

The Importance of Regular School Attendance and Proactive responses at Compass

Regular school attendance is crucial for the academic, social, and emotional development of all pupils, especially those who are at risk of permanent exclusion or have been permanently excluded. Working within the framework provided by the Department for Education (DFE) in documents such as "Working Together to Improve Attendance" and "Keeping Children in Education 2023," schools must prioritise strategies to promote attendance and support pupils at risk.

At Compass School, we recognise that regular attendance is fundamental to student success and overall wellbeing.

Here's why regular attendance matters and how we proactively respond to attendance challenges:

1. Academic Achievement:

Regular attendance is strongly correlated with academic achievement. Pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to keep up with lessons, engage in classroom activities, and perform well academically.

2. Social and Emotional Development:

Consistent attendance fosters social connections and emotional well-being. Pupils build friendships, develop a sense of belonging, and access support networks within the school community.

3. Preparation for Future Success:

Attending school regularly prepares pupils for the demands of the workforce and higher education. It instils habits of responsibility, punctuality, and commitment that are essential for success in later life.

Proactive Response at Compass School:

Compass School Attendance Policy:

- The school's attendance policy is built on a staged approach that emphasises prevention, intervention, and support. This policy aligns with DFE guidelines and outlines clear procedures for addressing attendance issues while ensuring consistency and fairness.

Working with the Education Welfare Service and Partner Agencies:

- Collaboration with the Education Welfare Service and other partner agencies is essential for identifying and addressing the underlying factors contributing to poor attendance. These partnerships facilitate early intervention, access to support services, and coordinated efforts to engage pupils and families.

Involvement of Parents, Carers, and Pupil Voice:

- Engaging parents, carers, and pupils themselves is key to promoting attendance and addressing barriers to participation. By involving families in attendance monitoring, goal setting, and problem solving, Compass school fosters a sense of ownership and shared responsibility for improving attendance outcomes. Additionally, valuing pupil voice ensures that pupils' perspectives and experiences are considered in decision-making processes.

Commitment to Evidence Progress and Celebrate Small Positive Steps:

- The school is committed to tracking and evidencing progress against prior attendance records, using data to inform targeted interventions and evaluate the effectiveness of support strategies. Whether through small incremental improvements or significant milestones, every step towards better attendance is acknowledged and celebrated within the school community; the importance of celebrating small positive steps, the school acknowledges and rewards improvements in attendance, reinforcing the value of consistent school attendance and the efforts made by pupils and families.

Regular attendance is a cornerstone of student success and wellbeing at Compass School. Through a proactive and collaborative approach, we prioritise attendance monitoring, early intervention, and personalised support to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to thrive academically and socially. By working together with pupils, families, and external partners, we create a supportive environment where every student feels valued, engaged, and motivated to attend school regularly.