John Chilton School
End of Year Statistics
Pupil Attendance Report

Written By: Maryam Rasul – Family Worker

2018/19

Introduction

Pupil absences are monitored by school staff on an on-going basis. A report is sent out daily with the names of pupils absent that day. Each absence on that report is investigated and noted.

A mid-year report and an end of year report are produced every year. These reports highlight pupils whose absences are below 90%. Pupils whose absences are below 90% the previous year as well are very closely monitored. Each pupil's absences are scrutinised and an intervention is made as appropriate. Examples of interventions are calls home, liaising with relevant school staff, and working with therapists or the nurse. Sometimes, we use a combination of interventions to help bring a child into school. This helps to provide the school with quantified information that will inform its evaluation of the school's effectiveness in meeting the needs of each child.

Due to the small number of pupils on roll at school, coupled with the issue of a small cohort of children having extended absences because of significant and complex medical needs, there is the prospect that the statistics could be skewed by an individual or small cohort. Sometimes we may ask a pupil to stay home for health and safety concerns. This also affects our overall attendance as these pupils are not attending prolonged periods; consequently, in order to establish a more accurate and developmentally useful picture, an analysis is carried out less persistent absentees.

Further analysis is done to remove pupils' condition related absences (CRA.) These can vary greatly from pupil to pupil, especially when hospitalisation has occurred. These analyses are done in order to get a full understanding of attendance patterns.

A number of tables for 5th September '18 to 12th July '19 outcomes – and absence trends over time – are attached to this report.

Please also see attached confidential report of names of pupils that are considered persistent absentees and the comments for each one.

Comparative Information

Due to a small cohort of pupils having extended absences due to extenuating circumstances, the average attendance was 84.87%. Extenuating circumstances are absences that are justified. For example, hospitalisation, or the pupil is no longer attending and we are awaiting their removal from school roll. Also, as mentioned above, pupils who have to stay at home for a prolonged period for medical health and safety reasons will also be considered as absences due to extenuating circumstances.

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In the colder months especially, pupils tend to fall ill more than usual. In accordance to NHS requirements, we enforce 48 hour exclusion for any pupil with diarrhoea and vomiting if it is arising from a viral infection. This too has a negative impact on attendance.

An analysis by pupils' individual special educational need shows that, not surprisingly, the pupils with more complex difficulties are more prone to sickness absence.

A closer analysis of the data shows that we continue to experience high absentee rates from pupils who have a complex medical issue – for example, a number of pupils had stays in hospital due to their medical conditions. We also have high absence rates from pupils who are waiting for transport arrangements from their local authority or are waiting for a carer to be in place so they can be in school safely. Year on year, we find that the pupils that are enrolling into John Chilton School are coming in with more and more complex needs. This inevitably leads to more absences.

Where appropriate, work is sent home. This has been useful and helps to keep children engaged with their learning when they are not at school.

A breakdown of the data shows that this cohort was affected by pupils with complex medical needs.

John Chilton School consistently engages with parents to make sure they book holidays, appointments, etc. outside of term time. A leaflet and letter have been sent out to all parents explaining the importance of coming to school every day in a timely manner. All new parents are briefed about attendance when they enrol their child into school.

Action

- We will continue to follow-up all unexplained absences on the first day.
- The school will continue to ensure that absences are monitored on a half-termly basis. A mid-year and end of year report is produced in addition to monitoring attendance each day.
- Half termly reports are produced to monitor absence of fixed intervals of time.
- The school will ensure to take steps to be actively involved in supporting families in need.
- In line with LA and DfE, John Chilton School will keep its Attendance Policy up to date.
- The target for attendance during 2019/20 will remain 90%.
- We will continue to remind parents to send appointment letters to school whenever their child had missed school due to an appointment.

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- The school will continue to provide, where appropriate, home learning activities for pupils who are absent from school (e.g. convalescing; post-operative) but well enough to engage in such activities.

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Summary of Outcomes

Average School Attendance Sept-July 2018/19:	84.87%

Average attendance less condition related absences:	97.17%

Average attendance less top 5 absentees:	88.56%

Average attendance less top 5 absentees with CRA*
88.68%

*CRA: Condition Related Absences

Main Outcomes

Number of Pupils in Data Set: **105 pupils**

Average School Attendance: 87.03**%**

Median Attendance: 89.60%

Attendance less CRA: 97.45%

Pupils attending at or over 90%: 47.62**%** (50 pupils)

Pupils attending at or over 90% less CRA: 91.43**%** (96 pupils)

Average Attendance Analysis for Primary and Secondary

Group	Average	Average Less CRA
Primary (45 pupils)	87.56%	97.45%
Secondary (60 pupils)	85.27%	97.45%

Percentage Pupil Attendance

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
86%	87%	86%	87%

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