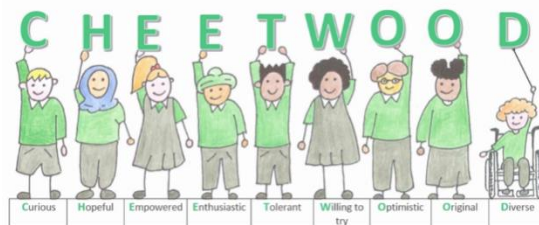




Cheetwood Community Primary School

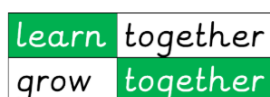
ATTENDANCE POLICY



Approved by the Governing Body

Date written: Summer Term 2026

Review Date: Summer term 2027



School has adopted the Manchester Model policy and maintains all structures and content – with additional content included specific to the school and the schools attendance protocols.

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Introduction

Regular school attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential.

Cheetwood Primary School believe that regular school attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who can realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.

At Cheetwood, we implement a **staged approach to promote excellent attendance for every pupil**. Our staged approach is underpinned by six principles:

- 1. Expect:** a culture where all children can, and want, to be in school.
- 2. Monitor:** analyse attendance data weekly to identify patterns of poor attendance or areas of concern.
- 3. Listen and Understand:** working alongside parents to understand their barriers to attendance; work together to remove them.
- 4. Facilitate Support:** empower parents by supporting them to access external support to overcome barriers outside of school.
- 5. Formalise Support:** this could include formalising support through a Parenting Contract of Education Supervision Order.
- 6. Enforce:** statutory intervention or prosecution to protect the child's right to an education. This stage will only be implemented when all previous stages of the approach have been exhausted and there is no other option.

Cheetwood Primary School values all pupils. As set out in this policy, we will build strong relationships with families to ensure pupils have the support in place to attend school and identify the reasons for poor attendance. Some pupils find it harder than others to attend school and at all stages of the attendance process the school will work in partnership with the parents to collaboratively remove barriers to attendance where possible.

Cheetwood Primary School recognise that attendance is a matter for the whole school community. Our Attendance Policy should not be viewed in isolation; it is a strand that runs through all aspects of school improvement, supported by our policies on admissions, curriculum and assessment, safeguarding, anti-bullying, child protection, safeguarding and behaviour and inclusive learning. This policy considers the Human Rights Act 1998, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Race Relations Act 2000.

This policy aims to show our commitment to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance, including those laid out in the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on [working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#), through our whole-school culture and ethos that values good attendance, including:

- Setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils
- Promoting good attendance and the benefits of good attendance
- Reducing absence, including persistent and severe absence
- Ensuring every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence

- Building strong relationships with families to make sure pupils have the support in place to attend school

We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

Legal Framework

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance (effective from 19th August 2024) and school attendance parental responsibility measures.

The guidance is based on the following legislation, which set out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- Part 6 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 3 of the Education Act 2002
- Part 7 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (and 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2016 amendments)
- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

It also refers to:

- School Census Guidance
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools

Safeguarding

Every pupil should be able learn in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. We respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn and participate in all school activities in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Attending school regularly promotes the welfare and safety of children whilst they are not in the care of their parents/carers. Safeguarding is about offering early help and support to children and families and difficulties with attendance and lateness may be signs that something is worrying the child or that there are difficulties within the family. Poor or irregular attendance, persistent lateness, or children missing from education may be considered a safeguarding matter if this places a child at risk of harm.

Safeguarding the interests of each child is everyone's responsibility and within the context of this school; safeguarding and promoting the welfare and life opportunities for children encompasses: Attendance, Behaviour support, Health and Safety, access to the Curriculum and Anti- bullying, protecting children from abuse and neglect, online safety, radicalisation and extremism, FGM and CSE.

More information on safeguarding and the protection of children can be found in the schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

In order to allow us to safeguard the children in our care it is important that parents and carers provide the school with their current contact details and provide at least three other contact numbers in case of emergency.

At least annually, we will actively request that parents and carers check and confirm the contact details we have on record so that children can be supported to attend school and that we hold current contact details.

It is also important for parents inform the school of any specific vulnerability in relation to their child or home circumstances. This includes notifying the school if home circumstances change, including the use of private fostering arrangement so that there is clarity of responsibilities to ensure school support and to prioritise school attendance.

