from time to time. The school adheres to BSO Standards when dealing with Children Missing from Education. The school will work in a collaborative way with external agencies, in accordance with the principles of Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the approach taken to:

- Recording information at the point a pupil is admitted to the school;
- Recording attendance information on a daily basis;
- Recording information at the point a pupil leaves the school; and
- Managing a situation when a pupil is deemed missing from education.

Content

- 1 Admissions
- 2 Attendance
- 3 Children Missing from Education

1 Admission of Pupils

- 1.1 For each pupil, the Admissions Register must contain:
 - Name in full;
 - Gender;
 - Name and address of every person known to the proprietor to be a parent of the pupil (and an indication of which parent the pupil normally lives with and which parents hold parental responsibility) – Note: parents holding parental responsibility, even if not actually caring for the child, have a right to receive relevant information from the school in respect of any pertinent matter affecting the child, unless a court order indicates otherwise. Where a parent notifies the school that a pupil will live at another address, in addition or instead; the new address, the full name of the parent with whom the pupil will normally live with in future and the date from which it is expected the pupil will normally live there, where it is reasonably practicable for the school to ascertain this information;
 - At least one telephone number at which the parent can be contacted in an emergency;
 - Day, month and year of birth;
 - Day, month and year of admission or re-admission to the school;
 - Name and address of the school last attended, if any; and
 - The name of the destination school (or additional school, in the case of dual registration) notified by a parent and the first date of attendance, where it is reasonably practicable for the school to ascertain this information (a new requirement from September 2016).
- 1.2 The name of a pupil must be included in the register from the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed, or has been notified, that the pupil will attend the school. For most pupils the expected first day of attendance is the first day of the school year.
- 1.3 Local legislation does not require the school to inform their local authority (where the school is situated) when a pupil's name is going to be deleted from the Admissions Register. However, under certain circumstances that is at non-standard transitions, the school will make every effort to obtain confirmation in writing from the new school that a child is registered.
In summary, these are:
 - When the child has been taken out of school to be home educated;
 - When the family has apparently moved away;
 - When the child has been certified as medically unfit to attend;

- When the child is in custody for more than four months; and
- When the child has been permanently excluded.

2 Attendance

2.1 Introduction

It is important that staff, parents and pupils are familiar with this policy. Regular school attendance from an early age creates a culture about the importance of education and learning so that all can benefit equally. Missing learning time leaves children vulnerable to falling behind and it is well known that poor attendance leads to lower levels of achievement. The foundation for good attendance is a strong partnership between the school, parents and the child, beginning from the Early Years.

2.2 The legal framework

- Legislation specifies the legal responsibility of parent/carer(s) of statutory school age children to ensure they attend school. All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to an efficient full-time education which is suitable for their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs; either by regular school attendance or home education.
- The same law requires the school to have an Admissions Register and an Attendance Register, and to place all children on both registers. Failure to do so is an offence.

2.3 Link between attendance and achievement

There is clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement, as well as a strong link between truancy and antisocial behaviour.

2.4 Parent/carer(s) responsibilities

- Encourage regular and punctual attendance, being fully aware of their legal responsibilities.
- Ensure that the child in their care arrives punctually, prepared for learning.
- Provide clear reasons for any absence which ensures the school can code the absence properly and accurately.
- Contact the school on the first day of the child's absence as early as possible and preferably before the start of the school day.
- Avoid making arrangements to remove children from school during term time.
- Respond helpfully and positively to any enquiry made by the school to ascertain the reason for any absence, including any safeguarding matter.

2.5 School responsibilities

- Promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence (deemed as attendance below 90%).
- Work to ensure every pupil has good attendance so he/she can access the education he/she is entitled to.
- Act early to address patterns of absence.
- Encourage parents to ensure their child attends all learning opportunities regularly and punctually.
- Keep accurate and efficient records of attendance and registration at school, including attendance at all after school and before school activities.

