

Attendance Support & Interventions 2022-23

Parent / Carer & Student Copy



The Vision

What can I expect from attending Endeavour Academy? Staff who will work with me to help develop my confidence, build on my resilience and teach me how to use positive communication to influence outcomes. Giving access to education which will empower me to develop the skills necessary to succeed in adulthood.

How will I get this.. by attending, engaging and contributing to the welcoming, happy, safe, and supportive learning environment where everyone is treated equally, and all achievements are celebrated. By showing kindness and respect to staff who work hard to give students the skills and confidence to achieve their goals now and in the future.

Introduction



Endeavour Academy is an Alternative provision Free School offering education to young people from across County Durham and beyond who have each been referred from mainstream schools due to experiencing Social and Emotional issues which had prohibited individual success within their previous school setting.

In supporting and managing student attendance, Endeavour staff operate in line with the Local Authority operational policy, the government legislation - '2006 Pupil Registration Regulations and the DfE document 'School Attendance - policy and practice on categorisation of absence'.

It is essential that students attend Endeavour Academy regularly if they are to be able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities that we provide.

Statistics support that good attendance at school is linked to increased academic and personal attainment.

There are a number of different reasons why students may not attend school. Some are acceptable, such as genuine illness, attendance at an interview, religious observance, or other legitimate off-site events, and all will be coded appropriately.

Some students and their parents / carers may condone absences which we do not feel can be authorised (e.g. holidays, shopping trips or non-urgent appointments). Some students may truant unknown to their parents / carers, perhaps because of anxiety about certain lessons, fear of failure, previous negative experiences or because they are under extreme family / personal or peer pressure.

As a school we will work together with parents / carers, their children and other agencies where necessary to encourage maximum attendance by:

- Having high expectations of all our students.
- Creating a caring and secure atmosphere in which students feel valued.
- Providing a stimulating and accessible curriculum.
- Providing an attractive, safe and nurturing environment.
- Supporting students if they have problems or concerns.
- Working closely with parents / carers and other key adults.
- Ensuring we adhere to the school's procedures for ensuring good attendance and punctuality.
- Offering bespoke student and family support / early interventions from school.
- Signposting / referring to supporting agencies where necessary.





Important information

- School hours are 8:45am -2:30pm Monday to Friday. It is important that students arrive promptly, well prepared for the day ahead. Students are encouraged and welcome to arrive from 8:30am.
- All students should be attending full time hours or as close to full time hours as possible with a plan to work towards, evidencing progress at regular intervals (these plans must be agreed by management and be agreed by any supporting agencies involved).
- Students are dual registered during trial periods (6 weeks / 30 school days). Attendance will be monitored very closely and only those who are meeting attendance expectations will be successful in transferring to Endeavour School roll.
- The Attendance Support Team is made up of school admin staff, the Family Liaison Worker, the Deputy Head of School (Pastoral) and an External Attendance Support Officer – all supported by our Link Trustee.

What students tell us was impacted through their own poor attendance in the past:

- More difficult to develop and maintain friendships
- Not feel sure where to sit in class
- Feel less confident
- Gaps in learning, long and short term
- Find lessons more difficult to engage in when you don't know what to do
- Behaviour can be worse when we don't know what to do in lessons
- Don't achieve as well as you could
- You can't get the rewards that are on offer
- You might not get into college or the apprenticeship you want
- Your parents / carers could get fined
- You can feel lonely or isolated
- You become more and more withdrawn

Strategies put in place to support / improve individual and whole school attendance include:



- Endeavour staff are present outside of the main college entrance between 8:35am and 8:50am to welcome and escort young people upstairs into the provision.
- A robust attendance policy is in place and reviewed regularly to ensure any updates are included and adhered to. This policy is available on the staff shared area and school website.
- Parents / carers are asked to inform / discuss with school any attendance related issues and are encouraged to make appointments around school hours where at all possible. In the event this is not an option, students are encouraged to attend school or complete work online before and after appointments.
- An external Attendance Officer is employed by one of Endeavour Academy's co-sponsors, who is available to offer advice and expertise throughout the year, working closely with Endeavour staff to monitor, support attendance where necessary.
- Work is made available online which is supported and monitored daily by school staff in the event of a student being unable to attend the building but deemed fit to attempt work. In this event, the team will make contact at various points throughout the school day with parent / carer and student to offer pastoral and academic support.
- All students referred to the provision are encouraged to commence a full timetable as there are many examples of young people making huge improvements following a change of setting.
- Attendance support plans will be introduced and reviewed regularly with timely increases / improvements planned throughout.
- All staff within Endeavour Academy work together with parents / carers and students to promote and support attendance and engagement.
- Each young person / situation is dealt with on an individual basis and all contributory factors will be taken into consideration to best support.
- Endeavour Academy staff aim to where possible, meet and even exceed government target figures and therefore have high expectations for those they work with.
- Students will be rewarded regularly for positive attendance

Due to the fact that many of the barriers which were present in a mainstream environment are eliminated or significantly reduced, along with the extensive support on offer, it would be expected that student attendance increases and remains positive throughout the duration of the placement with Endeavour Academy.

The information shown below gives an indication of how quickly a student's attendance % can decline following a period of absence from school.