Categorising Absence

Where pupils of compulsory school age are recorded as absent, the register must show whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

Absence can only be authorised by the headteacher and cannot be authorised by parents. All absences will be treated as unauthorised unless a satisfactory explanation for the pupil's absence has been received.

Parents must advise the school by telephone or by email admin@cheetwood.manchester.sch.uk before 9.30am on the first day of absence and provide the school with an expected date of return. This should be followed up in the form of a written note from the parent/carer, though verbal explanations may be acceptable where this is considered appropriate. Should the pupil already have an attendance action plan in place due to falling into the persistent absence category parents may be asked to provide further information for the absence such as medical evidence.

Absence will be categorised as follows:

- **Illness** Parents may be asked to provide medical evidence to allow the head teacher to authorise absence where appropriate. This will usually be in the form of an appointment card, prescription etc.
- **Medical/Dental Appointments** Parents are advised where possible to make medical and dental appointments outside of the school day. Where this is not possible, pupils must attend school for part of the day. Parents must show the appointment card to school.
- **Other Authorised Circumstances** This relates to where there is cause for absence due to exceptional circumstances.
- **Suspended or Excluded (No alternative provision made)** Exclusion from attending school is counted as an authorised absence. The child's class teacher/form tutor/Head of Year will make arrangements for work to be sent home.
- **Religious Observance** Cheetwood Primary School acknowledges the multi-faith nature of British society and recognises that on some occasions, religious festivals may fall outside school holiday periods or weekends and this necessitates a consideration by written request by the parent of authorised absence.
- **Traveller Absence** It is expected that Traveller children, in common with all other children, are to attend school as regularly and as frequently as possible (*see Appendix 2*)
- **Late Arrival** Registration begins at 8.50am, pupils arriving after this time will be marked as present but arriving late (code L). The register will close at 9.20am (*no more than thirty*

minutes after the opening of the register) pupils arriving after the close of register will be recorded as late (code U) this is not authorised.

On arrival after the close of register, Pupils and their parents/carers must immediately report to the school office to sign their child/ren in, this will ensure that school can be responsible for their health and safety whilst they are in school. The absence will only be authorised if a satisfactory explanation for the late arrival can be provided, for example, attendance at a medical appointment. The absence will be recorded as unauthorised if the pupil has arrived late without justifiable cause.

- **Unauthorised absence** - Absence will not be authorised unless parents have provided a satisfactory explanation and that it has been accepted as such by the head teacher.

Examples of unsatisfactory explanations include, but are not limited to:

- A pupil's/family member's birthday
- Shopping for uniforms
- Having a hair cut
- Closure of a sibling's school for INSET (or other) purposes
- "Couldn't get up"
- Illness where the child is considered well enough to attend school
- Family holidays

A full list of the Department for Education (DfE) Registration Codes can be found in Appendix 1.

All requests for leave of absence in term, including holidays, will be responded to in writing.

If a pupil fails to return from a leave of absence and contact with the parents has not been made or received, school may take the pupil off the school's roll in compliance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2013. This means that the child will lose their school place.

If the permission to take leave is not granted and the parent takes their child out of school the absence will be unauthorised. In such cases the school may request the local authority issue a Penalty Notice or consider other legal sanctions including prosecution in the magistrate's court. This will follow Manchester Statutory Action Escalation Pathway.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governance:

The governing board is responsible for:

- Promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school
- Making sure staff receive adequate training on attendance
- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy
- Making sure that the schools attendance management system is delivered effectively
- Making sure the school has high aspirations for all pupils but adapts processes to pupils' individual needs

The Headteacher:

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementation of this policy at the school
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- Requesting statutory action in line with Manchester's Statutory Action Escalation Pathway or authorising attendance officer
- Ensuring effective communication between school, the Local Authority and parents/carers of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEND) where there are barriers to attendance which relates to the pupils needs
- Following Manchester City Council's Children Missing Education (CME) Protocol when a pupil's whereabouts is unknown

The designated Senior Leader responsible for School Attendance:

The designated Senior Leader is responsible for:

- Leading attendance across the school
- Offering a clear vision for attendance improvement
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Having an oversight of data analysis
- Devising specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data
- Arranging calls and meetings with parents to discuss attendance issues
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families
- Establishing and maintaining effective systems for tackling absence and making sure they are followed by all staff

The designated Senior Leader responsible for Attendance is Brian Wilkinson and can be contacted via telephone: 01618342104 or email admin@cheetwood.manchester.sch.uk

The Attendance Officer:

The school attendance officer is responsible for:

- Benchmarking and monitoring attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Providing regular attendance reports to school staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the designated senior leader responsible for attendance and the headteacher
- Working with the local authority and other key stakeholders to tackle persistent and severe absence
- Liaising with the headteacher as to when a request for statutory action in line with Manchester's Statutory Action Escalation Pathway is appropriate.

