

Bridge College

Attendance and Absence Policy

Date policy last reviewed: 8.1.2024

Signed by:

_____ Headteacher Date: _____

_____ Chair of governors Date: _____

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Statement of intent

Bridge College believes that to facilitate teaching and learning, good attendance is essential. Students cannot achieve their full potential if they do not regularly attend college.

We understand that barriers to attendance are complex, and that some students find it harder than others to attend college; therefore, we will continue to prioritise cultivating a safe and supportive environment at college, as well as strong and trusting relationships with students and parents and carers.

We take a whole-college approach to securing good attendance and recognise the impact that our efforts in other areas – such as the curriculum, behaviour standards, bullying, SEND support, pastoral support, and the effective use of resources such as student premium – can have on improving students' attendance.

We are committed to:

- Promoting and modelling high attendance and its benefits.
- Ensuring equality and fairness for all.
- Intervening early and working with other agencies to ensure the health and safety of our students.
- Building strong relationships with families to overcome barriers to attendance.
- Working collaboratively with other educational establishments in the area, as well as other agencies.
- Ensuring parents and carers follow the framework set in section 7 of the Education Act 1996, which states that the parent of every child of compulsory college age shall cause them to receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability, and aptitude, and to any Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) they may have, either by regular attendance at college or otherwise.
- Ensuring our attendance policy is clear and easily understood by all staff, parents, carers, and students.
- Regularly monitoring and analysing attendance and absence data to identify students or cohorts that require more support.

The college's Pastoral Lead with responsibility for attendance is, **Ashleigh Warrington** and can be contacted via awarrington@bridgecollege.ac.uk. Staff, parents, carers, and students will be expected to contact the attendance officer for queries or concerns about attendance.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- The Education (Student Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended)
- DfE (2022) 'Working together to improve college attendance'.
- DfE (2016) 'Children missing education'.
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE) 2023'.
- DfE (2023) 'Providing remote education'.

This policy operates in conjunction with the following college policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Children Missing from Education Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy
- Attendance Officer Home Visit Policy
- Students with Additional Health Needs Attendance Policy

2. Definitions

The following definitions apply for the purposes of this policy:

Absence:

- Arrival at college after the register has closed.
- Not attending Bridge College for any reason.

Authorised absence:

- An absence for sickness for which the college has granted leave.
- Medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall during college time, for which evidence has been provided and the college has granted leave.
- Religious or cultural observances for which the college has granted leave.
- An absence due to a family emergency
- Holidays for exceptional circumstances are authorised at the Principal's discretion.

Unauthorised absence:

- Parents or carers keeping students off college unnecessarily or without reason.
- Truancy before or during the college day
- Absences which have never been properly explained

- Arrival at college after the register has closed, unless agreed due to exceptional circumstances.
- Absence due to shopping, looking after other children or birthdays.
- Absence due to day trips and holidays in term-time which have not been agreed.
- Leaving college for no reason during the day

Persistent absence (PA):

- Missing 10 percent (which is approximately 2.5 weeks) or more of college sessions across the year for any reason

Missing education

- Not registered at a college and not receiving suitable education in a setting other than a college
- Being registered at a college but not attending for a prolonged period of time and current location unknown.

3. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board has overall responsibility for:

- Monitoring the implementation of this policy and all relevant procedures across the college.
- Promoting the importance of good attendance through the college's ethos and policies.
- Arranging attendance training for all relevant staff that is appropriate to their role.
- Working with the SLT to set goals for attendance and providing support and challenge around delivery against those goals.
- Ensuring that this policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds including, but not limited to, ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.
- Handling complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the college's Complaints Procedures Policy.
- Having regard to KCSIE when deciding to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Principal, Assistant Principal and Safeguarding Lead are responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation and management of this policy and all relevant procedures across the College.
- Appointing a member of the Pastoral Learning Support Team to the attendance officer role.
- Ensuring all parents and carers are aware of the college's attendance expectations and procedures.
- Ensuring that every student has access to full-time education and will act as early as possible to address patterns of absence.

Staff are responsible for:

- Following this policy and ensuring students do so too.
- Ensuring this policy is implemented fairly and consistently.
- Modelling good attendance behaviour.
- Using their professional judgement and knowledge of individual students to inform decisions as to whether any welfare concerns should be escalated.
- Where designated, taking the attendance register at the relevant times during the college day.

