THE
KING'S SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

Attendance Policy & Procedure

Responsible Person: Deputy Head (Pastoral)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 AIMS 3

2 SCOPE AND APPLICATION 4

3 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK 4

4 PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY 5

5 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION 5

6 RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT AND ALLOCATION OF TASKS 6

7 THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD ATTENDANCE 6

8 SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES 7

9 STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES 7

10 SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS 9

11 MONITORING ATTENDANCE 9

12 PUPIL RESPONSIBILITIES 9

13 ADDITIONAL NEEDS 10

14 PARENT / CARER RESPONSIBILITIES 11

15 TRAINING 12

16 INFORMATION SHARING 12

17 RECORD KEEPING AND CONFIDENTIALITY 13

18 VERSION CONTROL 13

APPENDIX

Appendix 1 School arrangements 15

Appendix 2 Admission register 20

Appendix 3 Attendance register 222

Appendix 4 Attendance register codes 25

Appendix 5 Child Student Visa Attendance 29

Key School contacts

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Key staff / contacts[2]	Claire Jeffery Junior King's Office Administrators Email: Office@junior-kings.co.uk Telephone: 01227 714000 (term time only)

1 Aims

1.1 This is the attendance policy of Junior King's School, Canterbury (the **School**).

1.2 The School aspires to high levels of attendance from all pupils. Good attendance is essential for all pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing and wider life chances.

1.3 The aims of this policy are as follows:

1.3.1 to develop and maintain a whole school culture that promotes the benefits of good attendance;

1.3.2 to ensure, so far as possible, that every pupil in the School is able to benefit from and make their full contribution to the life of the School;

1.3.3 to prioritise, and where possible improve, attendance and punctuality across the School, reduce absence and set out the School's approach to the management of absence / non-attendance;

1.3.4 to recognise the linkages between attendance / absence and pupil wellbeing, specifically ensuring a consistent whole school approach to safeguarding; and

1.3.5 to help to promote a whole school culture of safety, equality and protection.

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[1]Working together to improve school attendance 2024 and states schools are expected to designate a 'Senior Attendance Champion' (SAC) - a senior leader with overall responsibility for championing and improving attendance in school and liaising with pupils, Parents and external agencies. The SAC is expected to sit on the SLT and their name and contact details must be included in the school's attendance policy (see paragraphs 15, 25 and 26)

[2] Schools should populate this with their key contact details for attendance. This may for example be the SAC and school reception (where parents should report non-attendance).

2 Scope and application

2.1 This policy applies to the whole School.

2.2 This policy is designed to address the specific statutory obligations on the School to record attendance and absence.

3 Regulatory framework

3.1 This policy has been prepared to meet the School's responsibilities under:

3.1.1 Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

3.1.2 National Minimum Standards for Boarding

3.1.3 Education and Skills Act 2008

3.1.4 Children Act 1989

3.1.5 Childcare Act 2006

3.1.6 Student Sponsor Guidance, Document 2: Sponsorship Duties (UKVI, version 04/2026, updated June 2026)

3.1.7 The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024

3.1.8 Equality Act 2010

3.1.9 Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (**UK GDPR**)

3.2 This policy has regard to the following guidance and advice:

3.2.1 Working together to improve school attendance (DfE, July 2026)

3.2.2 Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance (DfE, August 2024)

3.2.3 Toolkit for schools: communicating with families to support attendance (DfE, August 2024)

3.2.4 Guidance for Parents on school attendance (Office of the Children's Commissioner, July 2024)

3.2.5 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance (NHS, April 2024)

3.2.6 Keeping children safe in education (DfE, September 2024)

3.2.7 Children missing education (DfE, August 2024)

3.2.8 Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school (DfE, August 2017)

3.2.9 Behaviour in schools: advice for headteachers and school staff (DfE, February 2024)

3.2.10 Mental health and behaviour in schools (DfE, November 2018)

3.2.11 Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools (DfE, February 2023)

3.2.12 Support for pupils where a mental health issue is affecting attendance (DfE, February 2023)

3.2.13 Providing Remote education: guidance for schools (DfE, updated August 2024)

3.2.14 SEND Code of practice: 0 to 25 years (DfE and Department of Health, May 2015)

3.3 The following School policies, procedures and resource materials are relevant to this policy:

3.3.1 Safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures

3.3.2 Pupils in City and Risky areas Risk assessment

3.3.3 Missing Student Guidance

3.3.4 SEND policy

3.3.5 Accessibility policy

3.3.6 Behaviour, Rewards, Sanctions and Exclusion policy

3.3.7 Parent Contract

3.3.8 Remote education plan (see SEND policy).

4 Publication and availability

4.1 This policy is published on the School website

4.2 This policy will be sent to Parents when pupils join the School and Parents will be reminded of it at the beginning of the school year and when the policy is updated.

4.3 This policy is available in hard copy on request.

4.4 A copy of the policy is available for inspection from Adam Pape Deputy Head, Pastoral, during the School day.

4.5 This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required

5 Definitions and interpretation

5.1 Where the following words or phrases are used in this policy:

5.1.1 references to **attendance** include references to attendance for all or part of the timetabled school day.

5.1.2 references to the **Proprietor** are references to the board of Governors.

