

September 2024



STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND ABSCONDING POLICY

Date of issue: July 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C.A." followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Signed:

Review Date: Annual

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND ABSCONDING POLICY
ISSUES AND UPDATES

PAGES	ISSUE	DATE
Full review and write of document	1	16/09/2020
Annual review 4-5, punctuality update and removal of schooling guides	1	26/07/2022
Annual review - 6 - Unexplained absence: added designated safeguarding lead	1	26/07/2022
Annual review - 7 - unexplained absence: role of Employability Lead and Engage Manager added	1	26/07/2022
Annual review - 8 - Persistent late comers removed.	1	26/07.2022
ALL	Review of whole document	23/07/2024
Page 4	Wording - reports by 10am/school or referee	23/07/2024

The following policy has been approved by the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees.

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis unless circumstances arise requiring the policy to be reviewed earlier.

Approved by Board of Trustees: July 2024

Board signatory: Jon Drown

Planned review: July 2025

CONTENTS

Aims and Objectives	Page 4
Responsibility of Parents/Carers	Page 4
Punctuality	Page 4
Absences	Page 5
Illness/medical absences	Page 5
Absence for holidays	Page 5
Absence for other reasons	Page 6
Unexplained Absence	Page 6
Role of the Education Welfare Officer	Page 6
Missing in Education	Page 6
Persistent Latecomers	Page 7

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND ABSCONDING POLICY

At Northampton Saints Foundation, we provide daily attendance reports by 10am, if students for any reason miss this registration schools/colleges will be made aware, following this if they arrive, we will also re-notify school. This policy applies to all children engaging in our Engage programme with the Foundation.

Northampton Saints Foundation encourages all parents/carers to work in partnership with the Foundation in order to improve attendance and punctuality.

Aims & Objectives

This attendance policy ensures that all staff and trustees of the Foundation are fully aware of and clear about the actions necessary to promote good attendance.

Through this policy we aim to:

- Improve pupils' achievement by ensure high levels of attendance and punctuality.
- Achieve a minimum of 95% for all pupils
- Those with known Health issues that impact on attendance we look to maintain their levels of attendance and work where possible by various interventions and support
- Create an ethos in which good attendance and punctuality are recognised as the norm and seen to be valued by the school.
- Raise awareness of parents, carers and pupils of the importance of uninterrupted attendance and punctuality at every stage of a child's education.
- Ensure that our policy applies to Nursery and Reception age children in order to promote good habits at an early age.
- Work in partnership with pupils, parents, staff and the partner professionals involved in attendance so that all pupils realise their potential, unhindered by unnecessary absence.
- Promote a positive and welcoming atmosphere in which pupils feel safe, secure and valued, and encourage in pupils a sense of their own responsibility.
- Establish a pattern of monitoring attendance and ensure consistency in recognising achievement and dealing with difficulties.
- Recognise the key role of all staff in promoting good attendance.

Northampton Saints Foundation's expectations on parents, carers or guardians

Punctuality

It is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure student arrive on time to the respected programme, as below,

To ensure students arrive to the programmes on time, engage hubs will open the facilities at 9.15am ready for the programme to commence at 9.30am. This is sufficient time for all pupils to arrive and be ready for the start of the programme.

All students who do not arrive to the programme by 10am will be reported to the necessary school or referee and recorded as absent to the programme.

Should the student arrive after 10am, recorded as late for both Foundation programme and school associated to the student.

For all 16+ programmes, if student has not arrived by 10am, parents, carers, guardians and partnering college to be informed of absence.

If student arrives after 10am on all 16+ programmes, parents, carers, guardians and partnering college to be informed and recorded as late.

Should students continue to arrive to the provisions late, positive relationship and behaviour process to be implemented.

Absences

It is the parent/carer's responsibility:

- To notify the Foundation on the first day of absence before 9:30am or as soon as possible. Parents can report an absence by telephoning the Foundations office/programme lead or by email.
- To provide medical evidence where possible, on the students return to the programme.
- To ensure that as far as possible, medical appointments are arranged for outside education hours. Where this is not possible, parents are expected to provide evidence of the appointment in advance, and the child should attend before/after the appointment.
- To liaise with the Foundation as soon as possible regarding any specific issues that might cause absence or lateness, e.g. a sick parent/carer.

Parents/carers of children for whom we do not know the reason for absence will be contacted after 10.00am on the threshold of absence.

Illness/Medical absences

In addition to the points above, if a child is repeatedly absent due to illness, the Foundation/school may request medical evidence for further absences. This can take the form of a GP appointment card, a consultant letter, a copy of a prescription etc.

