



Manchester Communication Primary Academy

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Policy 2018/19

Approval History

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		-	

Revision History

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1. Aim

The aim of Manchester Communication Primary Academy's (MCPA) attendance policy is to enable the academy to provide a consistent practice which encourages and facilitates the regular attendance of all pupils. Regular attendance at school is key to pupils' academic and social success, for this reason the academy is dedicated to ensuring its attendance policy is adhered to as much as is possible.

MCPA takes a whole-school approach to maintaining excellent attendance and it is the joint responsibility of parents, pupils and all staff members to ensure that children are attending school as they should be. We endeavour to work with families to make sure that any problems or circumstances which may lead or be leading to poor attendance are given the right attention and appropriate support.

This document is supported by our policies on **safeguarding, bullying, behaviour, accessibility** and **SEND**.

2. Legal Framework

The Education Act 1996 states that:

The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable —

- (a) to their age, ability and aptitude, and
- (b) to any special educational needs they may have,

either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

A person begins to be of compulsory school age —

- (a) when they attain the age of five, if they attain that age on a prescribed day, and
- (b) otherwise at the beginning of the prescribed day next following their attaining that age.

Prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March

A person ceases to be of compulsory school age at the end of the day which is the school leaving date for any calendar year (the last Friday in June) —

- (a) if they attain the age of 16 after that day but before the beginning of the school year next following,
- (b) if they attain that age on that day, or
- (c) (unless paragraph (a) applies) if that day is the school leaving date next following his attaining that age.

MCPA is dedicated to complying with attendance laws set out by the legal framework and has set out this document accordingly.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

'Attendance' in this section of the policy refers both to the amount of sessions which a child attends AND their punctuality.

Governing Body

As part of our academy-wide approach to maintaining high attendance, the governing body will:

- ensure that the importance of attendance is made clear by promoting the relevant policies and guidance directed at parents and staff
- annually review the academy's attendance rules and ensure that all provisions are in place to allow staff, parents and children to implement the rules effectively
- identify a member of the governing body who will take the lead role in safeguarding, this includes monitoring attendance and coordinating provision and policies for attendance
- ensure that all legislation regarding attendance is complied with and that up-to-date guidelines are communicated to parents, children and staff
- work out appropriate and accurate annual attendance numbers and future attendance targets, and submit these to the LA (where applicable) within an agreed timescale each year
- take time at governors' meetings to regularly review and discuss attendance issues which have arisen in order to stay on top of expected attendance targets for the year
- ensure that the academy is implementing effective means of recording attendance and organising that data, including for children who are educated off-site
- ensure that they are clear on how to analyse attendance data and how to communicate the findings effectively to parents and staff
- ensure that senior leaders make the necessary referrals to the local authority and other relevant agencies in individual cases of non-attendance
- use any data gathered to devise solutions to problems, make the proper adjustments to attendance coordination and target set for the future.

Senior Leadership Team

As part of our academy-wide approach to maintaining high attendance, the senior leadership team will:

- be active in their approach to promoting good attendance to pupils and their parents, which includes forming positive relationships with families
- ensure that the academy's teaching and learning experiences encourage regular attendance and that pupils are taught the value of high attendance for their own progression and achievement
- coordinate with the governing body to monitor the implementation of the attendance policy and its effectiveness, with an annual full review
- ensure that all staff are up to date with the attendance process, legislation and government guidance, and that staff are fully trained to recognise and deal with attendance issues
- ensure that legislation and government guidance on attendance is complied with and that they (the leadership team) are up to date with any legislative changes and how to implement them
- nominate or appoint a senior manager (the Assistant Head Teacher for PDBW, in conference with the Academy Business Manager) to take the responsibility of overseeing and monitoring attendance provision and that this person has sufficient time and resources to give to this job
- report to the governing body and the sub-committee for teaching, learning and outcomes on attendance records, data and provision

- ensure that systems to record and report attendance data are in place and working effectively
- develop and engage with multi-agency relationships to help with poor attendance and support families who are having difficulties getting their child to attend
- document any specific interventions or steps taken to work with families to improve their child's attendance in case of future legal proceedings.

