




ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE
Cambridge

ATTENDANCE POLICY

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STUDENT ATTENDANCE

This Policy makes direct references to the DfE document, 'Working together to improve school attendance' 2022. Further information can be found in this document and will be referred to by the college in all instances of attendance concerns.

We want to support all of our students and their parents/guardians so that they have the best possible experience and reach their full potential. Students with excellent attendance are more successful in school and achieve significantly higher outcomes. Low attendance can be seen as a safeguarding concern (KCSIE 2023) and is a whole school responsibility and priority.

The law entitles every child of a school age to a full-time education suitable to their age and any additional needs. Whilst we recognise that some medical conditions or SEND may provide barriers to education, the student's right to education remains the same as their peers. We will strive to work with families and students to minimise the barriers students face and put in additional support where necessary to ensure that all students are able to access their full-time education.

We recognise that there can be barriers to school attendance and for some students it is harder to attend school than others so we will continue to collaborate closely with parents/guardians, seeking their support throughout the student's time with us. This policy will be applied fairly and consistently but will consider the individual needs of the student and their family.

It is the legal responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that their child accesses education either within a school or by education other than a school. This means the student must attend the college every day it is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances.



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We would like everyone to maintain 100% attendance and it is our expectation that all students achieve at least 90% attendance.

Roles and Responsibilities

The governing body is responsible for monitoring attendance figures for the whole college and holds the principal to account for the implementation of this policy. Attendance figures are published to the governing body through the Governors Report.

The Attendance Officer & Deputy Head (Academic) are responsible for implementation of this policy at the college, monitoring absence data and reporting it to governors and principal and supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual students.

The Attendance Officer & Deputy Head (Academic) are responsible for leading and supporting cases of persistent absence and monitoring absence data and reporting it to governors and principal with the Assistant Principal (Pastoral).

The Attendance Officer monitors attendance data across the college and at an individual student level to support early intervention, reducing absence before it becomes habitual. They report concerns about attendance/punctuality to the Attendance Officer & Deputy Head (Academic) to tackle persistent absence/punctuality issues. They will also lead on the communication with parents to discuss attendance issues. Day to day they ensure registers are accurate and complete using the relevant DfE absence codes.

The Attendance Officer & Deputy Head (Academic) to tackle persistent absence/punctuality issues. They support communication with parents/guardians to discuss attendance issues. They have knowledge of attendance data in their respective areas of the college and at an individual student level to support early intervention so reducing absence before it becomes habitual.

Tutors will support and monitor tutees regarding issues of attendance and maintain communication with parents/guardians and members of teaching staff.

Parents perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are on the college roll attend regularly and are punctual.

All students are to be punctual to lessons and registrations. Any work missed through absence must be made up promptly upon return to college. Tutors will check that students have sought out the relevant teachers to achieve this.

Absence

If a student (in boarding) is going to be absent the parent/guardian/house parent must notify the college on the first day by 9am or as soon as practicably possible using natalie.dean@standrewscambridge.co.uk or calling the college directly. The parent/guardian/house parent should then call on each concurrent day, unless medical advice has been sought and the length of the absence has been agreed.



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If a student (over 18 and living independently) is going to be absent the student must notify the college on the first day by 9am or as soon as practicably possible using natalie.dean@standrewscambridge.co.uk or calling the college directly. The student should then call on each concurrent day, unless medical advice has been sought and the length of the absence has been agreed.

If the absence is a planned absence, for example a medical appointment, the parent/guardian should notify the college in advance. We encourage parents/guardians to make medical and dental appointments out of college hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the student should be out of education for the minimum amount of time necessary. The student's parent/guardian must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible. The final decision on whether an absence is authorised or unauthorised rests with the college.

If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, the school may ask the student's parent/guardian to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note or proof of the appointment or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily.

Parents/guardians, the Principal / Deputy Head (Academic), onsite medical staff and senior boarding staff are the only people who can authorise absences. All absences are recorded on iSAMS, and parents/guardians will be notified by email of any unauthorised absence.

Boarding Students

Unwell boarding students will be supported by their pastoral team, Medical Centre Manager and the school Nurses. If a student is too unwell to attend classes, they will be marked out by the appropriate staff member. As they will be looked after by college staff, they will be marked as present for AM/PM registers and for Contact Points.

If an appointment is arranged by the college, they will be marked absent as required by a member of staff. If an appointment is made by a parent/guardian, the College should be informed by phone or email at least 24 hours in advance.

If you would like to take your child out of school during term time (for example a family holiday), you should put the request in writing to the Principal as early as possible. Please note that such a request will only be approved in exceptional circumstances, and you should not make any bookings before approval has been granted.

Students absent without permission from boarding will be dealt with, initially, through our Missing Students Policy.

Absenteeism

Any student whose attendance falls below 95% will be subject to absenteeism intervention.

Persistent absenteeism is attendance below 85%. If a student's attendance falls below this, it will be referred to the Principal.

The Attendance Officer will check the attendance data and follow up on any patterns of non-attendance half termly. Through regular monitoring, students who are identified as needing additional support with attendance will be targeted and the relevant actions discussed with the student and their parents/guardians. If there is no improvement, despite a collaborative effort, an escalation of support may be required.



