

Inclusive Attendance Culture

Education is more than simply being in school — it is about children and young people being present physically, emotionally and socially.

Early support prevents problems from escalating, and everyone has a part to play in creating a culture where every child and young person feels they belong.

What is an Inclusive Attendance Culture?

Attendance is everyone's responsibility — every role, every day, for every child and young person.

Relationships come first. We prioritise understanding rather than making assumptions.

We act early, offer support first, and always ask:

"What is this absence telling us?"

We create safe, welcoming environments where every child and young person feels they belong.

What can you do?

Always act

Act in the best interests of the child.
Look beyond the absence and notice the signs.

Know how

Recognise signs of risk, unmet need and hidden vulnerability early.

Know the difference

Understand the different types of absence: authorised, unauthorised, attendance patterns and what they reveal.

Staff responsibilities

Read and understand the school's Attendance Policy.

Share and record any concerns.
Never assume this is somebody else's responsibility.

If you are unsure, speak to the Senior Attendance Champion, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or another trusted leader.