Academy Support Staff with Attendance Responsibility

Academy Business Manager, Family Support Lead, Senior Business Administrator, Business Administrators.

As part of our academy-wide approach to maintaining high attendance, the administrative team will:

- be active in their approach to promoting good attendance to pupils and their parents, which includes forming positive relationships with families
- ensure that the processes set-out in this policy are adhered to
- keep up to date and accurate records relating to attendance
- ensure that they are fully aware and up to date with the academy's attendance process, legislation and government guidance, and that they will speak to another member of staff or seek support if they are unsure how to deal with an attendance issue
- ensure that they are following the correct systems for recording attendance and that attendance is taken daily
- alert the responsible senior leader (Assistant Headteacher PDBW) in the event of attendance/punctuality triggers being hit
- contribute to strategy meetings and interventions where they are needed
- support families through the offer of additional provision, supportive home-visits etc.
- work with external agencies to support pupils and their families who are struggling with regular attendance.

Teaching Staff

As part of our academy-wide approach to maintaining high attendance, the teaching team will:

- be active in their approach to promoting good attendance to pupils and their parents, which includes forming positive relationships with families
- ensure that the processes set-out in this policy are adhered to
- promote the value of learning, providing high quality teaching, so that children want to attend school
- ensure that they are fully aware and up to date with the academy's attendance process, legislation and government guidance, and that they will speak to another member of staff or seek support if they are unsure how to deal with an attendance issue
- ensure that they are following the correct systems for recording attendance and that attendance is taken twice daily in an accurate and timely manner

Parents and Carers

As part of our whole-school approach to maintaining high attendance, we request that parents:

- engage with their children's education – support their learning and take an interest in what they have been doing at the academy
- promote the value of good education and the importance of regular attendance
- encourage and support their children's aspirations

- ensure that their children arrive at school on time, appropriately dressed and with the necessary equipment
- follow the set school procedure for reporting the absence of their child (see section 4), and include an expected date for return
- do everything they can to prevent unnecessary absences, such as making medical and dental appointments outside school hours
- use the academy as a support when they or their child are having difficulties, and work to form a positive relationship with the academy so that there is easy communication when a problem arises
- keep the academy informed of any circumstances which may affect their child's attendance
- enforce a regular routine at home in terms of homework, bedtime, etc. so that the child is used to consistency and the school day becomes part of that routine. It is vital that the child receives the same message at home as they do whilst at the academy about the importance of attendance
- do not take their children out of school for holidays during term time. If parents would like to make a special request for this, they may do so to the Headteacher (see section 4.5)
- sign a home – academy agreement which outlines the support which MCPA expects from its parents, in addition the provision and support which parents and children can expect from the Academy.

Pupils

As part of our academy-wide approach to maintaining high attendance, we request that pupils:

- be aware of the attendance rules, and when and what they are required to attend. This will be communicated to them through the academy staff, parents, the website and the school timetable
- speak to a member of staff if they are experiencing difficulties at school or at home which may impact on their attendance
- follow the correct set academy procedure if they arrive late (**see section 4.8**). This will help the academy to monitor attendance and keep accurate records for the child's individual attendance, and is also vital for health and safety in the event of a building evacuation

4. Categories of Absence and Procedure for Reporting Absences

Absences will be treated as unauthorised unless a satisfactory explanation for the pupil's absence is given to the academy. Parents cannot authorise absences.

Teaching staff should complete an accurate register by 9am and 1:10pm each day, using only the / mark for present and N mark for absent. Where a teacher or TA receives news of the reason for a child's absence (e.g. a contact from home), they should relay this to the senior business administrator who will update the register accordingly.

When a child is to be absent without prior permission, parents should inform the academy by telephone on the first day of absence, explaining the reason and notifying what date they expect the child to return. In the event of a child's absence involving a visit to a medical pro-

fessional (e.g. an absence due to sickness, resulting in a trip to the doctors), written evidence should be provided. Alternative arrangements will be made individually with non-English speaking parents or carers.

4.1 Illness

Most cases of absence due to illness are short term, but parents will need to make a phone call to alert the academy on each day of absence.

