

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Version: 2


St. Catherine's
 RC Primary School

Name and Designation of Policy Author(s)	Miss Nina Chwastek, Headteacher		Is this a Statutory Document
			No
Approved By (Committee / Group)	Curriculum Committee		
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Links to Other Strategies, Policies, Procedures, etc	Personal, Social and Health Education Policy, Home School Agreement		

Version History

Date	Ver	Author Name and Designation	Summary of Main Changes
Jan 2016	1	Nina Chwastek	Old policy updated and put into new standard format (hence version 1). Updated in line with Manchester guidance on Attendance.
Feb 2020	2	Nina Chwastek	Amended to take account of advices from Manchester Attendance Team re. traveller families, penalty notices and length of monitoring periods. Whole school letter included in appendices.

Monitoring Compliance with the Policy

Describe Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Target	How will the KPI be Monitored?	Which Committee will Monitor this KPI?	Frequency of Review	Lead
Attendance policy available to parents via the school website	100%	Check availability and clarity of communication	Curriculum Committee	Termly	Chair of Curriculum Committee

Pupil attendance is tracked and procedures followed relating to triggers for intervention	100%	Information provided to Governors through Headteacher Report and Curriculum Committee	Curriculum Committee	Termly	Chair of Curriculum Committee
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Mission Statement

Our school community is rooted in the Gospel and the vision of St. Catherine of Siena. This inspires each of us ***'To be who God wants us to be and so set the world on fire.'***

- We are called to love one another as we seek to be the best in all that we learn and do.
- We celebrate and nurture the gifts, talents and skills of everyone.
- We commit ourselves to grow together in faith, love and service.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Regular school attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential.
- 1.2 St. Catherine's R.C 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 are able to realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.
- 1.3 St. Catherine's R.C Primary School values all pupils. As set out in this policy, we will work with families to identify the reasons for poor attendance and try to resolve any difficulties.
- 1.4 St. Catherine's R.C 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 safeguarding, bullying, behaviour and inclusive learning. This policy also takes into account the Human Rights Act 1998, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Race Relations Act 2000.

2. Legal Framework

- 2.1 Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act states that parents must ensure that children of compulsory school age receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.
- 2.2 A child is of Compulsory School Age at the beginning of the term following their 5th birthday. A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach the age of 16.
- 2.3 Under the Education Act 1996, the Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that parents secure education for children of compulsory school age and where necessary, use legal enforcement.
- 2.4 The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2013, require schools to take an attendance register twice a day, once at the start of the morning session and then again during the afternoon session.
- 2.5 The register must record whether the pupil was:
 - present;
 - absent;
 - present at approved educational activity; or
 - unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

3. Categorising absence

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

- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Parents must advise the school by telephone 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.
- 3.4 Absence will be categorised as follows:
- 3.5 Illness Parents may be asked to provide medical evidence to allow the Headteacher to authorise absence where appropriate. This will usually be in the form of an appointment card, prescription etc.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 Other Authorised Circumstances This relates to where there is cause for absence due to exceptional circumstances..
- 3.8 Excluded (No alternative provision made) Exclusion from attending school is counted as an authorised absence. The child's class teacher will make arrangements for work to be sent home.
- 3.9 Parents who need to take their child out of school during term time due to exceptional circumstances must send a written request to the head teacher. Retrospective requests will not be considered and therefore will result in the absence being categorised as **unauthorised**.
- 3.9.1 All requests for leave of absence will be responded to in writing outlining the conditions of leave granted.
- 3.9.2 If a pupil fails to return 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.
- 3.9.3 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 magistrates court.
- 3.10 Religious Observance St. Catherine's R.C 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.

3.12 Traveller Absence It is expected that Traveller children, in common with all other children, attend school as regularly and as frequently as possible.

3.12.1 To protect Traveller parents from unreasonable prosecution for non-attendance, the Education Act 1944, section 86, states that a Traveller parent is safe from prosecution if their child accrues 200 attendances (i.e. 200 half days) in a year. This is only when the family are engaged in a trade or business that requires them to travel and when the child is attending school as regularly as that trade permits.

3.12.2 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.

3.12.3 St. Catherine's R.C 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 St. Catherine's R.C Primary School will be kept open for them whilst travelling. This is to protect them from unfairly losing their place at their school of usual attendance.

3.12.4 St. Catherine's R.C 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

3.12.5 St. Catherine's R.C Primary School will authorise absence of Traveller children if we are satisfied with the evidence provided that a family is travelling for work or trade purposes and has given indication that they intend to return.

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

- The child is dual rolled and attending another visited school
- The child is undertaking computer based distance learning that is time evidenced

3.12.7 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.

