



This Statement has been adopted and approved by Oxlip Learning Partnership and is to be used by all members of the Trust.

<b>Attendance – TRUST STATEMENT</b>	
Reviewed	July 2024
Approved	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Date of next Review	Summer Term 2025-2026 (two yearly - odd years)
Responsible Officer	
Policy Number	

### Definition of a Parent

For the purposes of education law, section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' as:

- all natural (biological) parents, whether married or not;
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for the child or young person (this could be a step-parent, guardian or other relative);
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

A person has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child.

### Introduction

All attendance policies in the schools affiliated to Oxlip Learning Partnership should reflect our commitment to:

- promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent and severe absence
- ensuring every pupil has access to a full-time education to which they are entitled
- acting early to address patterns of absence
- promoting and supporting punctuality to school and to attending lessons
- supporting parents to perform their legal duty to ensure their child(ren) attend school regularly

Each school within Oxlip Learning Partnership will have its own attendance policy which will be published on their website. The attendance policies will be reviewed annually and reflect the Department for Education's school attendance guidance.

### Policy and Procedure

Attendance at school has become more challenging for all. The Trustees expect that the schools' attendance policy documents the priority being given to working together to overcome the challenges to attendance and ensuring all children can, and do, attend school consistently. Demonstrating how attendance is a key priority for each of the schools is something that should be explicit within the policy, such as a named attendance lead on the senior team and Local Board, attendance of disadvantaged learners being a key feature of the Pupil Premium strategy, attendance being a part of the development plan and senior team/Local Board meetings.

Each policy will establish how the school will manage attendance and the systems in place for monitoring attendance. The monitoring should make obvious the preventative measures being put in place to support a child/their family and the Trust's commitment to working together (other schools, family, Local Authority, and other partners) where absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe.

Finally, the policies should stress the partnership between attendance and safeguarding. This will be reflected in a culture at each school where, amongst other things, the vision for high attendance and the attendance policy is understood by staff, pupils and parents; registers are completed accurately for sessions and lessons and absence is followed up promptly as part of day-to-day processes; timely sharing of information between the attendance leads and safeguarding leads so that children's wellbeing and educational success is at the heart of our work on attendance.