The attendance officer is Karen Gregory and can be contacted via telephone 0161 834 2104 or email admin@cheetwood.manchester.sch.uk

Senior Mental Health Lead (Clair Walklett) - the DfE encourages schools to have a Senior Mental health Lead in school.

A Senior Mental Health Lead is responsible for:

- Strategic oversight for setting a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing
- Promoting the health and wellbeing of children and young people in school
- Action taken aligned to Manchester's Emotional Barriers to School Attendance (EBSA) pathway

Class teachers:

Class teachers are responsible for:

- recording attendance daily, using the correct codes, and submitting this information to the school office
- discussing pupil attendance with parents in line with their academic needs

School staff:

School staff are responsible for:

- Take calls from parents about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system
- Transfer calls from parents to the relevant person (Headteacher/attendance officer/pastoral lead) to provide them with more detailed support on attendance

Parents/carers: Parents/carers are expected to:

- Make sure their child attends every day on time
- Call the school to report their child's absence before 9.30 am on the day of the first day of absence and each subsequent day of absence and advise when they are expected to return
- Provide the school with more than 1 emergency contact number for their child
- Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day
- Engage with school support aimed at improving school attendance
- Seek support, where necessary, for maintaining good attendance by contacting Karen Gregory Attendance officer

Pupils:

Pupils are expected to:

- Attend school every day on time

Attendance Data

Use of Attendance Data

The school will:

Monitor attendance and absence data half-termly, termly, and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil level.

Identify whether there are groups of children whose absences may be a cause for concern or cohorts of pupils where attendance is affecting their achievement/outcomes.

Pupil-level absence data will be collected each term and published at national and Local Authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases and the View your own Dashboard (VYOD) system.

The underlying school-level absence data is published alongside the national statistics. The school will compare attendance data to the national average and share this with the Governing Board.

Analysing attendance data

The school will:

- Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify pupils or cohorts that need additional support with their attendance, and use this analysis to provide targeted support to these pupils and their families
- Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns
- Identify pupils whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence

Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

- Provide regular attendance reports to class teachers, and other school leaders, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies
- Provide targeted support to the pupils it has identified whose absences may be a cause for concern, especially those who demonstrate patterns of persistent or severe absence, and their families

Reducing persistent and severe absence

Persistent absence is where a pupil misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence is where a pupil misses 50% or more of school.

The school will:

- Use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence
- Hold regular meetings with the parents of pupils who the school (and/or local authority) considers to be vulnerable, or are persistently or severely absent, to discuss attendance and engagement at school
- Provide access to wider support services to remove the barriers to attendance
- Consider potential safeguarding issues and, where suspected or present, address them in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education

The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance. Strategies used will include, but are not restricted to:

- Discussion with parents and pupils
- Attendance panels
- Parenting contracts
- Referrals to support agencies
- Pastoral Care
- Pupil Voice Activities
- Friendship groups
- PSHE
- Anxiety-based attendance avoidance materials
- Trauma-informed approaches
- Early help referral options

- Family learning
- Reward systems
- Time limited part time time-tables
- Additional learning support
- Behaviour support
- Inclusion resources
- Reintegration support packages
- If a pupil has an Education, Health & Care plan, Cheetwood Community Primary School will communicate with Manchester City Council EHCP Team at an early stage once they become aware of barriers to attendance that relate to the child's needs.

Support offered to families will be child centered, trauma-informed and inclusive; planned in discussion and agreement with both parents and pupils.