3.13 Late Arrival Registration begins at 8.45am, pupils arriving after this time will be marked as present but arriving late. The register will close at 9.05am. Pupils arriving after the close of register will be recorded as late, (code U) this is not authorised and will count as an absence for that school session and statutory action may be taken where appropriate.

3.13.1 On arrival after the close of register, pupils must immediately report to the school office to ensure that we can be responsible for their health and safety whilst they are in school.

3.13.2 The absence will only be authorised if a satisfactory explanation for the late arrival can be provided, for example, attendance at a medical appointment.

3.13.3 The absence will be recorded as **unauthorised** if the pupil has arrived late without justifiable cause.

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

3.14.1 Examples of unsatisfactory explanations include:

- A pupil's/family member's birthday
- Shopping for uniforms
- Having their 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

4. Deletions from the Register

4.1 In accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2013, pupils will only be deleted from the register when one of the following circumstances applies:

- The school is replaced by another school on a School Attendance Order
- The School Attendance Order is revoked by the local authority
- The pupil has ceased to be of compulsory school age
- Permanent exclusion has occurred and procedures have been completed
- Death of a pupil
- Transfer between schools
- Pupil withdrawn to be educated outside the school system
- Failure to return from an extended holiday after both the school and the local authority have tried to locate the pupil
- A medical condition prevents their attendance and return to the school before ending compulsory school-age
- In custody for more than four months (in discussion with The Youth Offending Team)
- 20 days continuous unauthorised absence and both the local authority and school have tried to locate the pupil
- Left the school but not known where he/she has gone after both the school and the local authority have tried to locate the pupil

4.2 St. Catherine's R.C Primary School will follow Manchester City Council's Children Missing Education Protocol when a pupil's whereabouts is unknown.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 St. Catherine's R.C Primary School believe that improved school attendance can only be achieved if it is viewed as a shared responsibility of the school staff, governors, parents, pupils and the wider school community. As such, the Governing Body will:

- Ensure that the importance and value of good attendance is promoted to pupils and their parents
- Annually review the school's Attendance Policy and ensure the required resources are available to fully implement the policy
- Identify a member of the governing body to lead on attendance matters
- Ensure that the Registration Regulations, England, 2013 and other attendance related legislation is complied with
- Agree school attendance targets and submit these to the Local Authority within the agreed timescale each year and where appropriate link these to the Performance Management of Senior Leadership within the school
- Monitor the school's attendance and related issues through termly reporting at Governing Body Meetings
- Ensure that attendance data is reported to the Local Authority or Department for Education as required and on time
- Ensure that there is a named senior manager to lead on attendance
- Ensure that the school has clear systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site
- Ensure that there are procedures for collecting and analysing attendance data frequently to identify causes and patterns of absence
- Ensure that data is understood and used to devise solutions and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions

5.2 The Leadership Team will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents
- Ensure that there is a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance; with good teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve
- Monitor the implementation of the Attendance Policy and ensure that the policy is reviewed annually
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the Attendance Policy and adequately trained to address attendance issues
- Ensure that the Registration Regulations, England, 2013 and other attendance related legislation is complied with
- Ensure that there is a named senior manager to lead on attendance and allocate sufficient time and resource
- Return school attendance data to the Local Authority and the Department for Education as required and on time
- Report the school's attendance and related issues through termly reporting to the Governing Body and on a half termly basis to the lead governor for attendance
- Ensure that systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site are implemented
- Ensure that attendance data is collected and analysed frequently to identify causes and patterns of absence
- Interpret the data to devise solutions and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions

- Develop a multi-agency response to improve attendance and support pupils and their families
- Document interventions used to a standard required by the local authority should legal proceedings be instigated

5.3 Phase Leaders and Class Teachers will:

- Actively promote the importance and value of good attendance to pupils and their parents
- Form positive relationships with pupils and parents
- Contribute to a whole school approach which reinforces good school attendance; with good teaching and learning experiences that encourage all pupils to attend and to achieve
- Comply with the Registration Regulations, England, 2013 and other attendance related legislation
- Implement systems to report, record and monitor the attendance of all pupils, including those who are educated off-site
- Analyse attendance data to identify causes and patterns of absence
- Contribute to the evaluation of school strategies and interventions
- Work with other agencies to improve attendance and support pupils and their families
- Document interventions used to a standard required by the local authority should legal proceedings be instigated