For prolonged absence due to illness, parents may be asked to provide the academy with medical evidence such as a note from the child's doctor, an appointment card or a prescription paper. If these are not provided on request it may result in the absence continuing to be classed as unauthorised.

4.2 Medical or Dental Appointments

Parents should make every effort to ensure these appointments are made outside school hours. Where it cannot be avoided, children should attend for as much of that day as possible, their attendance will be recorded to reflect this, as an 'M' on the register if the child misses the registration period due to the appointment. Parents will be required to provide written evidence of these appointments, such as an appointment card otherwise the absence will be unauthorised.

4.3 Prior-arranged Absence

There may be some exceptional instances in which parents know that their child will be unable to attend the academy in advance of the date of absence. In this instance, the academy should be notified as soon as possible, parents will be invited to meet with the family support lead, who will endeavour to provide support to ensure attendance.

4.4 Exclusion

Exclusion is treated as an authorised absence and is recorded as an exclusion for the number of sessions stated on the exclusion notice.

4.5 Extraordinary Leave

Parents should make every effort to ensure that family holidays and extended leave are arranged outside of term time. Parents may request a leave of absence during term time where there are exceptional circumstances. Requests for leave of this type must be made in writing on the 'extraordinary leave request form' (appendix one) at least 1 week in advance of the leave being taken. In the case of unforeseen circumstances, such as a family bereavement that requires the child to travel to another country, this will be taken into consideration.

Retrospective applications will not be considered and this time taken will be processed as unauthorised absence. The headteacher may only grant such requests in exceptional circumstances and the headteacher's decision is final on whether the request is approved and the length of absence approved.

All requests for authorised absence will be responded to in writing, and will outline the details of when the child is expected to return to school. Parents should contact the school immediately if there will be a cause for delay from the stated date of return.

It remains the headteacher's decision whether to authorise any request for absence during term time.

If permission is not granted, but the child is still absent, the absence is classed as unauthorised and parents may be subject to prosecution by the local authority.

In order to ensure that the policy is applied fairly to all children, the tariff below will be used to inform the headteacher's decision, this includes some common requests which would be unauthorised:

Immediate family refers to parents, grandparents and siblings.

Reason for absence	Days Authorised
Holiday	0
Immediate family wedding	1
Other family wedding	0
Immediate family funeral / unwell aboard	1
Passport / visa / legal appointment	1
Moving House	0
Immediate family having a baby	0
Religious Observance	2 per year

4.6 Religious Observance

MCPA recognises that there may be times where children of different faiths observe religious festivals that fall outside of school holidays and weekends, and will allow 2 days per year authorised absence for these times.

Parents will be aware of these dates and should give the academy written notification in advance.

4.7 Late Arrival

The academy doors open at 8:45am with lessons starting at 8:50am. An attendance register will be taken at the start of the school day and again in the afternoon. In the morning registers are completed 9am. Pupils who arrive after this time will be marked as late on the register. However, all children who arrive after 8:50am and must come through the office will be noted as late (before close of registers) so that accurate tracking can be implemented and targeted support offered [see section 5].

Pupils who arrive once the doors have been closed (8:55am) should go straight to the main entrance/reception with their parents to sign in and give a reason for their lateness. Any unjustifiable reason for absence will be marked as unauthorised. It is vital that pupils sign in at the office to ensure that appropriate health and safety regulations are followed and that all pupils are accounted for.

The academy also takes the attendance register during the afternoon of each school day. If a pupil is not present at the time that the afternoon registration takes place they will be marked absent. Any unjustifiable reason for absence will be marked as unauthorised.

Registers close at 9:20am, if a child arrives to school after this point, a 'U' mark will be given and the session recorded as an unauthorised absence. These instances will count towards the 5 unauthorised sessions required for statutory action.

Persistent lateness may result in disciplinary action being taken against the pupil and/or criminal action being taken against the parents.

5. Academy Action on Attendance

5.1 Celebrating Good Attendance

In addition to the value of education being readily supported by staff and parents, children's good attendance is rewarded through the 'attendance bank', whereby the class with the highest attendance each week is awarded £10 to spend as they choose. Additional spot-prizes are awarded on attendance focus days by drawing an attending child's name out of a hat.

