



EdStart- Specialist Education Ltd.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

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1. INTRODUCTION

EdStart provides full time specialist education for students who require bespoke, nurturing and an accredited provision.

We offer a tailored academic curriculum that combines a focus on core subjects and qualifications with a wide range of enrichment through the Art and Sport programmes to support our students' personal and social development. We ensure that our pastoral and vocational curriculums build this offer to a fulltime educational pathway.

Each Student has an Individual Learning Plan which is reviewed every half term. Targets for each student address learning and personal development needs as well as planning for next steps. These plans are tracked using whole school quality assurance and recording methods.

Students may stay with us for varying lengths of time and are supported throughout transitions to new placements or schools where there are identified as the best long-term setting for the student. Some students will attend with a shared responsibility and other students will be fully on roll to us as their long-term education provider.

Excellent attendance is the single most important factor enabling us to provide the best support for pupils in achieving their personal goals and targets.

Regular school attendance is essential if young people are to achieve their full potential.

Our Attendance & Admissions Policy should not be viewed in isolation; it is a strand that runs through all aspects of our education provision, supported by our policies on safeguarding, bullying and behaviour. This policy also takes into account the Human Rights Act 1998, the Race Relations Act 1965 (Amendment 2000) and the Equality Act 2010.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act states that parents must ensure that children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

A child is of Compulsory School Age at the beginning of the term following their 5th birthday. A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach the age of 16.

Under the Education Act 1996, the Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that parents secure education for children of compulsory school age and where necessary, use legal enforcement.

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, require schools to take an attendance register twice a day, once at the start of the morning session and then again during the afternoon session.

The register must record whether the student was:

- Present
- Absent
- Present at approved educational activity; or
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

If we do not see a pupil or hear from their parent/carer informing us of a valid reason why they are not able to attend school, this will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS/CARERS

Parents/carers are responsible in law for ensuring that their children of compulsory school age receive an efficient education suitable to their age, ability, aptitude, and any special educational needs that they may have. Most parents/carers fulfil this responsibility by registering their children at a school. Young People who attend EdStart are referred into us using our admissions process.

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their children attend.

Parents/carers should

- Ensure that their children arrive on time, properly dressed and ready to learn
- Instil in their children an appreciation of the importance of attending EdStart regularly
- Impress upon their children the need to observe EdStarts' code of conduct
- Take an active interest in their children's education career, praising and encouraging good work and behaviour and attending review's and other relevant meetings
- Work in partnership with EdStart to resolve issues which may lead to non-attendance
- Ensure that they are aware of this attendance policy
- Notify EdStart if their child is absent. This should be done as soon as possible - preferably on the first day of absence. They should also provide an explanation for the absence. This explanation should be confirmed - preferably in writing - when the child returns
- Avoid arranging medical/dental appointments during school hours
- Avoid booking holidays during term time

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF EDSTART

EdStart is responsible for supporting the attendance of students and for dealing with problems that may lead to non-attendance.

Schools are required to call attendance registers at the start of the morning session and once during the afternoon session and to record whether students are present, absent or on an approved educational activity.

For students of compulsory school age, schools are required to differentiate in the registers between absence that is authorised and absence that is unauthorised.

EdStart will:

- Work actively to maximise attendance rates - both in relation to individual students and for the student body as a whole - as one of their key tasks
- Support parents/carers in ensuring the regular and punctual attendance of students and promptly respond to any issue which may lead to non-attendance
- Be sensitive to the needs of individual parents/carers and this should be reflected in the way in which attendance issues are addressed
- Produce education project attendance policies which are consistently applied and clearly communicated to all parents/carers, students and staff
- Ensure that legal requirements are met
- Give a high priority to attendance and punctuality
- Identify clear channels of communication with parents/carers
- Ensure that up-to-date attendance data is available
- Identify what is considered as authorised/unauthorised absence
- Make provision for first-day of absence contact
- Have clear procedures to identify and follow up all absence
- Prioritise the importance of early intervention
- Identify a range of strategies to deal with absenteeism
- Be sensitive to individual students' needs
- Establish systems for rewarding good/improved attendance
- Establish procedures for re-integrating long-term absentees
- Ensure that all staff adopt a consistent approach in dealing with absence and lateness
- Ensure that good practice is identified and disseminated
- Be reviewed at regular intervals
- Make clear to parents/carers what is, and is not, acceptable as reasons for absence
- State how lateness, both before and after closure of registers, is recorded and monitored
- Make clear that leave for holidays during term time is granted only in exceptional circumstances
- Encourage all staff to see attendance as part of their responsibility
- Actively address all issues - such as bullying – which may lead to nonattendance

5. ATTENDANCE REGISTERS

Attendance registers are legal documents that may be required as evidence in court cases. Registers must be taken at the beginning of each morning and once during the afternoon session. EdStart should ensure that students can be accounted for in an emergency.

Registers must record whether each student is present, absent, or engaged in an approved educational activity. In the case of a student of compulsory school age who is absent the register must also indicate whether the absence has been authorised by EdStart.

When calling the register the appropriate mark and/or symbol should be placed against each pupil's name - gaps should not be left so that entries can be made later. In marking registers, EdStart will use the national set of symbols as required by the DfE. When the reason for a student's absence cannot be established at the beginning of a session, the absence should be recorded as unauthorised and any subsequent correction to the register made as soon as practicable after the reason for the absence has been established.

This policy should be used in conjunction with the schools admissions policy