5.4 Request that Parents will:

- Talk to their child about school and what goes on there. Take a positive interest in their child's work and educational progress
- Instil the value of education and regular school attendance within the home environment
- Encourage their child to look to the future and have aspirations
- Contact the school if their child is absent to let them know the reason why and the expected date of return. Follow this up with a written explanation.
- Try to avoid unnecessary absences. Wherever possible make appointments for the Doctors, Dentists etc. outside of school hours
- Ask the school for help if their child is experiencing difficulties
- Inform the school of any change in circumstances that may impact on their child's attendance
- Support the school; take every opportunity to get involved in their child's education, form a positive relationship with school and acknowledge the importance of children receiving the same messages from both school and home
- Encourage routine at home, for example, bed times, home work, preparing school bag and uniform the evening before
- Not keep their child off school to go shopping, to help at home or to look after other members of the family
- Avoid taking their child out of school during term-time, where this is unavoidable, and only in exceptional circumstances send a written leave request to the Head Teacher.

6. Using Attendance Data

- 6.1 Pupil's attendance will be monitored and may be shared with the Local Authority and other agencies if a pupil's attendance is a cause for concern.
- 6.2 Every three weeks the Attendance Officer will provide all class teachers with attendance data for the previous four weeks for each pupil within their class. The list will be presented in numerical descending order with the highest attenders at the top; every pupil will be colour coded as indicated below:

GREEN	pupils with attendance between 97% and 100%
AMBER - GREEN	pupils with attendance between 94% and 96.9%
RED - AMBER	pupils with attendance between 91% and 93.9%
RED	pupils with attendance below 91%

- 6.3 An arrow next to the pupil's name will indicate if their attendance has improved, stayed the same or deteriorated.
- 6.4 The Leadership Team will receive a complete set of data.
- 6.5 Phase Leaders will receive a complete set of data for their year groups.
- 6.6 This pupil level data will be used to trigger school action as set out in the escalation of intervention (Appendix 1).
- 6.7 Attendance data will also be used to identify emerging patterns and trends to inform whole school strategies to improve attendance and attainment.
- 6.8 St. Catherine's R.C Primary School will share attendance data with the Department for Education and the local authority as required.
- 6.9 All information shared will be done so in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

7. Support Systems

- 7.1 School recognise that poor attendance is often an indication of difficulties 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.
- 7.2 St. Catherine's R.C 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 looked after children.
- 7.3 The school will implement a range of strategies to support improved attendance. Strategies used will include:
- Discussion with parents and pupils
 - Attendance panels

- Parenting contracts
- Attendance report cards
- Referrals to support agencies
- Learning mentors
- Pupil Voice Activities
- Friendship groups
- PSHE
- Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) materials
- Family learning
- Reward systems
- Time limited part time time-tables
- Additional learning support
- Behaviour support
- Inclusion units
- Reintegration support packages

7.4 Support offered to families will be child centred and planned in discussion and agreement with both parents and pupils.

7.5 Where parents fail or refuse to engage with the support offered and further unauthorised absence occurs, St. Catherine's R.C Primary School will consider the use of legal sanctions.

8. Legal Sanctions

8.1 Prosecution: Where intervention fails to bring about an improvement in attendance, the Local Authority will be notified and legal action in the Magistrates' Court may be taken. The school will provide the Local Authority with evidence required for a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 and will appear as a prosecution witness if required by the court. This is to ensure that parents realise their own responsibilities in ensuring attendance at school and most importantly about returning children to education.

8.1.1 Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 states that if a parent fails to ensure the regular school attendance of their child if he/she is a registered pupil at a school and is of compulsory school age, then they are guilty of an offence.

8.1.2 A parent found guilty of this offence can be fined up to £2500 and or be imprisoned for a period of three months.

8.1.3 Alternatives to Section 444 prosecution are Parenting Contracts, Penalty Notices or an Education Supervision Order.

8.2 Parenting Contracts: (Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003) A Parenting contract is a voluntary agreement between school and the parent, it can also be extended to include the child and any other agencies offering support to resolve any difficulties leading to improved attendance.

8.2.1 The contract will outline attendance targets and will detail agreed actions that will help to achieve the target. The contract will be reviewed regularly.

- 8.2.2 The contract can be used as evidence in a prosecution should parents fail to carry out agreed actions.
- 8.2.3 Parenting Contracts will be used in accordance with Manchester City Council's Parenting Contract Protocol.
- 8.3 Penalty Notices (Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003) Penalty Notices will be requested once a pupil has recorded 10 sessions of unauthorised absence to stop further absences.
- A pupil is absent from school and the absence has not been authorised by the school
 - A pupil has accrued unauthorised absence without reasons provided and/or accepted as exceptional by the headteacher.
- 8.3.1 A Penalty Notice gives the parent the opportunity to discharge themselves of their legal responsibility if a £120 fine is paid within 28 days, reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days of the date the Notice was issued.
- 8.3.2 Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.
- 8.3.3 Penalty Notices will be used in accordance with Manchester City Council's Penalty Notice Protocol.

