

# Norwich High School Attendance Policy

<b>Document owner</b>	Deputy Head Pastoral (Mrs HP Dolding)
<b>Last reviewed</b>	January 2022
<b>Next review date</b>	January 2023
<b>Audience</b>	Public

At Norwich High School for Girls we see pupil attendance as critical to academic success and social integration. We monitor attendance rates on an ongoing basis and teachers, tutors and pastoral leads will take action if a student's absence becomes a concern, as required by the law.

We ask parents to familiarise themselves with our policy and help us to promote the standards of attendance and punctuality which are essential for an orderly school environment where all pupils can get the maximum benefit from their education.

## **Leave of absence**

Leave of absence can only be authorised by the Head, and may only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. Parents should submit their request to the [Head](#) no later than three days prior to the date of absence. If an absence is authorised in advance parents will be notified and an absence note will not be required on return.

## **Action on school absence**

It is the parents' responsibility to telephone the school concerning the reason for a student's absence on the first day of absence and to provide such further information as may be required. If the school is not notified of a student's absence a call will be made to parents. Schools are expected to remain in contact with parents on a regular basis until the student returns.

On the pupils return to school, parents must supply a note or email to the student's form tutor/class teacher indicating the cause of the absence. If this is not forthcoming the absence will be investigated. If no absence note is received, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. Parents are informed if absences are recorded as unauthorised.

If an absence occurs, it is the responsibility of the student to make up any lost work. If an absence is known in advance, the student must approach individual members of staff for guidance.

## **Reasons for absence**

### Illness

Parents are requested to inform the school on the first day if their daughter is ill. If this is COVID related we ask you to make us aware immediately.

### Shielding

Parents should make contact with the school [Nurse](#) if they believe their daughter should not be in school.

For the following absence requests we advise parents to inform their daughter's Form Tutor in the Senior school or class teacher in Prep to inform.

### Medical and Dental Appointments

Routine visits to the dentist, optician etc., should be arranged during school holidays or out of school hours. Authorisation for medical and dental appointments can be given in an emergency or other unavoidable circumstances.

### Bereavement

It is helpful if we are informed of family bereavement so that we can offer students sympathetic support. Absence under such circumstances will, of course, be authorised.

### Religious Observance

Absence can be authorised on a day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which a student's parents belong.

### Family/Domestic Problems

Looking after other children, minding the house, or shopping within school hours are not acceptable reasons for absence under the law.

### Special Occasions

Exceptional occasions may be sanctioned through authorised absence. Such events might include a sibling's graduation or family wedding. Attending sports events or concerts are not sufficient cause for authorisation.

### Study Leave

Study leave may be authorised during the official examination period for Years 11 and 13 only. A letter is always sent to parents before study leave commences. Parents are asked to note carefully the dates on which study leave commences.

Although most students prefer to study at home during examination periods, there are always study facilities available in school for those who wish to work in school. Authorisation for absence for studying will not be given for periods outside those indicated to parents.

Study leave is a privilege which may be withdrawn if a student seems unlikely to use the time profitably.

### Work Experience

Students in Years 12 and 13 are encouraged to gain work experience during the school holiday periods. In addition to this there may be a period of work experience for specific

year groups scheduled on the school calendar. Some sixth form students may also be permitted to carry out work experience during times of the day when they have a study period. This must be agreed with the Head of Sixth.

## **SIXTH FORM**

### **Flexible day**

Sixth formers have a flexible day, recognising their growing maturity and bridging the gap between formal schooling and post 18 study or work. They must attend school every day, arriving in time for morning registration and form time. They must attend all timetabled lessons, but will be able to leave the school during their lunch and break, signing in and out. With permission from their parent or guardian and a member of the Sixth Form Team, sixth formers may also take a study afternoon where they leave the premises once a week and in non-taught sessions, signing out at lunchtime. All regular appointments, driving lessons etc. must be scheduled for study periods and ideally study afternoons. Permission to miss taught lessons will not be given, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any student who does not attend lessons or whose progress is not good will have the privilege of study afternoons removed. Should a student be unable to attend school, parents/careers should notify the school in the usual way.

### **Open Days**

Sixth Form students are expected to visit Universities and Colleges during school holidays. However, a maximum three Open Days may be attended during term time if appropriate letters requesting authorisation for absence are brought in to their tutors.

### **Interviews**

Sixth formers must, of course, attend interviews at Universities and Colleges at the times and on the dates allocated by the institutions. It is essential that they keep their Form Tutors informed of these dates.

## **Returning to school**

Sometimes a student who has been off school for some time finds it difficult to return. In such circumstances it is of paramount importance that parents contact the Deputy Head Pastoral, appropriate Head of Year in Senior School or Miss Brand In the Prep school to discuss procedures for supported reintegration.

## **Punctuality**

Students are expected to be prompt for registration. If a student is late, they must register with their form tutor if possible. Otherwise, they must sign in with reception. If a student fails to do this, the school will assume they are absent. Lateness without reasonable cause will be deemed to be unauthorised absence. Lateness after 9.00am will be deemed as an absence and will require a note of explanation from a parent.

## **GDST Statement on School Attendance**

Absence, whatever its cause, is detrimental to any student's academic, social and emotional development. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school, with a cumulative effect. Regular or persistent absence can also indicate a pupil welfare issue.

Parents have a legal duty to ensure their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend regularly. Parents can only allow their child to miss school if they are too ill to go in or they have advance permission from the school. The Education (Student Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 make it clear that Heads may only grant leave of absence *in exceptional circumstances*.

In order to maximize our students' potential, the GDST is committed to ensuring students do not miss out on their education through poor attendance rates. The national school attendance average is currently 96% and we expect all our schools to at least meet this average. School attendance rates are monitored by GDST.

Class teachers and tutors are expected to review the attendance record of the students for whom they are responsible on a regular basis. An individual attendance record of below 90% must be followed up by the school, as will noticeable patterns, sudden or unexplained absence. As is required by law, the school will inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend regularly, or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 days or more. The local safeguarding partners will also be informed if absence amounts to a safeguarding concern.