We achieve this in the following ways:

- The school's Management Information System (SIMS) records and tracks pupil attendance. From the system, we are able to extract data relating to overall session attendance; attendance on specific days and individual lesson attendance.

Admissions, Attendance and Children Missing from Education Policy

- The system records whether a pupil is present; absent but taking part in an approved educational visit; absent (either authorised or unauthorised) and whether a pupil arrived late.
- Attendance is also recorded on paper registers, kept in the school office. Registers, both paper & on SIMS, are completed by 9.15 am when they are submitted to the School Office. Tutors will mark the register using the following codes:
 - / Present (AM)
 - \ Present (PM)
 - B Educational Activity (off site)
 - C Absence (Authorised)
 - L Late
 - M Absent (Medical)
 - N No reason yet provided for absence
 - O Absence (not authorised)
 - P Educational Activity (on site)
 - S Suspension
- Tutors will monitor attendance and unauthorised or unexplained absences weekly, with the office contacting parents by phone or email after 1 day of unexplained absence. The office will inform the tutor of the outcome of the call and record the reason on SIMS. It is vital that all the tutors take an active role in discussing attendance concerns with the school office and contacting parents.
- The relevant Head of Department or Coordinator will contact the parents of pupils whose attendance raises cause for concern in their subject area and the matter may be raised with the Leadership Team or the Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- A pupil who is found to be marked as present in school and then misses lessons will be put onto an attendance report which will be given to the stage coordinator at the end of each day. Staff will keep a class register on paper for individual classes.

The School will also:

- Monitor attendance and lateness and implement strategies for promoting improved awareness of attendance such as year groups or vulnerable children, as required, including the use of formal letters home
- Report on patterns of attendance to our Safeguarding Governance Committee (SGC) to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils
- Specifically monitor any persistent absence (individual attendance below 90%)
- Consistently use the MIS standard codes to record and monitor attendance and absence in way which complies with the regulations, including preservation of the entries on both the admission and attendance register for a period of three years after it was made.
- Only the Head of School Section, Headteacher, or a member of staff acting on their behalf can authorise absence
- Close discussion with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to identify children causing concern, including interviewing children and parents regarding any unsatisfactory attendance.
- Implement any agreed improvement strategies such as referral to the Local Authority attendance services and/or children's social care in accordance with the safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures.
- Provide parent/carer(s) with the timings of the school day and the calendar via the school website and any other usual method such as the school newsletter, in advance

2.6 Good attendance

Our school considers good attendance to be that above 96%.

2.7 Late arrival

It is essential that, if a pupil arrives late, they should sign in at the school office so our systems remain fully updated in case an evacuation of the school is necessary and in order that we know exactly where every pupil is at all times.

2.8 Leaving school early during the day

- Pupils are not allowed to leave the site during the school day, unless accompanied by a member of staff or their known parent/carer; or to attend an off-site educational activity, an off-site scheduled lesson, or a sporting fixture.
- Any pupil needing to leave the school site during school hours for e.g. medical appointments must sign out at reception and sign in on return. For younger pupils the parents will need to do this. An appointment card or letter should be produced. Before signing out a pupil/parent should inform the tutor.

2.9 Requests for absence from parent/carer(s)

- Schools, not parents, authorise absence. Requests to the school for granting permission for leave of absence to a pupil during term time must be made in writing in advance directly to the Head. The Head is only able to authorise leave of absence where exceptional circumstances relate to the application. Authorised leave is unlikely to be granted for the purpose of a family holiday.
- We ask that parents make contact with the school when a child is going to be absent for ill health reasons in order that the school can keep records updated and, importantly, so that the school can be kept informed of their progress to full health and anticipated return date. If necessary, the school may ask for medical evidence of any illness. We expect any absence for illness to be evidenced by a note from the parent/carer(s) as soon as possible.
- An absence is classified as unauthorised if a child is away from school without the permission of the Head in advance.

