



John Chilton School

End-Year Statistics

Pupil Attendance Report

September – June 2021-2022

Written by Ankita Banerjee

2021/2022

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, 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, 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 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 June outcomes – and absence trends over time – are attached to this report.

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 85.45%. 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.

2021-2022 also saw a high number of Corvid Cases that led to absence for pupils for the advised isolation time in the majority of cases, though some did because more ill.

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.) 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. 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.

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 2021/2022 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

Due to Corvid regulations that affected attendance dramatically, there was no attendance report for 2020-2021.

Average school attendance Sept-June 2021/2022: 85.45%

Avg. attendance less all medical and condition related absence Sept-June 2021/2022: 94.37%

Main Outcomes

Number of Pupils in Data Set: 134

Average School Attendance: **85.45%**

Pupils attending at or over 90%: **59 pupils (44.02%)**

Top 5 attendance concern Pupils

Discounting Top 5 attendance concern pupils: **87.25%** vs. Raw Whole School Attendance 85.45%

Pupil 1 (attendance): Presently the pupil's attendance is 4.07%. He has been trapped in their flat since November 2020. School has worked tirelessly to provide online/paper learning packs to attend the home weekly. The school has been actively involved in enabling stair climbers to be purchased to exit the flat safely. However, some health and social issues is affecting the daily attendance. Transition plans are in place.

His attendance was 0% since September 2021.

Pupil 2 (attendance): Presently the pupil's attendance is 21.2%. This pupil is new to John Chilton School and joined in February 2022. Her attendance was below 20% in her previous mainstream high school. She only attended J.C.S. during her transition day in February this year and didn't return until May for a few days. The school works closely with the S.W. and F.S.W. to help the pupil with her attendance. Since June this year, a support worker was allocated to pick up and drop off at school daily. Her attendance has improved from when she began attending in May when it was 3.6%.

Pupil 3 (attendance): Presently the pupil's attendance is 34.57%. He is new to John Chilton School. His attendance was low in the mainstream primary. He didn't attend secondary school due to various needs such as anxiety 'Speech, language and communication needs'. JCS provides a nurturing and special environment to enable him to learn and progress. He started JCS in March 2021 in year 9. His attendance in 2020-2021 was extremely low. There are complicating domestic issues in the home and a pattern of non-attendance from older siblings. WE have tried to engage with parents by phone unsuccessfully. We carried out home visits to encourage him to come to school. John Chilton initiated a referral to social care and the LA attendance officer to engage with the family. Over an extended period, A's attendance has improved. He is now CIN, and the allocation of a named social worker has helped. His attendance has improved from 3.4% when he began attending JCS.

Pupil 4 (attendance): Presently the pupil's attendance is 39%. This pupil has ongoing mental health issues which are preventing her from attending JCS on a regular basis. School has worked tirelessly to provide online/paper learning packs when she can't attend school due to her high level of anxiety. In addition, the teacher and teaching assistant have made regular phone calls to the pupil and her father to motivate her to come to school unsuccessfully. As a result, a tutor has been arranged because she has been refusing to attend JCS or have any contact with her peers. Her attendance has decreased from 65.7% since September 2021.

Pupil 5 (attendance): Presently the pupil's attendance is 65.9%. This pupil is also new to JCS and started in September 2021. She lives with a single parent and four other siblings with special needs. Her attendance continues to be an issue. Dad struggles to enforce attendance if she is reluctant to attend school if she does not wish to. The Social Worker has agreed to provide a Support worker who can support her coming to school in the morning, but this is not yet in place. School is helping dad by providing 'sanitary towels' and arranging emergency household goods such as a washing machine to help improve attendance (being unable to wear uniform is used as a reason for not attending school). Her attendance has improved when she began attending in September when it was from 65.7%.

Average Attendance Analysis for Primary and Secondary

Group	Average	Average Less CRA
Primary (55 pupils) 41.04%	87.17%	96.20%
Secondary (79 pupils) 58.95%	84.26%	94.27%

Percentage Pupil Attendance Trends

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019-2020	2020-2021	Sept-July 2021-2022
87%	87%	87.03%	83.14%	87.07%	No useable figures during covid regulations.	85.45%