Appendix 1

Escalation of Attendance Interventions

GREEN - pupils with attendance between 100% to 97%

Parents will receive a letter home congratulating them on their child's good/excellent attendance.

Pupils will be rewarded within the school's merit system.

Pupils with this level of termly and annual attendance will receive a certificate of achievement.

The class teacher will be responsible for all action at this level and will record all intervention and outcomes. Records will be copied to a member of the Leadership Team.

A member of the Leadership Team will monitor the effectiveness of interventions. This will be used to review and inform whole school strategies and will also have links to performance management.

AMBER - **GREEN** - pupils with attendance between 94% and 96.9%

Once a pupil has recorded 10 sessions of unauthorised absence a penalty notice will be requested to stop further absences.

Class teacher will speak to the pupil to:

- Welcome the pupil back to school
- Confirm with the pupil the reason for absence and offer any support that may be required
- Update the pupil on other work they have missed and support any catch up required

In addition, where unauthorised absence has occurred or attendance has not improved following the review with the pupil, parents will be invited to a meeting where the possible outcomes will be:

- All parties confident that issues have been resolved and the attendance will improve.
- Parenting contract agreed
- Agree a review date

Where parents fail to attend the meeting without a satisfactory reason and unauthorised absence has occurred, the penalty notice monitoring period will automatically commence.

The class teacher will be responsible for all action at this level and will record all intervention and outcomes. Records will be copied to a member of the Leadership Team every three weeks.

A member of the Leadership Team will monitor the effectiveness of interventions. This will be used to review and inform whole school strategies and will also have links to performance management.

RED - AMBER - pupils with attendance between 91% and 93.9%

Once a pupil has recorded 10 sessions of unauthorised absence a penalty notice will be requested to stop further absences.

The Phase Leader with a member of support staff will speak to the pupil to:

- Identify underlying home/school issues that may be causing the pupil's absence
- Review the pupil's academic progress and make links to the pupil's attendance eg. If you attended all your classes you could achieve...
- Make arrangements for the pupil to catch up on work they have missed
- Implement a Pastoral Support Plan or review other existing pupil plan to include support to improve attendance
- Set an individual attendance target for the pupil using sessions rather than percentages that will see the pupil move to the band above
- Agree a review date

In addition, where unauthorised absence has occurred or attendance has not improved following the review with the pupil, parents will be invited to a meeting where the possible outcomes will be:

- All parties confident that issues have been resolved and the attendance will improve.
- Parenting contract agreed
- Agree a review date

Where these interventions have already been implemented and have had unsatisfactory impact, the parent will be invited to an Attendance Panel where the possible outcomes will be:

- Complete an Early Help Assessment leading to multi agency support
- Refer to the Local Authority to initiate legal proceedings

Where a parent fails to attend the meeting without providing a satisfactory reason, home visits may be carried out with the purpose to engage with the parent will be carried out prior to referral to the Local Authority.

The Phase Leader with a member of the support staff will be responsible for all action at this level and will record all intervention and outcomes. Records will be copied to a member of the Leadership Team every three weeks.

A member of the Leadership Team will monitor the effectiveness of interventions. This will be used to review and inform whole school strategies and will also have links to performance management.

RED - pupils with attendance below 91%

Once a pupil has recorded 10 sessions of unauthorised absence a penalty notice will be requested to stop further absences.

Pupils who have attendance below 90% are considered to be persistently absent from school. To ensure that intervention is focused and meets the needs of individuals, pupils will be grouped into one of the following categories:

- Looked After Children and Children on the Child Protection Register
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Long term non attendance
- Parental support/needs e.g. parental drug use, young carers, domestic violence
- School issues e.g. bullying, poor teacher/pupil relationship, curriculum issues
- Offended or have an Anti Social Behaviour Order
- English as an Additional Language
- Ethnic minority
- Mid Year Admissions
- Gifted and Talented
- Other

Each grouping will have an identified member of staff who will:

- Ensure that the pupil has already spoken to a member of staff at the stages preceding RED intervention (RED - AMBER intervention will occur in cases where the pupil has immediately fallen from GREEN into RED)
- Obtain records of previous contact and interventions as set out in RED - AMBER and escalate accordingly
- Ensure that weekly contact occurs with the pupil either individually or within a small group to address themed issues. This contact should also include the use of SEAL materials.
- Ensure that weekly contact with the parents to discuss any arising issues and to provide feedback on their child's attendance, behaviour and academic progress.
- Set an individual attendance target for the pupil that will see the pupil move to the band above.
- Review existing plans and co-ordinate school resources to support the pupil's attendance and any additional needs
- Be the key contact person for any external agency working with the pupil
- Input into whole school strategies to address the needs of pupils within their group

Each identified member of staff will be responsible for all action at this level and will record all intervention and outcomes. Records will be copied to a member of the Leadership Team and Headteacher every three weeks.