Support Systems – attendance intervention staged process

Cheetwood Primary recognise that poor attendance is often an indication of difficulties and trauma in a child's life. This may be related to problems at home and/or in school. Parents should make school aware of any difficulties or changes in circumstances that may affect their child's attendance and/or behaviour in school, for example, bereavement, divorce/separation, incidents of domestic abuse. This will help the school identify any additional support that may be required. It is expected that the child and their family work collaboratively with school to identify the Emotional barriers to School Attendance (EBSA) resources most appropriate for support and to accept the support that is offered or advised

Cheetwood Primary School also recognise that some pupils are more likely to require additional support to attain good attendance, for example, those pupils with special educational needs, those with physical or mental health needs, migrant and refugee pupils and children with a social worker

The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance for all pupils. Strategies used will include:

- Celebrating good attendance in assemblies
- Present weekly attendance and punctuality trophy,
- 100% attendance days where children receive stickers and house points.
- Weekly attendance data is sent out to parents via the newsletter
- Weekly attendance data is displayed in the school hall and in the staffroom
- Termly Gold certificates for all children who achieve 100% attendance in the term
- Termly silver certificates for all children achieving 97% or above attendance (this is school target)
- Any children who move up an attendance bracket or have significantly improved attendance in a term will receive an improved attendance certificate.
- Parents will receive a letter termly with their child's attendance and punctuality bands
- End of year certificates for all children above 97% attendance and Gold certificates/rewards for 100% attendance

At Cheetwood we have a clear staged approach to attendance interventions (please see staged approach to attendance 1 page overview) This process has been designed to support schools in managing all pupil attendance and cases where pupil attendance is a concern.

It sets out steps for schools to follow in:

- Stages 1 and 2 – strong attendance and early support,
- Stages 3 and 4 – attendance below 90% and subsequent school level support
- Stage 5 – significant concerns/formal process

As absence is so often a symptom of wider issues a family is facing, School and local authorities should always work together with other local partners to understand the barriers to attendance and provide support.

Where that is not successful, or is not engaged with, the law protects children's right to an education and provides a range of legal interventions to formalise attendance improvement efforts, and where all other avenues have been exhausted, enforce it through prosecuting parents (as set out in the section below).

In the majority of cases, improvement in attendance can be brought about by good communication and strong partnership working between parents and the school, identifying and addressing the barriers to attendance. Offering and involving early help services is also an integral part of this staged process in cases where more help is needed to address wider issues within a family that are contributing to irregular attendance, ensuring that families get the right support when they need it.

Throughout the process emphasis is placed on trying to understand barriers to attendance and put appropriate support in place. At later stages this process may become more formal, at stage three an action plan for attendance may be put in place to support a pupil's school attendance, at stage 4 the school may require a more formal attendance contract to be completed and at stage 5 this could move to a shared approach with the Local authority which could then lead to legal sanctions. This may occur where early support hasn't been successful for example where voluntary support has not been effective and/or has not been engaged with.

The school, as mentioned above may introduce a range of more formal support as required, some examples may include:

- Attendance action plans
- Attendance contracts
- Initiating an Early Help Assessment and/or referral to appropriate agencies
- Pupil voice activities
- Use of Emotional Barriers to School Attendance pathway (EBSA)
- Trauma-informed approaches
- Use of a **time limited part time timetable** (where appropriate) to support a child's reintegration to school.
- Inclusion Strategy Toolkit
- Reintegration support packages

If a pupil has an Education, Health & Care plan, Cheetwood Primary School will communicate with Manchester City Council EHCP Team/Salford EHCP team at an early stage once they become aware of barriers to attendance that relate to the child's needs

Where parents fail or refuse to engage with the support offered and further unauthorised absence occurs, Cheetwood Primary School may consider the use of legal sanctions following Manchester City Councils Code of Conduct

Legal Sanctions

Cheetwood Primary School will make use of the full range of potential sanctions – including, but not limited to, those listed below – to tackle poor attendance. Decisions will be made on an individual, case-by-case basis

Penalty notices

Manchester City Council, upon a request from school, can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age, by issuing a penalty notice.

Before requesting a legal sanction, the school will consider the individual case, including:

- Whether the national threshold for considering a penalty notice has been met (10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive or sporadic and the period of 10 weeks can also span different terms or school years.
- Whether the school believes that a parent is deliberately attempting to avoid triggering the national attendance threshold. This could include situations where a parent takes a term-time holiday during fragmented weeks, such as those following bank holidays or inset days.
- Whether a penalty notice is the best available tool to improve attendance for that pupil
- Whether appropriate support has been put in place
- Whether any obligations that the school has under the Equality Act 2010 make issuing a penalty notice inappropriate

Each parent who is liable for the pupil's offence(s) can be issued with a penalty notice, but this will usually only be the parent/parents who allowed the absence

The payment must be made directly to the local authority. If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice

If issued with a first penalty notice, the parent must pay £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days

If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil, the parent must pay £160 if paid within 28 days

A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the issue of the first penalty notice. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead.