At the end of the year, spot-prizes will be awarded to children with good attendance via a raffle system – a child's name is entered into a draw once for every half-term in which they achieved 100% attendance/ 0 un-authorized absences. A winner per year group is chosen.

All children with 100% attendance for the whole year will be awarded a certificate of celebration, however the academy will no-longer reward these children with trips etc. as it has in previous years, as this was viewed as exclusive to those children whose attendance was below 100% with good reason.

5.2 Following up absences

Class registers are saved in SIMs at the end of the registration period, these can be immediately viewed by the admin team. Where there are unexplained or unauthorised absences, the admin team, will conduct a second check, then contact the parents or carers.

On the first day of absence where notice has not been given by the parents, the admin team will contact the parents to establish the reason for absence. If contact cannot be made, further attempts will be made throughout the day from both the academy landline and mobile telephone.

In the event of a second day of absence without notification, the academy will conduct a home-visit in order to attempt to establish the whereabouts of the child and if any additional support is needed. A calling-slip will be delivered to the address in order to make the parents aware that a visit has taken place. All reasonable enquiries will be made, this may include speaking to neighbours and will include making contact with any additional listed contacts on the child's record. If the child's whereabouts cannot be established, a safeguarding referral will be made.

When the child returns to the academy, the parent will be invited for a meeting with the Family Support Lead to discuss support and the importance of good attendance at school. Where a child has been absent for a period of more than 20 school days, and where the absence was unauthorised and both the academy and LA have been unable to contact the parents, the academy will remove the child from the school roll and report them to the local authority as a 'Child Missing in Education'.

The academy may take disciplinary action against any pupils who are discovered to be persistently truanting and parents or carers will be contacted to discuss possible reasons and support systems which could help. The school may take further action against the parents,

including the issuing of fixed penalty notices and/or referral to the local authority to begin criminal proceedings against the parents.

If a parent contacts the academy each day to state that their child is unable to attend for an authorised reason (e.g. illness or injury), it is usual for action to be taken by the academy. However, if the absence exceeds 3 school days, it is expected that the child will visit a medical professional and written proof of this will be provided when the child returns to school. In this instance, the academy may contact the parents to offer a supportive home visit with the school nurse, these visits will not be conducted without prior consent from the parent and are intended to offer medical support, not to question the validity of absence.

In the event of a child being unable to attend school due to parental incapacity (illness etc) the academy minibus may be used to collect the child and ensure attendance.

5.3 Absence Thresholds

The academy understands that children will experience periods of time in which it would not be appropriate for them to attend school, due to illness, injury etc. As such, much of the action detailed below is intended to be supportive. Often parents are unaware of the impact of non-attendance at school and the cumulative impact of isolated cases of absence across a period of time; the first stages of this process seek to educate parents of this.

Parents will be informed of their child's attendance percentage half-termly via letter.

Whilst attendance is monitored over the first half-term of academic year, action is not taken based on percentage attendance, due to the limited number of possible sessions.

Attendance	Status	Action
100% - 97%	Green	None
96% - 95%	Amber	Attendance is tracked internally. Amber letter is sent (appendix 2) offering support to parents.
94% - 91%	Red	Family Support Lead telephones home to make them aware of the impact of attendance, support offered (including (pre)early help). Phone call made weekly by FSL to update parents on attendance.
90% - 80%	Purple	Parent invited in to meet with FSL and AHT PDBW to discuss attendance's impact on achievement and strategies to improve it (meeting format appendix 3).
Below 80%	Brown	Referred to DSL. DSL and HT meet with parent to discuss possible CS referral.

5.4 Statutory Action

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. ¹¹ This is to ensure that parents realise their own responsibilities in ensuring attendance at school and most importantly about returning children to education.

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.

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

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

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.

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

The contract can be used as evidence in a prosecution should parents fail to carry out agreed actions.

Parenting Contracts will be used in accordance with Manchester City Council's Parenting Contract Protocol.

Penalty Notices (Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003) Penalty Notices will be considered when: A pupil is absent from school for an amount of time equal to or greater than 5 sessions and the absence has not been authorised by the school. This includes late attendance after registers closing.