The attendance officer and Designated Safeguarding Lead are responsible for:

- The overall strategic approach to attendance in college.
- Developing a clear vision for improving attendance.
- Monitoring attendance and the impact of interventions.
- Analysing attendance data and identifying areas of intervention and improvement.
- Communicating with students and parents regarding attendance.
- Following up on incidents of persistent poor attendance.
- Informing the LA of any students who are at risk of being deleted from the admission and attendance registers.

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- Providing accurate and up-to-date contact details.
- Providing the college with more than one emergency contact number.
- Updating the college if their details change.
- The attendance of their children or adult at college.
- Promoting good attendance with their children or adult.

Students are responsible for:

- Attending their lessons and any agreed activities when at college.
- Arriving punctually to lessons when at college.

4. Attendance expectations

The college has high expectations for students' attendance and punctuality and will ensure that these expectations are communicated regularly to parents and students.

Students will be expected to:

- Attend college every day they are required to be at college, for the full day.
- Attend college punctually.
- Attend every timetabled lesson.

The college day will start at **9:00am**, and students are expected to be in their classroom, ready to begin lessons at this time. The majority of students at Bridge travel to college on local authority transport. Students are supported from their transport to class from 8.55am. . Students will have a morning break which are staggered between **10:00am and 10.50am**, for 20 minutes , and a lunch break at **11:45pm**, which will last until **12.45pm** – students will be expected to have returned from each break and be ready to recommence learning at the stated times.

Registers will be taken as follows throughout the college day:

- The morning register will be marked by **9:30am**. Students who arrive at college after 9.15am will be given a late mark on the register. This will show that the student is on site but arrived after the start of the college day.
- The morning register will close at **9:30am**. Students arriving at college after this time will receive a U (unauthorised code), however the register will note what time the student arrived and that they are on site.
- The afternoon register will be marked by **1:00pm**. Students will receive a late mark if they are not in their classroom by this time.
- The afternoon register will close at **1:00pm**. Students will receive a mark of absence if they are not present.

Students will be encouraged to communicate any concerns related to attendance and absence as soon as possible to the relevant member of staff.

5. Absence procedures

Parents or carers will be required to contact the college office via telephone before **9:00am** on the first day of their child's / adult's absence – they will be expected to provide an explanation for the absence and an estimation of how long the absence will last, e.g., one college day.

Where a student is absent, and their parent or carer has not contacted the college by **the close of the morning register** to report the absence, administrative staff will contact the parent or carer via **telephone call or email** as soon as is practicable on the first day that the student does not attend college.

The college will always follow up any absences to:

- Ascertain the reason for the absence.
- Ensure the proper safeguarding action is being taken.
- Identify whether the absence is authorised or not.
- Identify the correct code to use to enter the data onto the college system.

Where a student is absent for more than **three** college days in a row, or more than **10** college days in **one term**, the student's parent or carer will be expected to provide a signed letter with an explanation for the absence(s).

The college will not request medical evidence in most circumstances where a student is absent due to illness; however, the college reserves the right to request supporting evidence where there is genuine and reasonable doubt about the authenticity of the illness.

In the case of PA, arrangements will be made for parents or carers to speak to the attendance officer. The college will inform the Local Authority (LA), on a **termly** basis, of the details of students who fail to attend regularly, or who have missed 10 college days or more without authorisation.

If a student's attendance drops below **85 percent**, the attendance officer will arrange a formal meeting with the student and their parent or carer.

Where a student has not returned to college for 10 days after an authorised absence or is absent from college without authorisation for 20 consecutive college days, the college will consider removing the student from the admissions register if the college and the LA have failed to establish the whereabouts of the student after making reasonable enquiries. College will also conduct a home visit to ensure the welfare of the student.

The attendance reporting structure will be as follows:

1. Class tutor
2. Senior Learning Support Assistant or Pastoral Manager
3. Attendance officer / Safeguarding Lead
4. Principal
5. Education welfare officer or Social Care

6. Attendance register

The college uses **Databridge** to keep attendance registers to ensure they are as accurate as possible and can be easily analysed and shared with the appropriate authorities.

