



# **John Chilton School**

## **Mid-Year Statistics**

### **Pupil Attendance Report**

**September – February 2022-2023**

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**2022/2023**

### **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 end of year report is produced every year. These reports highlight pupils whose absences are below 90%. Pupils whose absences are below 90% the previous year as well as are very closely monitored. Each pupil's absences are scrutinised and an intervention is made as appropriate. Examples of interventions are calls home, home visits, liaising with relevant school staff, working with therapists or the nurse and liaising with attendance officer at Ealing or social care. 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, another small cohort of children with traumatic experiences and complex domestic issues in the home situation; there is the prospect that the statistics could be skewed by an individual or small cohort. Consequently, in order to establish a more accurate and developmentally useful picture, an analysis is carried out after removing the 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 September to February outcomes – and absence trends over time – are attached to this report.

The Headteacher, DSL and Family Worker scrutinise a confidential SIMS report of pupils that are under 90% and the reasons for each one.

### **Comparative Information**

Due to a small cohort of pupils having extended absences due to extenuating circumstances coupled with the timescale being halved, the average attendance is 83.09%. 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.

In the colder months especially, pupils tend to fall ill more than usual due to their conditions. 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.

2022-2023 also sees a continuation of a high number of Covid Cases that led to absence for pupils for the advised isolation time in the majority of cases, though some did more because of becoming ill with the virus.

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 or to the hospital (where advised by hospital hired teaching staff.) We are also able to offer remote learning. This has been useful and helps to keep children engaged when they are not at school.

John Chilton School consistently engages with parents to make sure they book holidays, appointments, etc. during 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.

This time, school attendance was affected due to an indirect impact of Covid and Travel restrictions during covid. In addition, many of our students have their extended families abroad. Due to travel restrictions in the last few years, families couldn't travel and meet; many social and religious ceremonies were also on hold. As travel is now possible, the school is receiving requests from parents for a 'leave of absence'. The requests are primarily due to attending the ceremonies abroad and meeting with elderly or sick relations abroad. Some families need to travel for medical interventions and have no carers to look after their disabled child, needing to take them with them. Considering all these circumstances and after doing due diligence, the school is granting a few term-time holiday-linked extensions. These extra days are having a small impact on attendance. Work is arranged for the pupils at these times and the Family Worker makes contact regularly while away.

### **Action**

- We will continue use CME guidelines to follow-up all unexplained absences on the first day.
- The school will continue to ensure that absences are monitored on a mid-year and end of year basis. This is in addition to the more concise half termly reports that are produced.
- The school will ensure to take steps to be actively involved in supporting families in need.
- Liaising closely with the Local Authority attendance team of social care where necessary.

- In line with LA and DfE, John Chilton School will keep its Attendance Policy up to date.
- As decided by Governors, the target for attendance during 2022/2023 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.
- 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.

#### Summary of Outcomes

Average school attendance September - February 2022/2023: 83.09%

Avg. attendance less all medical and condition related absence Sept- Feb 2022/2023: 92.88%

#### Main Outcomes

Number of Pupils in Data Set: 137

Average School Attendance: **83.09%**

Pupils attending at or over 90%: **59 pupils (43%)**

#### Top 20 attendance concern Pupils

Discounting Top 20 attendance concern pupils:  
88.89 % vs Raw Whole School Attendance 83.09%.

Further analysis has been performed to identify the reasons behind the absence. Steps the school has taken to increase attendance are listed

1. **Moved Borough:** There are four students who fall under this category. Presently, these pupils' attendance is between 0% to 41.50% due to moving away to a different borough/country.  
The school has taken necessary steps by providing online learning via google classroom and sending paper learning packs so the pupils can continue their education at home weekly. The school has been actively involved with these students' education progress by checking with the families weekly and solving any occurring issues that could hinder achieving their goals. The local authority has been informed about the changes. The school worked closely with local authorities to ensure the Transition plans were in place. The current status of the student varies. One of the pupils got placed in a different school, the other two are being home-educated by a tutor weekly, and another student who has been in home tuition is currently in the process of joining John Chilton School again.
2. **School Refuser/Phobic:** There are six students who fall under this category. These pupils' attendance rate is between 14% and 53 %. Two pupils have refused to attend school, one is no longer on roll, the other is referred to the LA team. The others have

fears of school attendance or their parents do. Their attendance was low in their mainstream primary, and they did not attend their secondary school. The reason for not attending includes 'anxiety', 'Speech, language and communication needs', and 'profound and moderate learning needs'. In addition, there are various complicating domestic issues in their home. The pattern of non-attendance was also observed in the older siblings. The parents of two students refused to send them to John Chilton school. JCS provides a nurturing and special environment for them to learn and progress.

We have tried to engage with parents by phone unsuccessfully. We carried out home visits to encourage them to come to school. John Chilton initiated a referral to social care and the LA attendance officer to engage with the family.

3. **Home Issues:** There are two students who fall under this category. These pupils' attendance is between 52 % and 68%. There are complicated domestic issues in the home, which create anxiety in the students leading them not to attend school regularly. One was physically unable to leave the flat for a period of time and then highly anxious once a stair-climber had been purchased.

The school is closely working with parents and trying to engage them by phone regularly. We carried out home visits to encourage them to come to school. John Chilton initiated a referral to social care, and the allocation of a named social worker has helped them to return to school and improve their home situation. JCS worked tirelessly by sending school staff to the pupils' homes whom they trust so they could work with the parents to motivate the child to get ready for school.

4. **Absent due to illness and operation:** There are six students who fall under this category. The pupil's attendance is between 44% and 72 %. These pupils have ongoing physical health issues preventing them from attending JCS regularly.

School is working closely with the families to provide online/paper learning packs when they can't attend school due to being very ill, having seizures or having an operation to improve their physical condition. The school also works closely with the nursing team and bowel clinic to see if any medication change causes frequent seizures or physical uneasiness in the child, which might stop them from attending school. The school also gives emotional support to the parents by contacting them regularly during these times and reassuring them about their children's return to school.

5. **Family circumstances went abroad:** There are two students who fall under this category. Presently, the pupil's attendance is below 70% due to being absent during term time as they went abroad to attend religious and social ceremonies. The families were advised to speak to their child's teacher and submit a formal request to the headteacher before arranging for their child to have time away during term time.

The school granted their extended leave of absence due to circumstances. School always ensures pupils can continue their learning by sending hard copies and online learning materials. In addition, when they are abroad, the school always keep in contact with the parents via phone or email.

**Average Attendance Analysis for Primary and Secondary**

| <b>Group</b>                    | <b>Average</b> | <b>Average Less CRA</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Primary<br>(55 pupils) 40.14%   | 86.35%         | 96.24%                  |
| Secondary<br>(82 pupils) 59.85% | 80.86%         | 90.58%                  |

**Percentage Pupil Attendance Trends**

| <b>2018/19</b> | <b>2019-2020</b> | <b>2020-2021</b>                              | <b>Sept-July 2021-2022</b> | <b>Sept-Feb 2022-2023</b> |
|----------------|------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 83.14%         | 87.07%           | No useable figures during corvid regulations. | 85.45%                     | 83.09%                    |

The attendance figures for secondary are lower than primary due to the number of pupils who arrive into Phase 4 already having problems with attendance at their previous school. Individually their attendance has increased while at JCS.

Overall, the attendance figure has decreased due to particular challenges this year of pupils moving out of borough and awaiting a new placement or transport, new pupils starting with challenges and the number of families going abroad for operations or medical interventions.