Notice to Improve

If the national threshold has been met and support is appropriate, but parents do not engage with offers of support, a **Notice to Improve letter** may be issued in line with processes set out in by Manchester City Council's Code of Conduct. This will include a clear warning that a penalty notice may be issued if attendance doesn't improve within the monitoring period which will be up to 6 weeks. Sufficient improvement will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Appendix 1 – Attendance Codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's guidance on school attendance.

Code	Definition	Scenario
/	Present (am)	Pupil is present at morning registration
\	Present (pm)	Pupil is present at afternoon registration
L	Late arrival	Pupil arrives late before register has closed
Attending at a place other than at school		
K	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority	Pupil is attending a place other than a school at which they are registered, for educational provision arranged by the local authority
V	Attending an educational visit or trip	Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised or approved by the school
P	Participating in a sporting activity	Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school
W	Attending work experience	Pupil is on an approved work experience placement
B	Attending any other approved educational activity	Pupil is attending a place for an approved educational activity that is not a sporting activity or work experience
D	Dual registration	Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered
Absent – approved leave of absence		
C1	Participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad	Pupil is undertaking employment (paid or unpaid) during school hours, approved by the school
M	Medical/dental appointment	Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment
J1	Interview	Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment
S	Study leave	Pupil has been granted leave of absence to study for a public examination
X	Not required to be in school	Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend
C2	Part-time timetable	Pupil is not in school due to having a part-time timetable
C	Exceptional circumstances	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
Absent – other authorised reasons		
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes	Pupil is a 'mobile child' who is travelling with their parent(s) who are travelling for occupational purposes
R	Religious observance	Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	Pupil is unable to attend due to illness (either related to physical or mental health)

E	Suspended or excluded	Pupil has been suspended or excluded from school and no alternative provision has been made
Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause		
Q	Lack of access arrangements	Pupil is unable to attend school because the local authority has failed to make access arrangements to enable attendance at school
Y1	Transport not available	Pupil is unable to attend because school is not within walking distance of their home and the transport normally provided is not available
Y2	Widespread disruption to travel	Pupil is unable to attend because of widespread disruption to travel caused by a local, national or international emergency
Y3	Part of school premises closed	Pupil is unable to attend because they cannot practicably be accommodated in the part of the premises that remains open
Y4	Whole school site unexpectedly	Every pupil absent as the school is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to adverse weather)
Y5	Criminal justice detention	Pupil is unable to attend as they are: - In police detention - Remanded to youth detention, awaiting trial or sentencing, or - Detained under a sentence of detention
Y6	Public health guidance or law	Pupil's travel to or attendance at the school would be prohibited under public health guidance or law
Y7	Any other unavoidable cause	To be used where an unavoidable cause is not covered by the other codes
Absent – unauthorised absence		
G	Holiday not granted by the school	Pupil is absent for the purpose of a holiday, not approved by the school
N	Reason for absence not yet established	Reason for absence has not been established before the register closes (must be cleared at least weekly)
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances	No reason for absence has been established, or the school isn't satisfied that the reason given would be recorded using one of the codes for authorised absence
U	Arrived in school after registration closed	Pupil has arrived late, after the register has closed but before the end of session
Administrative codes		
Z	Prospective pupil not on admission register	Pupil has not joined school yet but has been registered
#	Planned whole-school closure	Whole-school closures that are known and planned in advance, including school holidays