Designated staff members will take the attendance register **at the start of each college day**. This register will record whether students are:

- Present.
- Absent.
- Attending an approved educational activity.
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

The college will use the national attendance codes to ensure attendance and absence are monitored and recorded in a consistent way. The following codes will be used:

- **[New]** # = Planned whole or partial college closure
- / = Present in the morning
- \ = Present in the afternoon
- L = Late arrival before the register has closed
- C = Leave of absence granted by the college
- H = Authorised holiday
- E = Excluded but no alternative provision made
- I = Illness
- M = Medical or dental appointments
- R = Religious observance
- S = Study leave
- T = Traveller absence
- G = Unauthorised holiday
- N = Reason not yet provided
- O = Unauthorised absence
- U = Arrived after registration closed

- D = Dual registered at another educational establishment
- B = Off-site education activity
- J = At an interview with prospective employers, or another educational establishment
- P = Participating in a supervised sporting activity
- V = Educational visit or trip
- W = Work experience
- Y = Exceptional circumstances
- Z = Student not on admission register

When the college has planned to be fully or partially closed, the code ‘#’ will be used for the relevant students who are absent. This code will also be used to record year groups who are not due to attend because the college has set different term dates for different years, e.g., induction days.

Students who are absent from college but are receiving remote education for any reason will be marked as absent in the register.

All amendments made to the attendance register will include the original entry, the amended entry, the reason for the amendment, the date of amendment and the name and role of the person who made the amendment.

Every entry received into the attendance register will be preserved for **three years**.

7. Authorising parental absence requests

Parents or carers will be required to request certain types of absence in advance. All requests for absence will be handled by the Principal, Safeguarding Lead and Attendance Officer – the decision to grant or refuse the request will be at the sole discretion of the Principal, taking the best interests of the student and the impact on the student’s education into account. The Principal’s decision is not subject to appeal; however, the college will be sympathetic to requests for absence by parents, and will not deny any request without good reason.

Leave of absence

The college will only grant a student a leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. To have requests for a leave of absence considered, the college will expect parents or carers to contact the principal **in writing** at least **two weeks** prior to the proposed start date of the leave of absence, providing the reason for the proposed absence and the dates during which the absence would be expected to occur. Official college form ‘request for exceptional leave’ are kept in college reception.

Any requests for leave during term time will be considered on an individual basis and the student’s previous attendance record will be considered. Where the absence is granted, the Principal will determine the length of time that the student can be away from college. The college is not likely to grant leaves of absence for the purposes of family holidays.

Requests for leave will not be granted in the following circumstances:

- During Year 1 when a student is settling into the college, unless certain exceptional circumstances apply, e.g., the death of a family member.

- Immediately before and during assessment periods
- When a student's attendance record shows any unauthorised absence
- Where a student's authorised absence record is already above **10 percent** for any reason

If term-time leave is not granted, taking a student out of college will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and may result in sanctions, such as a penalty notice. The college cannot grant leaves of absence retrospectively; therefore, any absences that were not approved by the college in advance will be marked as unauthorised.

Illness and healthcare appointments

Parents or carers will be expected to make medical or dental appointments outside of college hours wherever possible. Where this is not possible, parents will be expected to obtain approval for their child's or adults' absence to attend such appointments as far in advance as is practicable. Parents or carers will be responsible for ensuring their child or adult misses only the amount of time necessary to attend the appointment.

Performances and activities, including paid work.

The college will ensure that all students engaging in performances or activities, whether they receive payment or not, which require them to be absent from college, understand that they will be required to obtain a licence from the LA which authorises the college's absence(s).

Additional arrangements will be made by the college for students engaging in performances or activities that require them to be absent from college to ensure they do not fall behind in their education – this may involve private teaching. These arrangements will be approved by the LA who will ensure that the arrangements are suitable for the student.

The student will receive education that, when taken together over the term of the licence, amounts to a minimum of three hours per day that the student would be required to attend a college / college maintained by the LA issuing the licence. This requirement will be met by ensuring a student receives an education:

- For not less than six hours a week; and
- During each complete period of four weeks (or if there is a period of less than four weeks, then during that period), for periods of time not less than three hours a day; and
- On days where the student would be required to attend college if they were attending a college / college maintained by the LA; and
- For not more than five hours on any such day.