The Foundation/school will automatically request medical evidence for any illness absence taken immediately before or after a school holiday.

Absence for Holidays

Parents/carers are expected to take the students/young people on holiday during the school/college holidays to minimise the impact of missing education, we will not approve any holidays.

If there are exceptional circumstances, parents/carers must complete a leave of absence request form in advance of the trip (ideally at least 4 weeks prior) which is to be given to the school/college. These

requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Co-Heads of the school and college, and they will use their discretion whilst applying government recommendations.

It is the parent/carer's responsibility:

To obtain a leave of absence form from the school/college.

To complete and submit the form in advance of the period of absence (ideally 4 weeks prior).

To inform tutor or supporting staff of planned absence from the courses.

Absence for Other Reasons

Absences for reasons such as religious observance (up to 2 days per year) or close family bereavement *may* be authorised by the Co-Heads/Foundation Leads. These requests must be discussed with the school, college and Foundation. Absences for close family members' weddings or funerals will be limited to one day's authorised absence, if granted.

It is the parent/carer's responsibility:

- To inform the office, in writing, of the need for leave in circumstances which are known in advance.
- To inform the school, college and Foundation as soon as possible when sudden circumstances occur which prevent a family bringing a child to school, so that the appropriate code can be recorded in the register.

Unexplained Absence

When a child is repeatedly absent and no satisfactory reason is given, the parent/carers will be investigated and may be liable for prosecution and/or a fine from the Local Authority.

Regular monitoring is carried out by Employability Lead and Engage Managers who also are Designated Safeguarding Leads. Children who have repeated unauthorised absences, holidays or otherwise, will be contacted by the above leads or Designated Safeguarding Lead and may be invited into an attendance meeting to discuss absences and any appropriate support.

Role of the Employability Lead

- To investigate absence which exceeds more than 10%, and to hold meetings with these parents as required.
- To investigate lateness which exceeds more than 5%.
- To investigate any unexplained absence which exceeds more than 5 consecutive days.
- To contact parents, carers or guardians of the young persons to understand and make aware of unexplained absence.
- To ensure parents are aware of their legal duty under the Education Act to ensure their children attend school.

- To instruct tutors and HITZ officer of the programmes to record and report all contact and unexplained absence of the young person.
- To ensure partners and training providers of the course have been notified and recorded as a safeguarding concern as per Safeguarding Policy.

Role of the Engage Hub Manager

- To investigate absence which exceeds more than 10%, and to hold meetings with the schools.
- To investigate lateness which exceeds more than 5%.
- To investigate any unexplained absence which exceeds more than 5 consecutive days.
- To contact schools of the young persons to understand and make aware of unexplained absence.
- To ensure a record is completed and all unexplained absence is reported to the schools.
- To ensure all unexplained absences are reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and logged as per Safeguarding Policy.

Children Missing in Education

If a child is absent (unexplained) for at least 5 consecutive days, the Employability Lead will be notified. A home visit may be carried out and a meeting will be organised as per Positive Relationships and Behaviour Process. All unexplained absence to be logged on to the safeguarding timeline and if there is no communication the child will be referred to missing pupils.

Absconding from Provision

At Northampton Saints Foundation, we are dedicated to providing a safe and supportive environment for our students and participants. We understand that children and young people may face unique challenges, and sometimes, they may make the choice to abscond from our programs. It's crucial for us to address these situations with care and consideration, ensuring that we can support every individual.

If a child or young person participating in Northampton Saints Foundation programs is contemplating or has absconded, we recommend the following steps:

Immediate Contact: In the event of a child absconding from our provision, immediate contact will be made with parents, guardians, the designated key contact, and the child's education setting. In situations where a child is at risk or their whereabouts are unknown, we will also contact the emergency services to ensure their safety.

Future Updates: We are committed to maintaining open and transparent communication with all relevant parties. Any updates regarding the child's situation will be shared promptly. Together, we will assess the circumstances and decide on an appropriate course of action, which may include adjustments to the child's placement within our programs.

Reintegration Plan: Our primary objective is to support the child's return to Northampton Saints Foundation programs and facilitate their success. We will collaborate closely with parents, guardians, professionals, and the child to develop a personalised reintegration plan. This plan will be tailored to address the child's unique needs and circumstances, ensuring that they can continue their educational journey in a supportive environment.

Northampton Saints Foundation is committed to offering a safe, nurturing, and empowering environment for all children and young people. We are here to support and provide guidance to address any challenges that may have led to an absence.