Attendance will be a standing item on the agenda of the Leadership Team meetings where the progress of these groups will be reported and the effectiveness of interventions measured. This will be used to review and inform whole school strategies and will also have links to performance management.



2:

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Manchester City Council's School Attendance Team Working in Partnership with
St. Catherine's R.C. Primary School to Improve School Attendance**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENT/CARERS

St. Catherine's R.C. Primary School works hard to improve the attendance and punctuality of all pupils. It is widely recognised that the educational outcomes and future life chances of children and young people can be significantly impacted upon by periods of absence and poor punctuality. Therefore we want to encourage parents to ensure that their child attends school every day and on time. We do appreciate the fact that a significant number of pupils have excellent attendance and punctuality and this should be commended. School is in session for 190 days, leaving 175 school holidays for families to take trips, visits and holidays.

Manchester City Council's School Attendance Team work closely with all schools, including St. Catherine's R.C. Primary School, to address levels of unauthorised absence. We fully appreciate that there may be occasions when a pupil's attendance and punctuality may be affected due to exceptional circumstances. In these cases support and advice will always be available from the school. Unfortunately, despite this support, attendance and punctuality levels for some pupils continue to fall below the school's expectations. All pupils' attendance and punctuality is closely monitored by the local authority and school. Only the head teacher can authorise any leave of absence during term time. Requests for leave of absence in term time must be made in writing to the head teacher and if not authorised will be considered by the local authority for statutory action. Any leave not applied for will not be authorised retrospectively and those parents are now warned they will be considered for statutory action.

Pupils arriving late for school not only impacts on the late arrival, but also on the teacher and the rest of the class as it interrupts the learning and the teacher then may need to spend time repeating what has already been said. This is not acceptable and will be addressed as unauthorised absence and considered for statutory action.

Parent and carers need to be aware that children falling below 90% attendance are a significant cause of concern for both the school and Children's Services and those parents may be invited to an interview at the Town Hall to discuss the reasons for their child's poor school attendance and punctuality. For those parents who do not attend the interview, or do not have reasonable explanations for their child's absence, it may lead to statutory action which could be a penalty notice or summoned to appear before the City Magistrates to explain the reasons for their child's absences from school.

Parents and carers of pupils who have previously received penalty notices and paid, then you are now advised that for any future unauthorised absences recorded, you may not be given the option of penalty notices, but summoned directly to the City Magistrates Court.

We would also like to address parents of nursery and reception pupils to raise awareness of the importance of regular and punctual attendance as they do need to develop good routines to ensure they progress through the school giving them the opportunity of achieving their full potential. In the early years, children learn how to learn and develop an understanding of the world around them developing early skills of literacy and numeracy. Attendance will be monitored and those parents where the children are not attending every session, are at risk of losing the place so a child on our waiting list to take the opportunity.

PENALTY NOTICES - (Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003)

A penalty notice will be issued to each parent for each child. The penalty notice incurs a fine of £120 to be paid within 28 days, which is reduced to £60 if paid within the first 21 days.

Failure to pay the penalty notice may result in legal proceedings being taken against you. Other statutory action may also be considered under the Education Act 1996, which may result in you being prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court. If you are found guilty, you will receive a criminal record and may receive a fine of up to £2,500 and/or three months' imprisonment.

DIRECT PROSECUTION - Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 states that if a parent fails to ensure the regular school attendance of their child if he/she is a registered pupil at a school and is of compulsory school age, then they are guilty of an offence.

Parents will be invited to the Town Hall to be interviewed under PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence). This is a formal interview which is recorded and may be used in evidence. Parents are interviewed separately and may be accompanied by a solicitor.

If found guilty at court the parents will receive a criminal record and magistrates may deal with the matters by way of fines up to £2500 and/or custodial sentence of up to 3 months imprisonment for each parent.

If your child is experiencing any problems that may be affecting their attendance or punctuality, then please contact the school on 0161 445 6359 to discuss any support that could be provided to ensure their regular attendance.

The school day starts at 8.45am and children should be in class by that time ready for the register to be taken.

Once again thank you for supporting St. Catherine's R.C. Primary School in improving attendance, which will ensure that all pupils in school have the opportunity to reach their full potential and improve outcomes for their future life chances.

Yours sincerely