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.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

Penalty Notices will be used in accordance with Manchester City Council's Penalty Notice Protocol.

6. Academy Action on Punctuality

The following action is taken in regards to late arrivals between 9-9:20am, an arrival after 9:20am is classed as an unauthorised absence.

6.1 Celebrating Good Punctuality

It is widely recognised that good punctuality is a key ingredient of success at school, especially as the morning routines in most classes involve the teaching of phonics and spellings. It is therefore essential that we support parents and pupils to be on time each day.

Good punctuality is celebrated weekly in assembly with each class with no recorded 'lates' awarded an edible prize.

In addition to this, a weekly ‘early bird’ will be chosen at random from the children with no lates that week (one for N-Y1, one for Y2-5) by the senior business administrator and a prize awarded in assembly.

6.2 Tracking ‘lates’

As a parent arrives after the closure of the academy gates (8:55am) they will be directed to the main reception where they will complete a ‘late arrival form’ stating the time, child’s name and reason for lateness. These instances of late arrival are recorded by the administration team and tracked to monitor patterns.

Parents will be informed of the number of ‘lates’ and minutes of education lost each half-term in the same letter as the attendance update.

6.3 Following Up Lates

For the academic year 2018-19, the academy is seeking to reduce the amount of late arrivals seen. The focus is on reducing the number of parents/families who are regularly late to school. The threshold for regular lateness is twice per week for this academic year. Parents who meet or exceed this threshold will be supported by the following measures:

Number of weeks ‘regularly late’	Action Taken	Review
2	Letter sent by FSL explaining the support on offer and steps should punctuality not improve. (appendix 4).	Move to next stage if no immediate improvement.
3	Parent invited for a meeting with FSL to discuss support on offer, refer to EH if needed. Daily morning calls made for the next 2 weeks.	If no improvement in next 2 weeks, move to next stage. If improvement made, monitor & review calls.
3	Parent invited in to meet FSL and AHT PDBW to discuss the impact of poor punctuality on their child’s achievement and explain how legal action can be taken/referral to CS. (Meeting format appendix 5).	FSL to make contact weekly to review previous week’s attendance.

7. Academy Action on Late-collection

7.1 Processes

The academy day finishes at 3pm for nursery, reception and Y1 children. For years 2-5 the day concludes at 3:15pm. The purpose of this staggered finish is to reduce traffic (both vehicular and pedestrian) on and around the academy grounds. It is also intended that this finish time reduces clash with the finish time of the secondary school, MCA, so that the streets are calm and not crowded.

Each year group/class is collected from a designated door around the academy building and is overseen by the teaching staff who complete a check-list to show who they were collected by.

Nursery – nursery doors

Reception – reception ‘blossoms’ door

Y1 pear – pear class door

Y1 beech – under the stairs door

Y2 oak – end stairs door

Y2 willow – library door

Y3 – hall playground door

Y4 – downstairs studio

Y5 – hall road-side door

At 3:15 un-collected nursery-Y1 children should be taken to the office, unless they have a sibling in an older year group, in which case, they should be taken to them and added to the class teacher’s list on the same row.

At 3:30 any further un-collected children should be taken to the office for late pick-up. The administration team will contact parents to enquire as to who is collecting their child and when. If the child is still un-collected at 3:40, if a paid after school club is available, the child will be placed in the club and the parent charged on collection.

When a child is collected late from the office, parents are asked to complete a late pick-up form to support tracking. Parents who fail to collect their child within 45 minutes are issued with a letter from the HT in the first instance (**appendix 6**) and asked in to meet in the event of any further occurrence.

7.2 Child Abandonment

Should a parent fail to collect their child and makes no contact with the academy before 4:30pm the incident should be referred to the HT and DSL who will consider referral to the duty social worker at children’s services and the police. If this does occur, the parent will be expected to meet with the HT and DSL on arrival at the academy.

This policy will be reviewed annually

Appendix One: Extraordinary Leave Request Form

Please complete this form in as much detail as possible and return to the MCPA reception at least 1 week before the first day of requested leave.