Appendix 2: Simple view of steps in attendance process

UNIVERSAL SUPPORT - ongoing
• Develop and maintain a whole school culture that promotes the benefit of high attendance. • Develop strong relationships and work jointly with families, listening to and understanding barriers to attendance and working in partnership with families to remove them. • Ensure reasonable adjustments are made within the school day to ensure those children with SEND are supported well • Monitor attendance robustly, ensuring first day calling for any further absences and follow-up conversations with pupil and parents, arranging meetings and home visits as necessary. • Regularly monitor and analyse attendance and absence data
Stage 1 – everyone
• Cheetwood is a school where every child belongs and this culture is shared through the whole school community. • Cheetwood creates a welcoming environment built around our ethos and values which allows all children to gain a sense of belonging to the Cheetwood family. • Good attendance is the key to enabling children to get the most from their learning and to help them to become resilient, confident and to support them to realise their full potential. • Parents will receive termly letter setting out their child's attendance and punctuality for the term. • Pupils and families will be informed of attendance data through newsletters and displays • Rewards will follow the school protocols
Stage 2 – pupils falling below 95% attendance
• This indicates a growing concern around attendance and attendance patterns • Parents are contacted for an informal conversation and any barriers to attendance are discussed • If pupil has a social worker they will be informed of the absence pattern • School will review any SEND/EHCP/support plans to see they are appropriate • School will discuss any possible in school difficulties e.g. relationships, academic pressures, behavior – to help identify any possible barriers to attendance • Medical needs will be checked • If Medical needs are a barrier to attendance a medical action plan may be implemented.
Stage 3/4 – pupils falling below 90% attendance (monitoring)
• This indicates a serious concern around attendance and attendance patterns • School attendance team will consider and review all attendance data and patterns for pupil – taking into account any specific issues such as serious illness. • Attendance letter will be issued to parents inviting them into a formal meeting with a senior leader of the school. • Within this meeting barriers to attendance will be further explored and an attendance action plan will be created as required. • If pupil has a social worker they will be informed/updated on the absence pattern • If external pressures on the family are a barrier to attendance external support for the family may be sought e.g. Early Help

- If external agencies are already linked to the family discussions around attendance can be held with these agencies to seek any additional support.
- Review meeting will be scheduled for the following half term
- Monitoring will continue until pupil attendance reaches 95% within the half term (it is not expected that overall attendance will reach 95%)
- If there is no improvement stage two attendance letter will be issued to parent
- Meeting will be held with the headteacher and the attendance team (this could be as part of the review meeting if concern is significant about lack of improvement)
- During this meeting a formal attendance contract between the school and parent may be put into place as required.

Stage 5 – no improvement or falling attendance

- Review meeting will be held with the Headteacher and attendance team following on from stage 4 – if child's attendance is showing signs of improvement monitoring will continue until it reaches 95% in the half term
- If child's attendance is not improving or begins to show signs of deterioration after initial improvement formal meeting to review the parenting contract will be held with Headteacher and Attendance team.
- Once all avenues have been exhausted school will submit concerns about attendance to Manchester City council in line with Working Together to Improve School Attendance – this could result in:
 - Formal attendance contract with the LA
 - Fines for non-attendance
 - Notice to improve – a formal notice from the LA that a child's attendance is not acceptable
 - Education supervision order
 - Prosecution

Appendix 3: Traveller Family Absence

To protect Traveller parents from unreasonable prosecution for non-attendance, the Education Act 1996, section 444(6), states that a Traveller parent is safe from prosecution if their child accrues two hundred attendances (i.e. 200 half days) in the year preceding the absence. This applies only when the family proves it is engaged in a trade or business that requires it to travel and when the child is attending school as regularly as that trade permits.

When in or around Manchester, if a family can reasonably travel back to their Base School (see below) then the expectation is that their child will attend full-time.

Cheetwood Primary School will be regarded as the base school if it is the school where the child normally attends when they are not travelling. However, the pupil must have attended in the last 18 months. Traveller children can register at other schools temporarily while away from their base school, in such cases, the pupil's school place at xxx will be kept open for them whilst travelling. This is to protect them from unfairly losing their place at their school of usual attendance.

Cheetwood Primary School can only effectively operate as the child's base school if it is engaged in on-going dialogue with Traveller families. This means that parents must:

advise of their forthcoming travelling patterns before they happen; and

inform the school regarding proposed return dates

Cheetwood Primary School will authorise absence of Traveller children if we are satisfied that a family is travelling for work or trade purposes and has given indication that they intend to return.

Traveller children will be recorded as attending an approved educational activity when:

The child is on roll and attending another visited school

Undertaking supervised educational activity under the jurisdiction of another Local Authority's Traveller Education Service

The child is undertaking computer-based distance learning that is time evidenced

Where Traveller children are registered pupils at a school and are known to be present either at a site (official or otherwise) or in a house and are not attending school, the absence will be investigated in the same way as that for any pupil and appropriate statutory action may be undertaken.