Where a licence has been granted by the LA and it specifies dates of absence, no further authorisation will be needed from the college. Where an application does not specify dates, and it has been approved by the LA, it is at the discretion of the headteacher to authorise the leave of absence for each day. The Principal will not authorise any absences which would mean that a student's attendance would fall below **96 percent**. Where a licence has not been obtained, the Principal will not authorise any absence for a performance or activity.

Religious observance

Parents or carers will be expected to request absence for religious observance at least **two weeks** advance. In the event of Eid, we ask to be informed as soon as possible.

The college will only accept requests from parents or carers for absence on grounds of religious observance for days that are exclusively set apart for religious observance by the relevant religious body. The college will define this as a day where the students' parents or carers would be expected by an established religious body to stay away from their employment to mark the occasion.

The college may seek advice from the religious body in question where there is doubt over the request.

Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller absence

Where a student's parent or carer belongs to a community covered by this code and is travelling for occupational purposes, the parent will be expected to request a leave of absence for their child or adult at least **two weeks** in advance. Absences will not be granted for students from these communities under this code for reasons other than travel for occupational purposes.

8. SEND- and health-related absences

The college recognises that students with SEND and/or health conditions, including mental health issues, may face greater barriers to attendance than their peers, and will incorporate robust procedures to support students who find attending college difficult.

In line with the 'SEND Policy' and 'Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy', the college will ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for disabled students to reduce barriers to attendance, in line with any EHC plans or IHPs that have been implemented. The college will secure additional support from external partners to help bolster attendance where appropriate.

Where the college has concerns that a student's non-attendance may be related to mental health issues, parents or carers will be contacted to discuss the issue and whether there are any contributory factors to their child's or adults lack of attendance. Where staff have a mental health concern about a student that is also a safeguarding concern, they will inform the DSL and the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be followed. All students will be supported with their mental health in accordance with the college's Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy. The student will be tracked and monitored on the college's Mental Health Tracker.

If a student is unable to attend college for long periods of time due to their health, the college will:

- Inform the LA if a student is likely to be away from the college for more than 15 college days.
- Provide the LA with information about the student's needs, capabilities, and programme of work.
- Help the student reintegrate at college when they return.
- Make sure the student is kept informed about college events and clubs.

- Encourage the student to stay in contact with other students during their absence.

The college will incorporate an action plan to help any students with SEND and/or health issues cope with the stress and anxiety that attending college may cause them. Such plans will be regularly monitored and reviewed until the student is attending college as normal and there have been signs of significant improvement.

To support the attendance of students with SEND and/or health issues, college will consider:

- Holding termly meetings to evaluate any implemented reasonable adjustments.
- Incorporating a pastoral support plan.
- Carrying out strengths and difficulties questionnaire.
- Identifying students' unmet needs through the Common Assessment Framework.
- Using an internal or external specialist.
- Enabling a student to have a reduced timetable.
- Ensuring a student can have somewhere quiet to spend lunch and breaktimes.
- Implementing a system whereby students can request to leave a classroom if they feel they need time out.
- Temporary late starts or early finishes.
- Phased returns to college where there has been a long absence.
- Small group work or on-to-one lessons.
- Tailored support to meet their individual needs.

9. Absence in exceptional circumstances

Exceptional circumstances will include when a student is unable to attend because:

- Transport provided by the college, LA or parent is not available and the student's home is not within walking distance.
- There has been widespread disruption to travel services which has prevented the student from attending.
- The student is in custody and will be detained for less than four months.

The use of the 'Y' code for exceptional circumstances will be collected in the college census for statistical purposes.

10. Truancy

Truancy will be considered as any absence of part, or all, of one or more days from college, during which the college has not been notified of the cause behind such absence.

All staff will be actively engaged in supporting the regular attendance of students and understand the importance of continuity in each student's learning.

Any student with permission to leave the college during the day must sign out at the [college office](#) and sign back in again on their return.

Immediate action will be taken when there are any concerns that a student might be truanting. If truancy is suspected, the principal is notified, and they will contact the parent or carer to assess the reasons behind the student not attending college.