Please be aware that should your request not be authorised and your child is absent, the matter will be referred to the local authority who will issue a fine of £120 (falling to £60 if paid within 21 days). (falling to £60 if paid within 21 days). You will receive notification of the fine directly from the council and will be required to make payment online.

Please ensure that you have made every possible effort to take the leave outside of term-time; requests for holidays in term-time will not be authorised in normal circumstances.

A written response to your request will be posted to your home address within 3 working days and the Head Teacher's decision is final. For further information, you may request a copy of our attendance and punctuality policy from the MCPA office.

Name of Child:

Class & Year Group:

Proposed Start of Absence:

Proposed Return Date:

Total Number of Schools Days Missed:

Intended Destination (if travelling):

Reason for Absence:

Please explain why this absence cannot take place in the school holidays:

Signed:

Print:

Date:

ADMIN USE ONLY:

Current Attendance %	Head Teacher's Decision	Reason

DATE

RE: Authorised leave of absence in term time.

Dear XXX,

Thank you for your recent application for extraordinary leave for your child XXXXXX between the dates XXXX and XXXX.

In this instance I have decided to authorise your child's absence for a period of X days as per MCPA's attendance policy.

This means that any absence beyond these days will be unauthorised and therefore will be referred to the local authority for the issue of a fine of £120 (dropping to £60 if paid within 28 days).

We expect your child to return to MCPA on XXX.

Please be aware that if your child does not return on the agreed date the whole period of absence, including the agreed period of authorised absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

If 20 days of unauthorised absence have occurred, we will ask you to register your child in a school where you are residing whilst on leave, as you are not in reasonable distance to travel to Manchester Communication Primary Academy and the length of absence is no longer temporary, but undetermined. If this occurs, your child will be removed from the academy's admissions roll and attendance register on the 21st day of absence. On return to MCPA you would be required to re-apply for a place for your child.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and I wish you a safe journey,

Alex Reed
Head teacher

DATE

RE: Unauthorised leave of absence in term time.

Dear XXX,

Thank you for your recent application for extraordinary leave for your child XXXXXX between the dates XXXX and XXXX.

In this instance I have decided not to authorise your child's absence, as per MCPA's attendance policy.

This means that if you choose to take the leave requested, these days will be unauthorised and therefore will be referred to the local authority for the issue of a fine of £120 (dropping to £60 if paid within 28 days).

If 20 days of unauthorised absence have occurred, we will ask you to register your child in a school where you are residing whilst on leave, as you are not in reasonable distance to travel to Manchester Communication Primary Academy and the length of absence is no longer temporary, but undetermined. If this occurs, your child will be removed from the academy's admissions roll and attendance register on the 21st day of absence. On return to MCPA you would be required to re-apply for a place for your child.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation,

Alex Reed
Head teacher

Appendix Two: Amber Attendance Letter



Manchester Communication Primary Academy

49 Parkstead Drive
Harpurhey
Manchester
M9 5QN

T 0161 202 8989
W mcpacademy.co.uk
E adminprimary@mca.manchester.sch.uk

DATE

RE: Amber attendance alert.

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that your child's current attendance for this academic year is XX%, as our target for attendance at MCPA is 97%, any attendance which falls just below is classed as 'amber' attendance as we know that by working with you, we can get it back up to green quickly.

The tone of this letter is intended to be supportive, we know that children do have illnesses and injuries which mean they are unable to attend school from time to time, but we also want to emphasise the importance of good attendance at school.

Did you know that a child who finishes the school year with attendance of 95% has actually missed two weeks of school? We find that it can be the small one-off absences which add up to impact negatively on a child's learning. A child with 90% attendance has actually missed just under a month of school in a year, that's a lot of lost learning.

We try to celebrate good attendance at MCPA in a way that doesn't exclude children who have missed school for genuine reasons (illness etc) by doing the following:

The class with the highest attendance each week receive £10 for their class 'attendance bank' account, which they can spend as they wish.

- Children in school on attendance focus (census) days are all entered in to a prize draw.
- At the end of the year, a raffle is held for each year group, each child is entered once for each half term in which they had 100% (that means there are 6 opportunities to be entered) and a winner is drawn. We don't share with the children how many tickets each child has, but they've got to be in it to win it!

