

Procedure Title -

Getting it Right for Every Child

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

Procedure Number -

Management Information	
Lead Officer	Name: Gillian Barclay
	Designation: Depute Principal Psychologist
	Tel: 0131 469 2832
Lead Service Area	Schools and Community Services
Last Review Date	March 2020
Implementation Date	November 2020
Review Date	March 2021
Date Agreed	
Agreed by	
Has Screening for Equality Impact been undertaken for this procedure	No Date
Has Implementation and Monitoring been considered for this procedure	Yes Date
If appropriate has Health and Safety section had oversight of this procedure Name of Health and Safety contact	Yes/No: (please specify) Date

Definition: Procedure – An agreed method or approach to comply with Policy, Legislation and Departmental Decisions.

This document may be out of date if printed, the latest version is available on the Council Intranet.

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

1. PURPOSE

This procedure sits alongside a number of related procedures which all promote a positive ethos of inclusion.

It provides a clear and consistent framework for all staff to promote attendance and manage absence in line with 'Getting it Right for every Child' and 'Included Engaged and Involved – part 1: a positive approach to the promotion and management of attendance in Scottish schools'(2019).

We recognise the strong link between school attendance and a positive and inclusive ethos where every child knows they belong. This procedure must be implemented within the context of a positive and supportive culture.

We aim to ensure children attend school or another learning environment for the recommended 25 hours at primary school and 27.5 hours for secondary school.

2. SCOPE

This procedure sits within and is informed by the Communities and Families Included, Engaged and Involved in Edinburgh Policy. It is implemented within the context of our local approach to Getting it Right for Every Child and our recognition that strong partnership working with parents and children is crucial in achieving positive outcomes.

The procedure applies to all Communities and Families Services staff, parents and pupils.

3. DEFINITIONS

- **Child / children:** Describes any person under the age of 18.
- **CME:** Children Missing in Education
- **GIRFEC:** Getting it Right for Every Child, the Scottish national practice model.
- **Opening:** The school day is made up of two openings. The first until lunchtime and the second after lunchtime.
- **Parents:** Describes any person who has parental responsibilities and any person who has custody of a child, including foster carers and a parent who shares custody of a child.
- **Pupils:** Describes all children and young people who are enrolled or seeking to enroll in City of Edinburgh Council schools
- **Schools:** All local authority schools, mainstream and special schools, and all settings providing early learning and child care on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council
- **Staff:** describes all Children and Families staff.

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

- **S2S:** School 2 School transfer system facilitates the transfer of children's data when the receiving school is known

4. ACTIONS

4.1 Register of Admission

- 4.1.1 A register of admission and withdrawal must be kept for each school. Although SEEMIS holds all information required, an information sheet showing brief details of admission and withdrawals should be kept for back-up. **A pupil may only be entered on one school register at any one time. Every new pupil is provisionally enrolled until they have physically arrived in the school.**

- 4.1.2 In exceptional circumstances a school may need to enrol a pupil even though they have not physically arrived in school. This is in liaison with key partners and is ordinarily due to the identification of significant barriers to attendance. Enrolling in a school in this situation allows the local authority to co-ordinate an alternative package of educational support.

- 4.1.3 When a pupil has been admitted to the school, the register should be entered with the full name and date of birth of the pupil. Where a secondary pupil attends another school for certain classes, **they should appear only on the register of their base school.**

5 Withdrawal and Removals (School Roll)

- 5.1.1 A pupil should be entered on the register as "withdrawn" from school when:

- It has been confirmed that they have been enrolled in another school (this includes independent special schools but does not include school provision within secure services). This confirmation should be sought from others, e.g. the enrolling school, as well as from the parents.
- Confirmation has been sent from Headquarters to the school that permission has been granted for the pupil to be educated at home.
- If they have been absent for a period of four consecutive weeks. This action should be taken **only on the advice of the Education Welfare Service.** (see 6.5 for more information)
- They have reached 16 years of age and have decided to leave school;

- 5.1.1 Where a pupil has been withdrawn from the school, the register should be entered with the full name, date of birth and reason for withdrawal.

- 5.1.2 The School to School Transfer System [S2S] will facilitate the transfer of children's data from school to school where the receiving school is known. However, there are a number of pupils for whom the destination is unknown. When a destination school is unknown the pupil should be recorded as Code A on SEEMIS until another school notifies S2S that they have enrolled the pupil. The pupil should be kept on the school register until they are found or the school is authorised by the department to remove them.