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Student services will monitor the class level attendance in iSAMS, and morning and afternoon attendance will be logged in iSAMS. Students who are absent from lessons but have not reported it to college will be contacted to explain their absence and may face disciplinary action.

There are 3 stages of the reporting procedure:

Stage One

- Student are placed on a 6-week monitoring period.
- Students' parents and guardians will be informed by the attendance officer (via letter 1).
- All staff informed via the bulletin.
- Meeting with Deputy Head.
- Check in with Attendance Officer once a week to review the weeks attendance.
- End of 6 weeks monitoring period, students are either congratulated for improved attendance or move on to stage 2.

Stage Two

- Student must report to Student services at 08.30 daily for 5 consecutive days.
- Students who are late to report, fail to report or who miss, or are late for classes during the reporting period will be moved to Stage 3.
- Student must report to the Deputy Head at 16:00 for 5 consecutive days.
- Students must get their teacher to sign their report document at the start of each class.
- Students' parents and guardians will be informed by the attendance officer (via letter 2).
- Online or in person parent meeting will take place at the end of the 5 days.
- If the student does not improve their attendance during this time, they will move on to stage 3

Stage Three

- A final warning letter will be sent by the attendance officer to parents and guardians
- Students must report to the Principal at the times arranged for at least 5 days, and continue to be on report (as per stage 2)
- Students who are late to report, fail to report or who miss, or are late for classes during the reporting period maybe expelled from college with immediate effect. If this is the case their parents will be contacted, and they will be required to arrange flights home.
- No fees will be refunded. If the student is at the college on a Tier 4 visa, UKVI will be informed, and the student's CAS will be withdrawn.
- Depending on the individual circumstances, there may be a requirement for a multi-disciplinary support, a targeted support meeting, parenting contract, involvement from the Local Authority Attendance Support Team or Integrated Children's Services. If there is still no improvement, the local authority may seek legal intervention.



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Lateness

If a student (day) is running late they must contact the Attendance Officer using either natalie.dean@standrewscambridge.co.uk or telephone the college. If a boarder is running late, they must contact the Attendance Officer. Sanctions for lateness are covered in the behaviour policy.

Attendance Monitoring

The Attendance Officer at the college is responsible for monitoring student absence and punctuality. ISAMS is the college information management system and is used to record attendance. The Attendance Officer will analyse attendance data to inform practices and next steps for individual students and cohorts who may need support.

A register is taken for each timetabled lesson and group tutor period. Teachers should take the register within the first 10 minutes of the lesson. Teachers must ensure that the register is taken accurately.

For UKVI purposes, the college recognises a contact point each day Monday to Friday (when the college is open) if either an AM (09:00) or PM (13:00) register has been marked as present.

Sponsored Students

Good attendance is part of the conditions of stay for sponsored students studying in the UK. It is the responsibility of the college to ensure accurate attendance monitoring and prompt follow up. We may cease sponsorship of students who fail to meet the attendance requirements or those who miss ten consecutive contact points without authorisation from Deputy Head (Academic).

Students missing 5 contact points without authorisation will be subject to a Pastoral Review with the Deputy Head (Academic) and Dukes Student Immigration Manager. This meeting will put in place a plan to support the student improving attendance or allow the college to increase support and monitoring of the situation.

Should a student miss 10 contact points without authorisation, the college will review the situation. There is a strong possibility that the college will cease sponsorship and report the absence to the UKVI at this stage. In such cases, UKVI are likely to curtail the student's permission to stay in the UK and the student will have to return to their home country.

If a sponsored student is absent from college for a significant period of time for any reason, a Pastoral Review with Dukes Student Immigration Manager will take place every two weeks from the first day of absence. The college will cease sponsorship if, as a result of the review process, it is concluded that it is unlikely that the student will be able to complete the course of study described on their CAS within the period of their permission to enter/stay in the UK. If the absence from college exceeds 60 days, the presumption is that sponsorship will be withdrawn at that time. This is unless there are exceptional circumstances such as serious illness or injury and providing ongoing bi-weekly Pastoral Reviews do not conclude that the student is unlikely to be able to complete their course of study within the period of their permission to enter/stay, otherwise sponsorship will cease.



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Boarding

Outside of lessons during school days, the college also requires excellent attendance during boarding hours. There are regular daily registers in boarding. These will be conducted by boarding staff and will require a face-to-face contact between staff and pupils.

A student maybe deemed missing from boarding for the following reason:

- Not being present (face-to- face) for a boarding register
- Leaving Cambridge without an authorised leave request, signed by staff and parents/guardians
- Not signing out with a staff member for an authorised leave
- Not signing in with a staff member when returning from an authorised leave

Part-Time Timetables

All students of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a student's best interests, there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet their individual needs. For example, where a medical condition prevents a student from attending full-time education and a part-time timetable is considered as part of a re-integration package. A part-time timetable is not used to manage a student's behaviour. Part time timetables will be documented and reviewed regularly and agreed with the student and parents.

Communication

The Attendance Policy is available from the college.

Communication in the context of attendance is recorded on the student's electronic file.

Next Review: July 2025