This letter isn't a 'warning', it's just to make sure that you know what impact those missed days can have on your child's progress, and to offer you support. Please remember that our children can access our breakfast club every day from 8am and that if you need any further support with ensuring your child attends well, you can contact us to arrange a meeting with our family support worker, Lorraine Carlin and/or our school nurse Sarah Jennings (Sarah is in school every Monday).

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Alex Reed
Head teacher.

Appendix Three: Attendance Formal Meeting Format

To be completed and uploaded to CPOMS as 'attendance purple meeting'.

Childs Name:		Class:	
Percentage Attendance:		Date of Meeting	
English Progress:		Maths Progress:	

Prior to the meeting: Anything of note regarding attendance (e.g. had 7 days off with chickenpox or patterns):

In the meeting: The Academy's concerns (ref information above):

In the meeting: The parent's reasons for absence & support needed:

Actions by the academy:

Actions by the parent:

By signing this document, you are agreeing that it is an accurate and true reflection of the meeting and are committing to the actions detailed above.

Signed: Parent

Staff:

Appendix Four: Punctuality Letter



Manchester Communication Primary Academy

49 Parkstead Drive
Harpurhey
Manchester
M9 5QN

T 0161 202 8989
W mcpacademy.co.uk
E adminprimary@mca.manchester.sch.uk

DATE

RE: Punctuality of XXX (name)

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that your child's current punctuality is a cause for concern. So far this academic year, we have recorded X late arrivals at the academy, totalling XX minutes of lost learning. The result of this is that your child is regularly missing their morning activity in class. The first 40 minutes of each day are dedicated to spelling, phonics and hand-writing, all of which are essential to success in school.

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of the amount of times which your child has been late, outline the impact of this on their learning and to offer support in ensuring that this improves.

The academy doors open at 8:45am so that children can be in class ready to start learning at 8:50am, please be on time for ten to nine.

If a child misses 8 minutes of school per day for a year, this equates to a week of missed learning, and will inevitably have a negative impact on their progress.

We do appreciate that from time to time people are late to school, due to traffic, public transport failures and other unforeseen circumstances. However, this should not be typical. Our breakfast club opens at 8am each morning, if you are able to, please bring your child to it as this will ensure that they get to school on time, have a good breakfast and you can beat the traffic/morning rush etc.

If you would like to discuss the circumstances of your child's late arrivals to school and access a range of support to help ensure that they are reduced in future, please contact our family support worker, Lorraine Carlin, who will be happy to help you to improve your child's punctuality.

Whilst I'm confident that together we can help to improve your child's punctuality, I should warn that late arrivals at school can constitute un-authorized absences, which Manchester City Council do impose fines for.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Alex Reed
Head teacher.

Appendix Five: Late Pick Up



Manchester Communication Primary Academy

49 Parkstead Drive
Harpurhey
Manchester
M9 5QN

T 0161 202 8989
W mcpacademy.co.uk
E adminprimary@mca.manchester.sch.uk

DATE

Childs Name:	
Date of Late Collection:	
Time of Late Collection:	

Dear Parent,

On the above date, your child was collected late from school and we were unable to make contact with you for some time.

Whilst we understand that from time to time there are emergencies and other incidents which may interrupt your usual plans for collection, it is vital that this is communicated to the school wherever possible so that alternative plans can be made.

It is our procedure to supervise children who are not collected in the school office, where they sit and wait for their adult to collect them. Whilst we will always do our best to ensure that your child is happy and comfortable, waiting for their parent can cause some anxiety.

For our own staff, to whom I have a duty of care; parents collecting their children late can result in our staff having to stay beyond their usual working hours. This means that they are in turn late home or late to collect their own children.

If a child is collected over an hour late without contact, it is our policy to contact children's services as this is classified as 'child abandonment'.

For all of the above reasons, it is very important to ensure that you are not late to collect your child again, and where it is unavoidable, the school is notified immediately.

Should you require any additional support, please contact Lorraine Carlin, our family support worker via the MCPA office.

I look forward to your renewed support in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Alex Reed
Head teacher