The following procedures will be taken in the event of a truancy:

- In the first instance, a letter of warning will be sent to the parents or carer of the student, informing them of the truancy and stating that any future occurrences could result in further action being taken.
- If any further truancy occurs, then the college will consider issuing a penalty notice.
- A penalty notice will be issued where there is overt truancy, inappropriate parentally condoned absence, excessive holidays in term-time and persistent late arrival at college.

11. Absent students

Students will not be permitted to leave the college premises during the college day unless they have permission from the college. The following procedures will be taken in the event of a student going missing whilst at college:

- The member of staff who has noticed the absent student will inform the principal immediately. The college grounds are secure and there is very little opportunity for a student to leave college grounds.
- The office staff will also be informed as they will act as a point of contact for receiving information regarding the search.
- A member of staff will stay with the rest of the class, and all other available members of staff will conduct a thorough search of the college premises as directed by the Principal.
- The following areas will be systematically searched:
 - All classrooms and offices
 - All toilets
 - Hygiene rooms
 - Hydrotherapy room
 - Any outbuildings
 - The college grounds.
- Available staff will begin a search of the area immediately outside of the college premises and will take a mobile phone with them so they can be contacted.
- If the student has not been found after **15 minutes**, then the parents or carers of the student will be notified.
- The college will attempt to contact parents or carers using the emergency contact numbers provided.
- If the parents or carers have had no contact from the student, and the emergency contacts list has been exhausted, the police will be contacted.
- The absent student's Tutor or Supporting Staff member will fill in an incident form, describing all circumstances leading up to the student going missing.
- If the absent student has an allocated social worker, is a looked-after child, or has any SEND, then the appropriate personnel will be informed.
- When the student has been located, members of staff will care for and talk to the student to ensure they are safe and well.
- Parents, and/or carers, and any other agencies will be informed immediately when the student has been located.

The Principal will take the appropriate action to ensure that students understand they must not leave the premises, and sanctions will be issued if deemed necessary. Appropriate disciplinary procedures will be followed in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.

The Principal will carry out a full investigation and will draw a conclusion as to how the incident occurred. A written report will be produced, and policies and procedures will be reviewed in accordance with the outcome where necessary.

12. Attendance intervention

To ensure the college has effective procedures for managing absence, the attendance officer, supported by the Safeguarding Lead, will:

- Establish a range of specific, evidence-based interventions to address barriers to attendance.
- Monitor the implementation and quality of escalation procedures and seek robust evidence of the escalation procedures that work.
- Attend or lead attendance reviews in line with escalation procedures.
- Establish robust escalation procedures which will be initiated before absence becomes a problem by:
 - Sending letters to parents.
 - Having a **weekly** tutor review.
 - Engaging with LA attendance teams.
 - Creating attendance clinics.

The college will use attendance data, in line with the '[Monitoring and analysing absence](#)' section of this policy, to develop specific strategies to improve attendance where patterns of absence are emerging. These strategies will be developed on a case-by-case basis and will consider the particular needs of the students whom the intervention is designed to target.

The college will aim to improve attendance in the overall college cohort by acknowledging good attendance in the following ways:

- **[Postcards home](#)**

College trips and events will be considered a privilege. Where attendance drops below **90 percent**, these privileges may be taken away. The college will develop strategies for ensuring that students with health needs or home circumstances that result in additional absences are not unfairly excluded from attendance rewards, e.g., by setting individualised targets.

13. Working with parents to improve attendance

The college will work to cultivate strong, respectful relationships with parents and families and work to build trust and engagement. Open and honest communication will be maintained with students and their families about the expectations of college life, attendance, and performance so that they understand what to expect and what is expected of them. The college will liaise with other agencies working with students and their families to support attendance, e.g., social services.

The college will ensure that there are **two** sets of emergency contact details for each student wherever possible to ensure the college has additional options for getting in touch with adults responsible for a student where the student is absent without notification or authorisation.

The college will ensure that parents are aware of their legal duty to ensure that their child attends college regularly and to facilitate their child's legal right to a full-time education – parents will be made aware that this means their child must attend college every day that it is open, save for in certain circumstances, e.g., sickness or absences that have been authorised by the Principal in advance. The college will regularly inform parents about their child's or adults' levels of attendance, absence, and punctuality, and will ensure that parents are aware of the benefits that regular attendance at college can have for their child or adult educationally, socially and developmentally.

