

Inclusive Attendance Culture

Education is more than just being in school — it's about children feeling present physically, emotionally, and socially. Early support prevents problems from escalating, and everyone has a role in creating a culture where every child feels they belong.

What is an Inclusive Attendance culture?

Attendance is everyone's responsibility — every role, every day, every child and young person.

Relationships come first. We prioritise understanding over assumptions. We act early, support first, and always ask: What is this absence telling us? We create safe, welcoming environments where every child and young person feels they belong.

What can you do?

Always act

Act in the child's best interests. Look beyond the absence and notice the signs.

Know how

Recognise risk signs, unmet needs and hidden vulnerabilities early.

Know the difference

Understand types of absence: authorised, unauthorised, patterns and what they reveal.

Staff responsibilities

Read and understand the school Attendance Policy.

Share and log any concerns. Never assume it is someone else's role.

When unsure, speak to the Senior Attendance Champion, Safeguarding Lead or a trusted leader.