6 Children Missing from Education (CME)

- 6.1 The Education Welfare Service should be informed of all absences that appear to be for no satisfactory reason. It is the duty of the Education Welfare Service to assist in tracing the

This document may be out of date if printed, the latest version is available on the Council Intranet.

3

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

pupil. It is helpful to notify the Education Welfare Service at the earliest opportunity in these circumstances.

- 6.2 In this situation consideration should be made as to whether the absence constitutes a wellbeing concern that should also be raised with social care direct. If the child is known to social work they should always be alerted to any unexplained absence.
- 6.3 The Education Welfare Service will support schools to investigate unexplained absences. This is likely to include;
 - a) making contact with those named in Emergency contact details held in the school
 - b) enquiries with known friends or family
 - c) enquiries with neighbours
 - d) where appropriate enquiries with social work and housing
- 6.4 Following initial enquiries consideration should be given to a possible referral to 'Children Missing from Education' (CME).
- 6.5 In all instance if a pupil has been absent for four consecutive weeks and, despite vigorous checks by the school and the Education Welfare Service, it has not been possible to trace the family a referral should be made to Children Missing from Education (CME) in order to continue the search for the missing pupil on a national level.
- 6.6 Details of any child deemed as 'missing' from education should be passed to the relevant primary or secondary Senior Education Officers. A report should then be forwarded to the Head Teacher / EWS for completion. The report is then returned to the Local Authority Designated Officer for full referral to CME to be actioned.
- 6.7 Advice should be sought from the Senior Education Welfare Officer regarding removal from the school register in such cases.

7 Maintaining the Register of Attendance

- 7.1 A pupil attendance register will be kept on SEEMIS.
- 7.2 For each morning and afternoon of any day that the school is open to pupils, the attendance register must be completed. The correct code entry should be made against the name of each pupil (see Appendix 3). (Primary see 12.1)
- 7.3 In SEEMIS each high school must record the attendance of individual pupils on a period by period basis. This will help identify pupils who are absent from classes throughout the school day and allow appropriate action to be taken at the earliest opportunity. Any unexplained absences from individual class periods should be temporarily recorded using the code 'TBC / T'.
- 7.4 Each school must have a clear procedure to follow up any non-attendance with the family at the earliest opportunity on the same day. The reasons for non-attendance and the code TBC / T should then be updated to confirm the reasons for the absence.
- 7.5 It is important to ensure that the correct code entry is made as quickly as possible as these codes determine the number of recorded absences. Following up absences in a timely manner

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

is also a key element of our duty of care to all pupils. It is essential that anomalies are dealt with on a daily basis.

- 7.6 For secondary schools using period-by-period registration, where a child or young person is late but attends any period in the first half of the opening, this will be converted to an overall L1 code for the opening (even if a later period is missed). If the first class is in the second half of the opening, this will be converted to an overall L2 code for the opening (even if a later period is subsequently missed). (see 12.1)
- 7.7 There are a number of situations where a pupil will be credited with attendance but will not be in school. These situations should be recorded using the specific associated SEEMIS codes;
- An approved course of study at college or another school (OAT /O)
 - Alternative timetable opportunities (OAT /O) schools should refer to [Flexible and Alternative timetables procedure](#)
 - School camp / excursion (FLD)
 - Work experience (WRK)
 - Study leave (STY)

A pupil will not be credited with attendance when they are not in attendance and are:

- Excluded (EXL)
 - On holiday with parents unauthorised (UPH)
 - On holiday with parents authorised (PHL)
- 7.8 For illegible post 16 learners attendance must be accurately monitored to ensure proper entitlement to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). The EMA is a weekly payment, paid directly to children or young people who stay on at school, and is designed to help overcome financial barriers which otherwise may prevent them from staying on.

Education providers will be required to record attendance of EMA recipients on days when the place of learning is open to young people. Where the place of learning is closed on days when it would normally be open, for example due to public holidays, extreme bad weather, polling days, in-service days, young people should be treated as having attended for the purpose of the EMA. Similarly, any medical or dental appointments should be recorded for EMA purposes as authorised absence as long as an appointment card or note is provided.

8 Absence from School – parent and school responsibilities and internal procedures

- 8.1 A pupil is considered absent if they fail to attend school for a period greater than half of the morning or afternoon session. This will affect their percentage attendance.
- 8.2 Schools should have a clear mechanism for all parents regarding how to contact the school to let them know if their child will be late or not attending and the reasons why.
- 8.3 Parents or carers should be contacted no later than 9.30am on the first day of absence. The register is updated as explanations are received. A clear and effective system must be in place in all schools.
- 8.4 If no satisfactory explanation is received, or if the absence continues beyond a reasonable period, two weeks, then the Head Teacher (or whoever they have delegated responsibility) should consider a formal referral to the Education Welfare Service and/or whether to initiate

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

the GIRFEC assessment and planning process. For schools who do not have ready access to the EWS, it may be beneficial to include the school's Home-Link support at this stage where available.

8.5 Home Link Support Staff should be used to target support for children whose attendance is between 85-90% as an early intervention support.

8.6 In all situations if a pupil's attendance drops below 85% the education welfare service should be alerted and consideration should be given to initiating the GIRFEC assessment and planning process.

8.7 The Education Welfare Officer should be given a computer printout of the pupil's attendance, a white record card and any notes or medical certificates as well as an Education Welfare Service Initial Referral Form.

8.8 Any absences which are explained as 'medical' shall be recorded using either:

D (Self Certified) – If a note of explanation is received which is written and signed by the parent or guardian of the pupil.

F (Medically Certified) – If a note of explanation is received which is written and signed by a General Practitioner or Hospital Doctor or equivalent medical professional.

9 Identifying and Addressing Barriers to Attendance

As Education Authorities under section 40 of the Standards in Scottish Schools 2000 Act we must ensure young people within their catchment areas do not miss out on their entitlement to an education.

9.1 Poor attendance can often be related to, or be an indication of, an additional support need. Schools should work with parents, pupils and partners to ensure that any barriers to learning are identified and appropriate support is provided. A useful starting point is the use of the primary or secondary CIRCLE resources.

9.2 It is important we understand the individual circumstances of children who are struggling to attend. Being a young carer, struggling to provide clean uniforms, payment for activities or a range of other family challenges can easily become barriers to attendance. Working together through our GIRFEC assessment and planning process can help us identify and overcome barriers together with families.

9.3 A solution must be found for the long term educational needs of pupils with care responsibilities (Information on carers and young carers' entitlement to assessment can be found in the Health and Social Care Act 2001.) If a pupil is unable to attend school due to such responsibilities, and their absence from education will not be long term and therefore categorised as Authorised Absence, there is an expectation that additional support services will be accessed to support the pupil. However, where additional services have not been accessed and care responsibilities become long term, the absence should be categorised as Unauthorised Absence (code R – considered unreasonable by EWO).

9.4 Unfortunately, in some situations a child's health needs may make attending school very challenging. As a local authority where appropriate we will provide outreach teaching during times of extended health absence. Where schools maintain contact with children and young people and parents and make arrangements to support learning during absence because of ill health, this can make a positive difference in enabling the child to settle in and make

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

progress on their return to school. Hospital teaching should be recorded for the duration of the session as SEP / B. Outreach teaching should be recorded for the duration of the session as OAT / O if the session is outwith the school building.

- 9.5 For some children they may be physically able to attend school but difficulties related to their emotional wellbeing and mental health are significant barriers to their attendance. For pupils with reported medical absences where Emotional Based School Refusal is suspected, every effort should be made to facilitate attendance. Schools should refer to the local authority resources for Emotionally Based School Refusal which can be found on the [Inclusion Hub](#).
- 9.6 Community issues can either result in reluctance to attend school for fear of repercussions or disengagement from school due to the pull of other activities. Schools should work with families and key partners through the GIRFEC assessment and planning process to understand the local context and the impact it might be having on individual pupil engagement with school.
- 9.7 The use of drugs and alcohol by children and young people can affect school attendance and achievement in a number of ways and is important to intervene and implement supports at the earliest opportunity.

Similarly it is also crucial that children and young people affected by a family member's substance misuse problem are effectively supported.

- 9.8 Difficulties with relationships can develop into anxieties that may impact on school attendance. Every school should implement clear strategies and supports in relation to bullying, pastoral support and developing positive relationships described locally as the 4 R's; Relationships, Rights Respecting, Resilience building, Restorative.
- 9.9 **Promoting the attendance of care experienced children and young people is a local authority priority. Every school must have a system for tracking the attendance of care experienced learners. This must include a monthly update to any allocated social worker along with a summary of achievements. Allocated social workers should be alerted immediately to any unexplained absences.**

10 Flexible (Part time) and Alternative Timetables

- 10.1 Schools should refer to the local authority [Flexible and Alternative Timetable procedure](#) for guidance on implementation and recording if consideration is being given to a flexible or alternative timetable.

11 Home Education and Flexi-Schooling

- 11.1 An application to seek permission to home educate must be made to the local authority. If authorised the child is entered as withdrawn from the school roll. Until such time as the application to home educate is agreed any non attendance should be recorded as an unauthorised absence. If home education is later agreed this recording can be changed retrospectively at the school's discretion.
- 11.2 The same application must be submitted if the parent is requesting to home educate part-time known as flexi-schooling. Until such time as the application is agreed any non attendance should also be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

- 11.3 If the flexi-schooling request is agreed. The times agreed for home education should there after be recorded as Other Attendance Out of School (OAT / O).

11 Unauthorised Absence

- 11.1 There are several categories of unauthorised absence;

- Occasional absence with parental awareness (unauthorised absence from school for any period as a result of action on the part of the parent for example a preferred trip or during a period of difficulty with the school or partners.) OUA / N
- Occasional absence without parental awareness (unauthorised absence from school for any period as a result of action on the part of pupil) TRU / @
- Most family holidays during term time (see point 15.1 – UPH / G)
- Longer term absence – school related issues
- Longer term absence – home and wider community
- Absence relating to substance and alcohol misuse

12 Patterns of lateness

- 12.1 A pupil who arrives late for an opening will be recorded as an attendance under the following category:

Late Arrives during registration	attendance category	-
Late 1 Arrives before 50% of opening	attendance	category J
Late 2 Arrives after 50% of opening	authorised absence	category K

A record should be kept of when pupils arrive late, or leave early, and this situation should be managed through the normal school procedures.

- 12.2 In circumstances where a pattern of lateness is emerging each case should be looked at on its own merit however further action is likely to be required;

- (a) In the first instance, the Head Teacher (or delegated other) should make every effort to obtain the parent's co-operation to ensure the pupil's punctuality. This will ordinarily involve a conversation with the parent to discuss the matter. The pupil should be included in this where possible in line with our local approach to GIRFEC.
- (b) Once contact has been established with the parent, the Head Teacher (or delegated other) should explain the concerns and procedure in relation to patterns of lateness and agree a way forward. For cases of persistent lateness, it may be appropriate to begin the child planning process with an Assessment of Need. If this has already been completed it may be appropriate to agree to arrange a child planning meeting.

13 Unresolved Unsatisfactory Attendance

- 13.1 Each school is allocated to an Area Attendance Advisory Group which deals with cases of non-attendance which have not been resolved. The Education Welfare Service prepares reports for and acts as Clerk to this Group. The Head Teacher (or delegated other) provides the Group with updated information on the pupil's attendance.

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

- 13.2 Cases are referred to the Area Attendance Advisory Group in liaison with the Education Welfare Service when all of the steps noted in section 8 above have insufficiently improved the non-attendance.

14 Application for Absence due to Exceptional Domestic Circumstances (EDC)

- 14.1 Applications for absence due to EDC refer to a parent or guardian requesting exemption from school attendance for a child. Each case should be looked at on its own merit in consultation with the EWS.

- 14.2 Absence related to EDC can be classified as either Authorised or Unauthorised. Authorised absence (code Q) must be subject to approval by the EWO and covers situations such as:

- The period immediately after an accident or illness
- A period of serious or critical illness of a close relative
- A domestic crisis which causes serious disruption to the family home, causing temporary relocation.

Unauthorised absence (code R) must also be subject to approval by the EWO and would be used in cases where the amount of time for such absences is deemed inappropriate or unnecessary by the EWO.¹

15 Family Holidays during Term Time

- 15.1 The majority of family holidays taken during term time should be categorised as Unauthorised Absence (code G).

- 15.2 However, it is acceptable under exceptional circumstances, and provided the parent has made a written request to the Head Teacher, for schools to authorise a family holiday of not more than two weeks duration, during term time. Such circumstances are coded as (E) and only include:

- Constraints to parental annual leave due to the nature of employment of one or both parents eg. military, police.
- A family holiday judged to be important to the wellbeing and cohesion of the family, following serious or terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic events.

- 15.3 A family holiday classified under the 'Authorised Absence (code E)' category should **not** include such reasons as:

- The availability of cheap holidays
- The availability of desired accommodation
- Poor weather experienced during school holidays
- Holidays which have overlap at the beginning or end of term
- Parental difficulty obtaining leave (with local judgement applied in cases where evidence is provided by the employer that leave cannot be accommodated during school holidays without serious consequences).

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

15.4 Family holidays with the above or similar characteristics should be classified as Unauthorised Absence. The decision on recording absence as authorised and unauthorised, should be based simply on whether the school has given prior agreement to the absence or not, using the criteria outlined above. Where a school's prior agreement has **not** been sought, the absence should automatically be classed as unauthorised.

16 Other Authorised Absences

16.1 In some exceptional circumstances parents can request other authorised absences from school. These include:

- Parental work placement abroad
- Cultural or heritage trip
- Return to country of origin eg. to care for relative, bereavement, family wedding
- Religious Observance
- Arranged absence in relation to children in Gypsy/Traveller families

Parents should make these requests in writing to the school.

16.2 The school can authorise requests for a maximum of 10 school weeks. Requests for longer than 10 school weeks must be authorised by the identified manager at the centre.

16.3 For requests over 10 days the parental letter should be submitted with appendix 1 and an attendance print out to the relevant primary or secondary Senior Education Officer at the centre. For requests of 10 days or less the school may find the checklist helpful for their own reference

Other Authorised Absence and codes

- Illness where no learning provision is made (including ongoing mental health concerns) – Self certified – SEL / D Medically certified – MED / F
- Medical and dental appointments - PER / P
- Meetings prior to, and during court appearances and other legal processes – ABS / A
- Attendance at, or in connection with, a Children's Hearing or Care Review, or appointment with another service provider, e.g. social worker – ABS / A
- Participation in non-school debates, sports, musical or drama activities agreed by the school – ABS / A
- Lack of transport – including due to bad weather – ABS / A
- Period of exclusion category – EXC / X
- Extended leave with parental consent including some young carer activities – EXL / Z

and records. (see 16.4)

16.4 It is important that the school and subsequently the centre consider any unreasonable risk the request might pose to the child. These include;

- Already poor attendance
- Context of Child Protection or compulsory supervision – discuss with Social Work
- Risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – see FGM guidance
- Forced Marriage

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence**17 Information for Parents**

Information on supporting and recording attendances and absences should be provided to parents in the school handbook.

18 Referral to the Reporter to the Children's Panel

Non-attendance at school without reasonable excuse is a ground for referral to the Reporter. A referral will only be made if it is considered that the child is in need of a compulsory measure of supervision. This would mean that the child would attend a children's hearing and may be placed on supervision requirement, which could include a condition of attendance at a named school.

A referral will only be made to the children's reporter after there has been full discussion with other agencies including social work / social care direct. Non – attendance at school is likely to be indicative of other difficulties in the child's life, which may also be grounds for referral to the Reporter (section 9). School can contact the Reporter for advice in this regard.

19 Responsibilities**19.1 Communities and Families**

Reviewing and maintaining a procedure and overall framework for the promotion of attendance at school. Establishing an overall framework of Area Attendance Advisory Groups for the consideration of cases of persistent non-attendance at school which advise the Chief Education Officer of any action required to be taken.

Monitoring levels of attendance at schools. Publishing data on school attendance and school leaver destinations as required by the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED). Taking legal action where necessary in cases of persistent non-attendance at school.

Information on attendances and absences in schools is to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 15 September each year.

19.2 School

Monitoring attendance of individual pupils at the school. Working collaborative through our GIRFEC framework with education welfare service and other agencies in improving attendance and preventing patterns of non-attendance from developing.

Maintaining attendance records for all pupils enrolled at the school on behalf of the Director of Children and Families; these records to be of sufficient accuracy and detail to enable the publication of data required by the SEED, via ScotXed data transfer, and for legal action to be taken where necessary.

School attendance is measured centrally and ragged to monitor improvements based on a school SIMD profile. Schools should set their own attendance target annually based on this data and monitor progress in relation to this regularly throughout the session.

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

19.3 Education Welfare responsibilities

The education welfare service will work with schools and families to identify and address emerging attendance concerns. The welfare officer has a key role in linking between home and school to assist in re-engaging the child and parent with school. The education welfare service will support schools and the local authority in investigating children missing from education. The welfare officer reports to and attends Attendance Committees and meetings with the Children's Panel.

19.4 Parental responsibilities

The responsibility for a child's education rests with their parent. Once a child/young person is enrolled at an authority school the law states that the child must attend school unless permission has been given by the authority to withdraw the child / young person from school.

6. POLICY BASE

This procedure has been developed to promote attendance and manage absence. It sits within the overarching Policy document Included, Engaged and Involved in Edinburgh . **Schools should use the template in appendix 5 to update their own Attendance Management procedure relevant to their context.**

7. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

CEC Included, Engaged and Involved in Edinburgh Policy, 2018

Included, Engaged and Involved 1, Scottish Government, 2019

Home Education Guidance, Scottish Government

8. RECORD KEEPING

When a procedure has been followed there are often outputs such as decisions made or events occurred that need to be recorded. These outputs are considered Council records. Please list all Records, including completed forms, generated by this procedure. For each record, list its title, location, responsible officer and minimum retention period.

Record Title	Location	Responsible Officer	Minimum Retention Period

Procedure Title - Getting it Right for Every Child
Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence
Procedure Number -

Appendix 1 – SEEMIS codes

SEEMIS Codes				
SEEMIS Code	SEEMIS Short Code	Description	Counted by SEED as	Comments
---	-	Present	Attendance	
TRU	@	Truancy	Unauthorised Absence	Parents are unaware of absence
SCH	~	In school but not in class	Attendance	e.g. Secondary pupils in Support Base
LRG	¬	Late During Registration	Attendance	
PTH	=	Part-time (Health Related)	Authorised Absence	
ABS	A	Other Authorised Absence	Authorised Absence	
SEP	B	Sickness with educational provision	Attendance	
CLO	C	Closed (e.g. FRI pm for Primary and Secondary pupils)		Also used for Heating Failure, Industrial Action or Election for the whole school
SEL	D	Self Certified	Authorised Absence	Confirmed by parent
PHL	E	Authorised Parental Holiday	Authorised Absence	Exceptional circumstances - Applied for in advance - Maximum 2 weeks only
MED	F	Medically Certified	Authorised Absence	Confirmed by Medical Practitioner/Hospital
UPH	G	Unauthorised Parental Holiday	Unauthorised Absence	
SNA	H	Should Not Attend		e.g. AM sessions for PM Nursery Pupils
HOL	H	Holiday		Input through Calendar at SEEMIS turnaround
INS	I	In-Service		Input through Calendar at SEEMIS turnaround
LAT	J	Late (arrives before mid-point)	Attendance	
LT2	K	Late (arrives after mid-point)	Authorised Absence	

Definition: Procedure – An agreed method or approach to comply with Policy, Legislation and Departmental Decisions.

This document may be out of date if printed, the latest version is available on the Council Intranet.

Procedure Title -

Getting it Right for Every Child

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

Procedure Number -

MIS	M	Missing	Attendance	Automatically generated by by SEEMIS when anomaly in daily attendance occurs and requires further investigation
OUA	N	Other Unauthorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence	e.g. parent refuses to send child to school following a dispute with the school, or when parent refuses to sign a behaviour agreement following an exclusion
OAT	O	Other attendance out of school	Attendance	Used after final appeal against exclusion turned down - awaiting alternative placement
PER	P	Medical or Dental Appointment	Attendance	
DCA	Q	Exceptional domestic circumstances (auth)	Authorised Absence	Includes short-term caring responsibility. Approved by EWO.
DCU	R	Exceptional domestic circumstances (unauth)	Unauthorised Absence	Ongoing caring responsibility. Considered unreasonable by EWO.
STY	S	Study Leave	Attendance	
TBC	T	To be Confirmed	Unauthorised Absence	
UNA	U	Unauthorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence	Do Not Use Code
FLD	V	Field Trip	Attendance	
VIS	V	School Visit	Attendance	
WRK	W	Work Placement	Attendance	includes volunteering
EXC	X	Exclusion	Authorised Absence	
PTX	Y	Part-time (Exclusion Related)	Authorised Absence	
EXL	Z	Extended leave with parental consent		Extended absence for Traveller Children (maximum 6 months). Extended Overseas visits to relatives (minimum 4 weeks). Confirmed by parent,

Procedure Title -

Getting it Right for Every Child

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

Procedure Number -

Appendix 2 – Record of Decision making for PPR and requests sent to the centre



School:

Headteacher:

Date request received:

From:

To:

Total school days:

Grounds for Authorisation:

Exceptional Holiday Leave (code E if authorised in advance, code G if un-authorised)

Parental Work Constraints ☐ Confirmed by school or letter from employer ☐

Family Cohesion (eg. following bereavement) ☐

Extended Leave (over 4 weeks code Z, under 4 weeks code A)

Religious Observance ☐ Bereavement ☐ Close Family Wedding ☐

Gypsy / Traveller family ☐

Extended Leave with Parental Consent (over 4 weeks code Z, under 4 weeks code A)

Note maximum 12 school weeks

Extended overseas educational trips not organised by the school ☐

Short-term parental placement abroad ☐

Family returning to its country of origin (to care for relative, or for heritage trip) ☐

Exceptional Domestic Circumstances (Q - authorised, R - un-authorised) discuss with EWO

Period immediately after an accident or illness ☐

Period of serious or critical illness of a close relative ☐

Domestic crisis which causes serious disruption to the family home, causing temporary relocation ☐

Consideration of Risks

	Yes	No	Comments
Attendance			
Previous requests			
Female Genital Mutilation			
Forced Marriage			
Other welfare / CP:			

Definition: Procedure – An agreed method or approach to comply with Policy, Legislation and Departmental Decisions.

This document may be out of date if printed, the latest version is available on the Council Intranet.

Procedure Title -

Getting it Right for Every Child

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence

Procedure Number -

Click or tap here to enter text.			
----------------------------------	--	--	--

Recommendation from school:

Do not authorise ☐ Authorise ☐ Further advice requested ☐

Attach: Individual attendance summary ☐ Request ☐

Appendix 3 Staged Support to Promote Attendance and Manage Absence

Identifying and responding to concerns about attendance	
Pathways to Support	Action to be taken/ Who and How
Stage 5 Complex/ Intensive/ Acute	Direct Referral to Reporter/ Attendance Order (served on parent through AAAG only)
Stage 4	Area Attendance Advisory Group (AAAG only in consultation with EWO after appropriate work being carried out)
Stage 3 Unexplained absence persists	Multi-agency assessment, planning and review • Information gathering - use of GIRFEC tools and profile of attendance difficulties • Solution-focused planning meeting involving pupil and parents • Identify and implement appropriate intervention • Review progress and update action plan
Stage 2 Unexplained absence <85% attendance rate Persistent lates without parental support	Referral to EWO/ On-going involvement of Pupil Support Staff Individualised planning
Stage 1 Lates and occasional unexplained absence	Action taken by Head Teacher/Pupil Support Staff: • Monitor attendance data regularly • Discuss concerns with pupil and parent at earliest opportunity • Unexplained absence should result in absence enquiry letter to parents with contact details of member of staff who can offer support. <i>NB Standard letters are available on SEEMIS which can be adapted by schools.</i>
Promoting School Attendance for all pupils to ensure they are included, engaged and involved Promoting positive parental involvement Pastoral support health and well-being Positive behaviour approaches – restorative practice, solution-orientated schools Reward systems Learner engagement curricular flexibility links with FE and voluntary organisations Playground supervision Buddying and mentoring systems	

Appendix 4 SCHOOL LEAVING DATES

1. Definition of School Leaving Age

1.1 The Education (Scotland) Act 1976 has revised the former school leaving arrangements. In future 31 May and the first day of the Christmas holiday period shall be the statutory summer and winter leaving dates in each year.

1.2 The arrangements will apply to pupils as follows:-

(a) Summer Leaving Date

- (i) A pupil whose 16th birthday falls in or after 1 March and before 31 May is deemed not to have attained school leaving age until 31 May (i.e. the summer leaving date).
- (ii) A pupil whose 16th birthday falls after 31 May but before 1 October is deemed to attain school leaving age on 31 May (i.e. the summer leaving date).

(b) Winter Leaving Date

- (ii) A pupil whose 16th birthday falls on or after 1 October but before the first day of the Christmas holiday period is deemed not to have attained the school leaving age until the first day of the Christmas holidays (i.e. the winter leaving date).
- (ii) A pupil whose 16th birthday falls after the winter leaving date but before 1 March is deemed to have attained 16 on the first day of the Christmas holidays (i.e. the winter leaving date).

Note: Children whose 16th birthday falls on a leaving date cease to be of school age on their birthday in terms of Section 32 of the 1962 Act.

2. Entry to Employment

2.1 Under the new legislation, pupils who have attained school leaving age are free to enter full-time employment even though they may not have reached their 16th birthday, except in certain industries where a minimum age for entry may apply.

2.2 Under no circumstances can a pupil of school age be allowed to leave school to enter full-time employment. Section 28 of the Children and Young Persons

2.3 (Scotland) Act 1937 contains statutory restrictions on part-time employment of children, as defined in appropriate local bye-laws. Apprenticeship is regarded as full-time employment.

Promoting Attendance and Managing Absence**3. Entry to Further Education**

- 3.1 The legislation permits the Authority discretion to allow exemption from school attendance to those still of school age to allow a pupil to begin a full time course of formal education. Such cases will be considered on their merit in relation to the educational needs of the pupil who will remain of school age until the statutory leaving date is reached. Pupils should normally have completed 4 years of secondary education before they are withdrawn from school and will not normally be admitted to courses at the expense of those who have already attained leaving age.
- 3.2 Head Teachers should seek the approval of Head of Schools and Community Services for those pupils still of school age wishing to begin a full-time course of vocational further education - after prior agreement with the pupil's parents and the Principal of the College of Further Education.

4. Non attendance at School

- 4.1 Discretion is also still allowed to authorities to grant non attendance at school to attendance to a child over 14 years of age for the specific purpose of allowing the child to give assistance at home if a situation of exceptional domestic circumstances is proved.
- 4.2 Applications for such non attendance should be dealt with as described in the Guidelines (Paragraph 4.9).

5. Social Security Implications

- 5.1 Any young person legally employed is covered by industrial injuries legislation whether or not he has attained the age of 16 years. Liability for National Insurance Contributions does not however, begin until he attains that age. Entitlement to unemployment, sickness and related benefits is assessed in relation to earnings and contributions from the age of 16 years. A young person is not entitled to supplementary benefit in his own right until he becomes 16 although, if his family is in receipt of benefit, he could qualify as a dependant until the age 16 years.
- 5.2 Child Benefit is payable at least until a child attains the age of 16 years, whether or not he has ceased to be of school age. Benefit continues subject to appropriate regulations after the age of 16 years if a person continues in full-time education.

Appendix 5 Template for promoting attendance and managing absence school procedure

1. Aims and Targets

- Specific, realistic targets for improving attendance
- Resources available and how they will be used
- How communication between all partners in the process will be implemented

2. Rights, Roles and Responsibilities

- Details of school partnership with Education Welfare Service/Home -Link Support.
- The legal responsibility of the authority, Children and families Department, school, parents and pupils
- Partnership approach to promote attendance and manage absence

3. Procedures

- The stages, processes and staff involved
- Lateness procedures
- How and when attendance concerns are communicated to parents
- What processes are used to reintegrate pupils returning to school after an absence

4. Strategies for promoting attendance and manage absence

- Incentives/rewards
- Reintegration
- Building Relationships
- The school environment
- Curriculum

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

- How will the effectiveness of the strategies used be evaluated.
- When will monitoring and evaluation take place
- Who will be involved and how will they contribute

Appendix 5 – school checklist, promoting attendance and managing absence

Attendance and absence are recorded per half day session in primary and period by period in secondary, including the attendance of pupils who are late.	
There is a system to monitor attendance in every period and absence “hotspots” effectively. (Secondary)	
Information recorded is followed up immediately to ensure pupils are safe and well	
System in place to contact parents or carers as soon as an absence is noted at key points in the school day to help ensure that immediate action can be taken to find any pupils ‘missing’ from school. If attempts to contact the parent are unsuccessful then emergency contacts are used.	
The SEEMIS system is effectively used to record absence..	
Social Work are notified immediately by telephone of the absence of any child who is on the Council’s Child Protection Register. It will be for the Duty or case Social Worker to decide on the required subsequent course of action and to inform the school of that decision.	
School are aware of early signs of concern which may lead to absenteeism and allow preventative support to be arranged.	
GIRFEC child planning is effectively identify and address barriers to attendance.	
School staff develop positive relationships with pupils and parents to ensure difficulties are discussed and resolved. There is a collaborative approach with families in line with local GIRFEC approaches.	
There is a whole school approach to positive relationships and the 4 R’s including approaches to promote equity and value diversity.	