2.10 Persistent absentees

Persistent absentees are pupils with attendance below 90%. The school will contact the parent/carer(s) if their child's attendance approaches this threshold. If attendance does not improve, the school will contact the local authority in accordance with local authority procedures.

2.11 Maintaining records and reporting to the authorities

The school's Attendance Register, kept by means of a computer, is backed up in the form of an electronic copy at least once a month.

2.12 Monitoring and review arrangements

Attendance rates are reported regularly to the Cognita Board. Proprietorial Governors report on pupil attendance, as well as any patterns or trends of persistent absence from school. Representatives of the Proprietor scrutinise Admissions and Attendance Registers for compliance and safeguarding purposes.

3 Children Missing from Education

3.1 Introduction

- 'Children missing from education are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school.'
- Children missing from education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later in life.

3.2 Statutory guidance

The school will, as best practice, follow the guidance 'Children Missing from Education'.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550416/Children_Missing_Education_-_statutory_guidance.pdf

3.3 School requirements

- Schools must enter pupils on the Admissions Register at the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed, or been notified, that the pupil will attend the school. If a pupil fails to attend on the agreed or notified date, the school should undertake reasonable enquiries to establish the child's whereabouts and consider notifying the local authority at the earliest opportunity.
- Schools must monitor pupils' attendance through their daily register and promptly address poor or irregular attendance. It is important that a pupil's poor attendance is referred to the pastoral/safeguarding team who will decide next steps such as notifying local authority or social services.
- Where a pupil has not returned to school for ten days after an authorised absence or is absent from school without authorisation for twenty consecutive school days, the school must make enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child. A pupil's non-attendance must be referred to the safeguarding team who will decide next steps such as notifying the local authority or social services.

3.4 Safeguarding

- The school has a safeguarding duty in respect of its pupils, and as part of this will investigate any unexplained absences.
- Where there are safeguarding concerns about any child, the school will always follow its Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, which includes reporting to the local authority.

Annex – Attendance Guidance for Parents

Note – this section is intended to be used by schools to share with parents in whatever form is most appropriate.

Introduction

Regular school attendance from an early age creates a culture about the importance of education and learning so that all can benefit equally. Missing learning time leaves children vulnerable to falling behind and it is well-known that poor attendance leads to lower levels of achievement. The foundation for good attendance is a strong partnership between the school, parents and the child, beginning from the early years.

The legal framework

Legislation in Spain specifies the legal responsibility of parent/carer(s) of statutory school age children to ensure they attend school.

The school is required to have an Admissions Register and an Attendance Register, and to place all children on both registers. Failure to do so is an offence.

Link between attendance and achievement

There is clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement:

- Of pupils who miss more than 50% of school, only 3% manage to achieve five A* to Cs including English and Maths;

Admissions, Attendance and Children Missing from Education Policy

- Of pupils who miss between 10% and 20% of school, only 35% manage to achieve five A* to C GCSEs including English and Maths; and
- Of pupils who miss less than 5% of school, 73% achieve five A* to Cs including English and Maths.

Parent/carer(s) responsibilities

- Encourage regular and punctual attendance, being fully aware of their legal responsibilities.
- Ensure that the child in their care arrives punctually, prepared for learning.
- Provide clear reasons for any absence which ensures the school can code the absence properly and accurately.
- Contact the school on the first day of the child's absence as early as possible and preferably before the start of the school day.
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An absence is classified as unauthorised if a child is away from school without the permission of the Head in advance.

Admissions, Attendance and Children Missing from Education Policy

Good attendance

Our school considers good attendance to be above 96%. The school will contact the parent/carer(s) if there are attendance concerns. If attendance does not improve, the school will contact the local authority in accordance with local authority procedures.

Ownership and consultation	
Document sponsor (role)	Director of Education
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Compliance	
Compliance with	Keeping Children Safe in Education, as amended BSO Standards

Audience	
Audience	Headteachers, school staff, parents

Document application	
England	No
Wales	No
Spain	Yes
Switzerland	No
Italy	No

Version control	
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Related documentation	
Related documentation	Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy