



Attendance Matters



The Academy of Woodlands believes that in order to facilitate teaching and learning, good attendance is essential. Pupils cannot strive for *excellence* if they do not regularly attend school.

At The Academy of Woodlands, we use the following process to support and promote attendance in school:

Expect

We aspire to high standards of attendance from all pupils and families and build a culture where all can, and want to, be in school and ready to learn by prioritising attendance improvement across the school. The Academy of Woodlands has high expectations for pupils' attendance and punctuality and follows the DfE guidance of 96%.

Monitor

We regularly analysis attendance data to identify patterns of poor attendance (at individual and cohort level) as soon as possible so all parties can work together to resolve them before they become entrenched.

Listen and understand

When a pattern is spotted, we will open a platform for discussion with families. We want to understand barriers to attendance and agree how we can work together to resolve them. The Academy of Woodlands will always try to support families in school.

Facilitate support

We look to remove barriers in school and help children and families to access the support they need to overcome the barriers outside of school. This might include working with external parties in the best interests of every child.

Formalise support

Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, we will explain the consequences clearly and ensure support is also in place to enable families to respond. Depending on the circumstances this may include formalising support through an attendance contract or education supervision order.

Enforce

Where all other avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or not being engaged with, we will enforce attendance through statutory intervention: a penalty notice in line with the National Framework or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education. We work closely with Medway's Attendance Advisory Service to facilitate successful outcomes for attendance.