If a pattern of absence becomes problematic, the attendance officer will work collaboratively with the student and their parents or carers to improve attendance by addressing the specific barriers that prevent the student from being able to attend college regularly. The college will always take into consideration the sensitivity of some of the reasons for student absence and will approach families to offer support rather than immediately reach for punitive approaches.

Where these barriers are related to the student's experience in college, e.g., bullying, the attendance officer will work with the Principal and any relevant college staff, e.g., the DSL and Attendance Officer, to address this. Where the barriers are outside of the college's control, e.g., they are related to issues within the student's family, the attendance officer will liaise with any relevant external agencies or authorities, e.g., children's social care or the LA, and will encourage parents to access support that they may need.

14. Persistent absence (PA)

There are various groups of students who may be vulnerable to high absence and PA, such as:

- Children in need
- LAC
- Young carers
- Students who are eligible for FSM
- Students with EAL
- Students with SEND
- Students who have faced bullying and/or discrimination.
- Students with Medical Conditions
- Students with complex additional Needs

The college will ensure it provides support to students at risk of PA, in conjunction with all relevant external authorities where necessary.

The college will use several methods to help support students at risk of PA to attend college. These include:

- Offering catch-up support to build confidence and bridge gaps in learning.
- Meeting with the student and their parent or carer to discuss patterns of absence, barriers to attendance, and any other problems they may be having.

- Establishing plans to remove barriers and provide additional support.
- Leading **weekly** check-ins to review progress and assess the impact of support.
- Making regular contact with the student's parent or carers to discuss progress.
- Assessing whether an EHC plan or IHP may be appropriate.
- Considering what support for re-engagement might be needed, including about additional vulnerability.

The college will focus particularly on students who have rates of absence over 50 percent and will work with the LA and other partners to engage all relevant services needed to identify and address the wider barriers to attendance these students are facing.

Where a student at risk of PA is also at increased risk of harm, the college will work in conjunction with all relevant authorities, e.g., social services, to support the student in line with the college's duty of care. The college will also bear in mind that the continuation of severe PA following intervention may constitute neglect and will escalate any concerns in this regard in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

15. Legal intervention

The college will allow sufficient time for attendance interventions and engagement strategies to improve students' attendance; however, where engagement strategies to improve attendance have not had the desired effect after **one term**, the attendance officer will consider:

- Holding a formal meeting with parents and the college's point of contact in the College Attendance Support Team.
- Working with the LA to put a parenting contract or an education supervision order in place.
- Engaging children's social care where there are safeguarding concerns.

16. Monitoring and analysing absence

The attendance officer will monitor and analyse attendance data **weekly** to ensure that intervention and support is delivered quickly to address habitual absence at the first signs.

The college will collect data regarding punctuality, truancy, and authorised and unauthorised absence, for:

- The college cohort.
- Individual year groups.
- Individual students.
- Demographic groups, e.g., students from different ethnic groups or economic backgrounds.
- Other groups of students, e.g., students with SEND, LAC, and students eligible for FSM.
- Students at risk of PA.

The attendance officer will conduct thorough analysis of the above data on a **half-termly, termly, and full-year** basis to identify patterns and trends. This will include identifying, for each group:

- Patterns in uses of certain codes.
- Particular days of poor attendance.
- Subjects which have low lesson attendance.
- Historic trends of attendance and absence.
- Barriers to attendance.

The attendance officer will provide regular reports to staff across the college to enable them to track the attendance of students and to implement attendance procedures. The attendance officer will also be responsible for monitoring how attendance data changes in response to any interventions implemented to increase attendance in future.

The governing board will regularly review attendance data, including examinations of recent and historic trends, and will support the Safeguarding Lead in setting goals and prioritising areas of focus for attendance support based on this data.

The college will also benchmark its attendance data against local-, regional- and national-level data to identify areas of success and areas for improvement and will share practice which has been shown to be effective with other colleges.

17. Training of staff

The college will recognise that early intervention can prevent poor attendance. As such, staff will receive training in identifying potentially at-risk students as part of their induction and refresher training.

The governing board will ensure that Tutors and support staff receive training in line with this policy as part of their induction. Following this initial training, staff will be offered regular and ongoing training as part of their CPD opportunities.

