



Attendance Policy

Policy Statement:

Good attendance plays a fundamental role in supporting children's educational achievement, well-being and in keeping children safer. Establishing regular routines for young children supports the settling-in process and enhances their sense of security and belonging. Even if a child only has a part-time place, regular attendance is still especially important. Attending nursery helps children establish routines of going to school regularly and being on time, which can help them make a smooth and positive transition to reception.

This policy sets out the procedures in place to promote and monitor attendance within our Early Years Setting and the steps that will be followed if a child is absent from the setting. It also explains the importance and benefits of regular attendance.

Our Aims:

- To create a culture where good attendance and punctuality is 'normality' and valued by all
- To value the individual and be socially and educationally inclusive
- To be consistent in the implementation of our policy and procedures for recording and monitoring attendance
- Work effectively with parents, children and partners through building trusted relationships to work together to remove barriers to attendance.

To promote good attendance in our Early Years Provision we will:

- Convey clearly to parents and children that regular attendance and punctuality is essential and is in the child's best interest and that unexplained absence will be investigated.
- Keep records of attendance which provide accurate information on actual attendance and lateness to enable monitoring and evaluation so that emerging patterns are addressed.
- Build on existing good practice that fosters a positive attitude to good attendance by quickly responding to children's absence, recognising, and celebrating, 'good' and 'improving' attendance.
- Target attendance and lateness where there has been an issue and aim to set in place strategies and techniques to support and ensure improvement.

Working with parents:

The setting will make its policy on attendance clear to parents and children through sharing information and expectations prior to admission.

The systems and procedures in place to promote children's attendance and punctuality will continue to be shared with parents at a universal level through parents' newsletters, online apps and emails.

Parents and Carers will have access to our attendance policy on the website.

Leaders, Manager, and staff will work with parents to address specific aspects of attendance or punctuality, which cause concern through discussion.

Recognising the factors affecting attendance.

Whilst attendance at nursery is not statutory, authorised absence is only normally granted in the following circumstances:

- Illness of the child
- Illness of siblings or parents
- Health Services Appointments
- Holidays
- Religious observance
- Emergency circumstances

Where these circumstances arise parents should inform the nursery on the first day of absence or prior to the first day of absence.

Monitoring attendance and punctuality

Records of children's attendance are accurately kept and regularly monitored to ensure that we can identify any potential problems and look for patterns.

All managers and staff are alert to signs that children who are missing might be at risk of abuse or neglect, and appropriate action is taken when children stop attending.

In our Early Years provision, we are aware that attendance is not statutory, but that non-attendance could be an indicator of other concerns.

All managers and staff are particularly aware of the need to monitor groups such as children who are in receipt of two year-old funding, and those for whom we receive Early Years Pupil Premium, as these groups are considered to be vulnerable.

Procedures in place to record, monitor and follow up non-attendance.

Daily Registration

All children are signed in at their time of arrival. Children's attendance or non-attendance will be recorded along with any lateness.

Nonattendance

If a child is absent and we are informed of their reason for absence this will be recorded on the register as well as their profile on our nursery management system. This includes last minute holidays that we have not been previously informed of.

If a child is absent without an explanation or for a prolonged period of time, a telephone call will be made to the parents to establish the reason for the absence. Consideration will be given to the child's vulnerability, parent's and/or carer's vulnerability and their home life.

If no contact is made, then the following process will be followed.

- 1) A telephone call to parent's carers work or training provider will be made.
- 2) Calls to other emergency contacts, including other family members listed as emergency contacts, will be made to try to establish why the child is absent.
- 3) Calls to the siblings' schools, nurseries or childminders will be made to establish if they or the sibling can confirm the child's whereabouts.
- 4) An email to parents will be sent.
- 5) Safeguarding Procedures will be followed.

If contact cannot be made by telephone call and there is a cause for concern, safeguarding procedures will be followed. A home visit may be carried out and a contact post card will be posted through your door. The health visiting service, your child's GP and Children and Families services will be contacted to ascertain if family support may be needed. In more urgent cases, the Police may be contacted to carry out safe and well checks.

Children and Families Front Door For Families 01273 290 400 (Monday to Thursday: 9.00am – 5:00pm / Friday: 9.00am – 4:30pm)

If there is an immediate risk of harm to the child, then call 999.

Outside office hours call the Emergency Duty Team on 01273 335 905 or 01273 335 906

Monitoring, evaluation and use of attendance and punctuality data

Children's attendance patterns will be monitored and reviewed regularly. Concerns which arise through the settings monitoring activities will be discussed with the parent or carer.

Absence will also be monitored for the health and well-being of children, for example so that we are aware of outbreaks of illness which need to be investigated, or to warn parents of infections such as German measles.

Funded places

Early Years Funding is provided through the local authority. If a child is off for a long period, without informing us of a valid reason, the funding will also have to be paid back to Brighton and Hove Council. We request that parents inform us if their child is going to miss any of their sessions for any reason. The council reserve the right to audit the daily sign-in registers to check children arrive on time so please be punctual.

This is public money, and we feel that we have a duty to ensure it is used appropriately. If a place has been reserved but is being used for less than 75% of booked sessions, we reserve the right to offer that place to any child who may be on our waiting list. This way we can be sure to use the funding to its best effect.

We would discuss reasons for absence with parents before retracting the funding offer and will make every effort to work with them to encourage them to increase attendance. Funding would only be withdrawn as a last resort.

Date last updated	Date to be Reviewed
April 2025	April 2026