Young people themselves, along with their parents and carers can support positive attendance figures by:

- Ensuring our students are well rested and get between 8 and 10 hours sleep.
- Limit screen time before bed and especially through the night
- Remove phones and computers at a sensible hour for those who lack self-control
- Create a calm and relaxing environment
- Talk about sleep issues
- Take time to reflect on the day, discuss worries and anxieties with a trusted adult who may be able to offer support and reassurance
- Ensure uniform is ready and set out in preparation for the following day
- In the event where absence is unavoidable, be prepared to access live online learning sessions to gain an attendance mark and reduce gaps in learning and return to school as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary escalations or worries

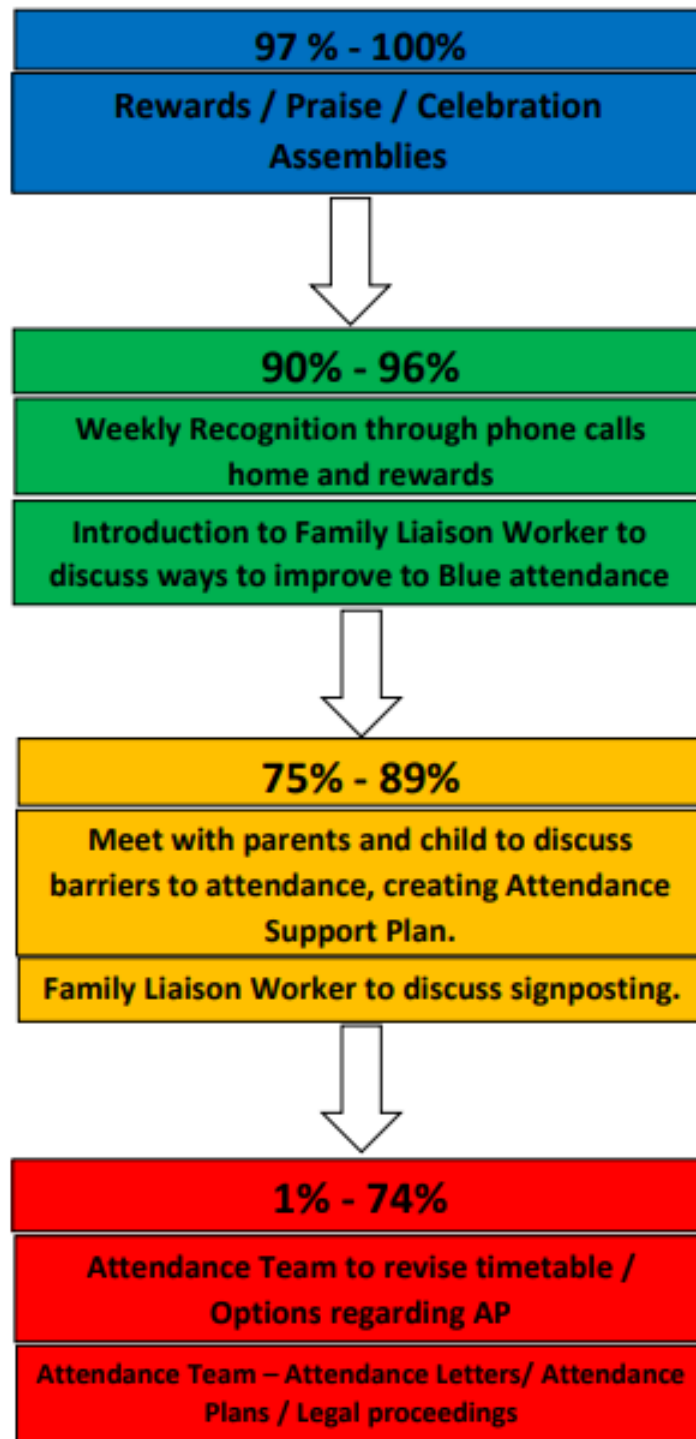
Check out this website for handy tips and information on sleep hygiene for Teenagers

<https://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/our-services/hospital/sleep-medicine-department/how-to-sleep-well-for-teenagers.aspx>

Flowchart to inform of interventions supporting attendance improvement



Attendance Improvement Flowchart



In the event of any absence –

- Parents / Carers must make contact with the school on 0191 5185595 before 9:15am to inform staff of the reason behind the absence.
- Parents / Carers must work with school to encourage online live learning if well enough to reduce further gaps in learning and avoid further issues.
- Parents / Carers should encourage a swift return to school to avoid potential future school avoidance.
- Parents / Carers must trust that staff have best interests at heart and will be ready and able to support the student with interventions.
- Parents / Carers must work with the Attendance Team / Family Worker to promote and improve attendance, welcoming home visits where necessary.
- Parents / Carers must accept that a referral to external services may be necessary in the event that attendance becomes a significant concern and all other support strategies have been unsuccessful.

Home Visits / Welfare checks

- Staff will carry out regular home visits where a student is absent from school
- We ask that parents and carers work with staff during those visits, promoting positive engagement and accepting interventions offered.

HOME VISITS



Communication with Partner Agencies



- Where other agencies are involved with a young person or the family, school staff will inform professionals of any concerns around non-attendance and request their assistance in supporting an improvement.



- School attendance is mandatory which means everyone must attend education.
- Whilst we understand some have been out of school for lengthy periods, barriers are likely to be reduced significantly in the smaller setting with higher staff to student ratio and therefore positive attendance is expected.
- Students who attend school regularly will have an increased chance of achieving academic success.
- Endeavour Academy staff are able to best support students when on site. Not only academically, but socially and pastorally. Resilience, self-confidence and academic self-esteem often increase very quickly, however they can each decline just as easily which brings further issues.
- Friendships and positive peer relationships are more likely to develop and be maintained through regular school attendance.
- Those who attend school regularly are more likely to obtain a place within college or chosen training provider.
- All attendance related communication, including phone calls, home visits and concerns are logged on CPOMs in a timely manner following school policies.

*Most importantly, **REMEMBER** that we are here to support you in making the most out of your time working with the provision.*

We aim to make this experience a pleasant one and to help create positive memories of those final school years, whilst raising aspirations, preparing our students for their next steps into post 16 environments and creating opportunities for success at every stage.