Training will cover at least the following:

- The importance of good attendance
- That absence is almost invariably a result of wider circumstances.
- The legal requirements on colleges, e.g., the keeping of registers.
- The college's strategies and procedures for monitoring and improving attendance.
- The college's procedures for multi-agency working to provide intensive support for students who need it.

The governing board will provide dedicated and enhanced attendance training to the attendance officer and other staff with specific attendance functions in their role – this will include training regarding interpreting and analysing attendance data and supporting students to overcome barriers to attendance.

Staff will receive training to ensure they understand that increased absence from college could indicate a safeguarding concern and know how such concerns should be managed.

18. Monitoring and review

Attendance and punctuality will be monitored throughout the year. The college's attendance target is 96 percent – full details of the college's absence levels can be found on the college website.

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Safeguarding Lead and the Attendance Officer. The next scheduled review date for this policy is 8.1.2027.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

Attendance Monitoring Procedures

A red, amber, gold (RAG) rated spreadsheet will be discussed weekly with Tutors detailing weekly and annual attendance to date. The conversation will be regarding those students identified as red initially and then work will commence for those students on Amber.

1. Attendance will be discussed with Tutor and students will record their attendance in planners. Any attendance/punctuality trends noticed by Tutor should be passed immediately to Senior Learning Support Assistant or Pastoral Learning Support Manager.
2. Contact will be made with parents on the first day of absence for any student absence not reported. Second day N codes will be sent to Senior Learning Support Assistant or Pastoral Learning Support Manager, daily by the attendance officer (AO). Senior Learning Support Assistant or Pastoral Learning Support Manager should contact home by telephone.
3. Any N codes not established after a week will be recorded as unauthorised absence.
4. Student attendance drops below 95 percent – Senior Learning Support Assistant or Pastoral Learning Support Manager will speak to students to discuss any issues or problems to ascertain how the college can help to improve their attendance. AO will make a phone call home, if applicable.
5. Student attendance drops below 93 percent – a letter will be sent home raising concerns that attendance has fallen below the college target of 95 percent. The letter will also have a leaflet attached outlining how parents can work with the college and their child or adults to help improve attendance.
6. Student attendance drops below 90 percent – a letter will be sent home explaining that a student's absence is now being monitored. AO will contact parents. Attendance monitored for two weeks. If attendance has not improved, then parents will be required to attend a meeting in college with their child's Senior Learning Support Assistant or Pastoral Learning Support Manager.
7. If parents are unwilling to co-operate, or genuinely unable to attend, we will then carry out a home visit.
8. If attendance has not improved within the two-week monitoring period (likely to be close to 85 percent or below), or if attendance has fallen rapidly, parents will be invited to either: a college attendance meeting with Senior Learning Support Assistant or Pastoral Learning Support Manager, AO and Safeguarding Lead if appropriate, or a medical action planning meeting with the college nurse, Senior Learning Support Assistant or Pastoral Learning Support Manager AO and Therapists. Provision will be discussed, and targets will be set for raising attendance. This will be monitored over a further two-week period.
9. After the two-week monitoring period, if targets are met, a letter will be sent home from the leadership team to congratulate the student and the family. Monitoring and communication with the family will continue until attendance stabilises – if targets are not met, the AO will make a referral to the EWO.
10. Education Welfare protocol will be followed, and a parental contract will be drawn up – there will be a four-week monitoring period. No improvements in this time will result in a final written warning. If there is still no further improvement following this, then a meeting with the Principal will be arranged.

Attendance Agreement Form

Student Attendance Agreement

I agree to attend college and understand the consequences I may face if my attendance drops below 100 percent. I will ensure that the college is made immediately aware of when I will not reasonably be able to attend and will give the college full details of my absence.

As a student at **Bridge College**, I am dedicated to:

- Being in attendance every day.
- Always being punctual to college and lessons.
- Informing the college of the reason for any absence.
- Not absent from college for trivial reasons.

Student name:	Date:
Senior Learning Support Assistant or Pastoral Learning Support Manager. name:	Date:

Parental Attendance Agreement

I understand that it is my responsibility to send my child to college. I agree to send my child to college every day and understand the consequences if I fail to do so. When my child is absent from college due to exceptional circumstances, I will ensure the correct procedures are followed.

Parent name:	Date:
Senior Learning Support Assistant or Pastoral Learning Support Manager. name:	Date: