

Shirley Warren Primary and Nursery School Attendance Policy

Parents/carers have a duty in law (Education Act 1996) to ensure that children of statutory school age receive an appropriate education, “*by attendance at school or otherwise.*” For the great majority of children in Shirley Warren and Southampton this will involve regular attendance at school.

The achievement and maintenance of high standards in pupil attendance is the shared responsibility of parent/carers, Shirley Warren Primary and Nursery School and its Governing Body and the local education authority. It is through an active partnership that the best results will be achieved.

There is a clear correlation between regular attendance and achievement. As attendance deteriorates, so does performance and achievement. Further, poor attendance leads to social exclusion and, in some cases, to anti-social behaviour and crime.

The role of Shirley Warren School and the Local Authority (LA) is to support parents/carers to meet their responsibilities and, where necessary, to take action to enforce attendance. The school and the LA also have a responsibility to support pupils' attendance at school by providing the best possible quality education and to provide advice and support to those pupils, and their parents/carers, who have difficulty in maintaining a satisfactory level of attendance.

The work of the Education Welfare Service (EWS) is central to raising standards of attendance across the city as a whole and within individual schools. Education Welfare Officers (EWO'S) on occasion work in school with pupils and their parent/carers who need support to improve attendance. The service also has a wider role in providing support to pupils and families linking them or referring them to other statutory and voluntary agencies that can help. The work of the Education Welfare Service is regulated on an agreed basis of policies and procedures that are outlined in the EWS Manual of Professional Practices that can be found in all schools.

In addition to the EWS, many schools employ staff directly to support their work to improve attendance. We are committed to supporting all those staff whose work can improve attendance at school, provide advice, guidance and training, as well as practical help to identify and improve poor attendance.

Aims and Objectives

The LA and Shirley Warren Primary and Nursery School aim to secure the full time attendance of every pupil.

Where full time attendance is not possible, absence may be authorised by the school based on information from a parent/carer who can account for legitimate absence of the pupil.

Where absence is not properly authorised, or a non-attendance is of concern, the school/LA will take swift and appropriate action to investigate and remedy the situation.

The LA will recognise issues for the broad range of ethnic and community groups in the city and takes account of them in its work.