

Attendance

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Guidance to help improve school attendance

- [Attendance, CME and CMOE guidance](#) This document creates an agreed framework for your school and Ealing's school attendance, children missing education (CME) and children missing out of education (CMOE) service to work together
- [Working together to improve school attendance \(GOV.UK\)](#) has been published for schools, trusts, governing bodies and local authorities to help improve school attendance, from the beginning of the new school year.
- [School attendance toolkit](#)
- [Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools - GOV.UK](#)
- [Absence due to religious observance](#)
- [Referral form to school attendance service](#)
- [Guide to making a school referral via Gateway](#)

Attendance toolkit

Attendance letter Word templates (dotx)

- [Lateness letter 1](#)
- [Lateness letter 2](#)
- [Letter of concern 1 about attendance](#)
- [Letter of concern 2 unauthorised absence](#)
- [Letter of concern 3 referral to LA](#)
- [3 day absence letter](#)
- [Holiday warning letter- unagreed leave taken in term time](#)
- [Illness at holiday times letter](#)
- [EHCP attendance concerns letter](#)
- [EYFS attendance concerns letter](#)
- [Notification of fixed penalty notice – unagreed leave \(G code\)](#)
- [Notification of fixed penalty notice \(fine\) for unauthorised absence – 10 sessions within 10 weeks codes O, U and G](#)

Attendance guidance and templates

- [Attendance contract template](#)
- [Attendance codes](#)
- [Attendance and absence codes explained](#)
- [Attendance missed and the impact on pupil's learning](#)
- [Attendance referral checklist](#)
- [Attendance support plan](#)
- [Attendance tasks](#)
- [Attendance tracker](#)
- [EAP Inclusion Gateway Professionals Portal](#)
- [Exceptional leave request form](#)
- [Exceptional leave terms of agreement template](#)
- [Example school attendance policy](#)
- [Home visit referral form](#)
- [Persistent absentee flow chart](#)
- [Pupils on reduced timetables and in alternative provisions or remote education](#)
- [School attendance support for families](#)

Absence due to religious observance

Schools should treat a pupil's absence as authorised if it is on a day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the parent belongs. As set out in regulation 6(2)(b)(ii) of the [Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#).

The DfE does not define which specific days schools should authorise for religious observance. As a general rule, we would interpret a 'day exclusively set apart for religious observance' as a day when the pupil's parents would be expected by the religious body to which they belong to stay away from their employment in order to mark the occasion. We advise schools to seek advice from the relevant religious body if they are in doubt.

The DfE would not consider attending religious festivals to be a religious observance day and as such, parents are not entitled to take their children out of school for such festivals. Religious festivals would be an occasion which religious bodies mark without expecting families to take time off work or school.

Parents may apply to the school for a leave of absence that is linked to a religious day. However, unlike days that the religious body have set aside to be spent exclusively in religious observance, parents have no entitlement to leave linked to religious days.

Head teachers may grant requests for leave of absence if there are exceptional circumstances that warrant the leave but are not obliged to do so. Authorisation of such leave is completely at the head teacher's discretion.

More information about [religious festivals](#) on this website.

[Privacy notice for school attendance, children missing education and child employment service](#)

Attendance and benchmark data analysis

Your school's [attendance benchmarks and analysis report](#) are available on your school's [page](#) on the Ealing Grid for Learning (EGfL user account with reports access required).

Related content

[Children missing education \(CME\)](#)

Children missing out on education (CMOE)

Related services

School attendance service 2025/26

Children missing education (CME) service 2025/26

Contact:

- **School attendance service:** attendance@ealing.gov.uk
- **Lucinda Poole**, Schools planning and resource development: lpoole@ealing.gov.uk 020 8825 5768

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- Yes
- Neutral
- No

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