5.1.3 references to a **Parent** means:

(a) all natural parents, whether they are married or not;

(b) any person who has parental responsibility for a pupil; and

5.1.4 References to a **pupil** includes anyone who is receiving an education at the school except a person who is 19 or over for whom further education is being

provided, or a person for whom part-time education suitable for people over compulsory school age is being provided.[3]

5.1.5 **SAC** means the School's Attendance Champion

6 Responsibility statement and allocation of tasks

6.1 The Proprietor has overall responsibility for all matters which are the subject of this policy.

6.2 The Proprietor recognises that improving attendance is a school leadership issue and has appointed a the Deputy Head, Pastoral, to have overall responsibility for championing and improving attendance in School, referred to in this policy as the SAC.

6.3 To ensure the efficient discharge of its responsibilities under this policy, the Proprietor has allocated the following tasks:

Task	Allocated to	When / frequency of review
Keeping the policy up to date and compliant with the law and best practice	SAC	As required, and at least termly
Monitoring the implementation of the policy	SAC	As required, and at least termly
Analysing attendance and absence data	SAC	As required, and at least termly
Seeking input from interested groups (such as pupils, staff, Parents) to consider improvements to the School's processes under the policy	SAC	As required, and at least annually
Formal annual review	Proprietor	Annually

7 The importance of good attendance

7.1 The School recognises the importance of developing good patterns of attendance from the outset. This is an integral part of the School's ethos and culture. In building a culture of good school attendance it recognises:

7.1.1 the importance of good attendance, alongside good behaviour, as a central part of the school's vision, values, ethos, and day to day life;

[3] This is the definition as set out in section 3 of the Education Act 1996 and referred to in chapter 7 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024 .

7.1.2 the interplay between attendance and wider school improvement efforts, building it into strategies on attainment, behaviour, bullying, special educational needs support, supporting pupils with medical conditions and / or disabilities, mental health issues, safeguarding wellbeing, and support for disadvantaged pupils;

7.1.3 the importance of setting high expectations for the attendance and punctuality of all pupils and communicating these regularly and effectively to pupils and Parents;

7.1.4 that attendance is never "solved" and is a continuous process requiring revision and updating of messages, processes and strategies; and

7.1.5 children missing education can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues, including neglect, sexual abuse and child sexual and criminal exploitation.

8 School responsibilities

8.1 The School acknowledges that attendance is the essential foundation to securing positive outcomes for all pupils and that everyone has a responsibility to take proactive steps to manage and improve attendance across the School community.

8.2 The School will consistently promote the benefits of good attendance, setting high expectations for every pupil and consistently communicating those expectations to pupils and Parents.

8.3 Where there are challenges to attendance, the School will work effectively and respectfully with pupils, their families and, where appropriate, local authorities to address them.

8.4 The School will adopt a support-first approach. It will listen to and understand the individual barriers affecting attendance, agree actions with the pupil and family, identify the most appropriate lead practitioner and coordinate proportionate support with the local authority and other partners where needs extend beyond the School's capacity.

8.5 The School will respond to non-attendance and / or lateness proactively, consistently and with care, with appropriate reference to this policy, its safeguarding and behaviour policies and the School's terms and conditions. It will first seek to understand and remove barriers to attendance, provide or coordinate appropriate support, and regularly review the impact of agreed actions. Where support is unsuccessful, not engaged with or not appropriate, the School will work with the local authority and other partners to consider proportionate formal intervention.

8.6 The School will have robust systems in place to track and record attendance, reasons for absence and patterns at an individual level and by cohorts or groups in order to identify pupils at risk of non-attendance and those who are persistently absent and it will monitor and analyse this data regularly to facilitate early intervention to address issues.

9 Staff responsibilities

The SAC

9.1 The Proprietor has appointed a senior member of staff of the School's leadership team as SAC to have overall responsibility for championing and improving attendance in school. Details of the individual appointed are at the front of this policy and are widely publicised within School.

9.1.1 The SAC's responsibilities are:

(a) to set a clear vision for improving attendance in school;

(b) to establish and maintain effective systems for tackling absence and make sure the systems are followed by all staff;

(c) to regularly monitor and evaluate progress, including the efficacy of the school's strategies and processes;

(d) to have oversight of and analyse attendance data; and

(e) to communicate clear messages on the importance of attendance to pupils and Parents.

9.2 **Staff with specific responsibilities for attendance[4]:**

The staff identified in Appendix 1of this policy have day to day responsibility for monitoring and promoting good attendance and punctuality. They should:

9.2.1 have a formal routine for registers being taken accurately each morning and afternoon;

9.2.2 record all absences promptly and accurately using the processes specified;

9.2.3 seek explanations of absences required from pupils on their return to School;

9.2.4 make enquiries about unexplained absences, including those within the school day, and follow up with pupil to ensure that an explanation has been formally given to the School;

9.2.5 look out for trends or patterns in a pupil's attendance and inform the SAC of any specific concerns;

9.2.6 deal with lateness to lessons consistently and promptly;

9.2.7 consider appropriate sanctions for pupils who arrive late to a lesson in line with the School's behaviour and discipline policies; and

9.2.8 discuss non-attendance and / or lateness with pupils and Parents (where possible) and emphasise the importance of punctuality and attendance.

9.3 **All staff**

[4] The School should provide information and contact details of the staff who pupils and parents should contact about attendance on a day to day basis (such as a form tutor, head of year etc) and for more detailed support on attendance (such as a head of year, pastoral lead or family liaison officer etc) in Appendix 1

9.4 The School ensures that all teaching and non-teaching staff know the importance of good attendance and are consistent in their communication with pupils and Parents about it.

9.5 The School provides appropriate training and professional development for staff consistent with their roles and responsibilities.

10 School arrangements

10.1 The School will accurately complete admission and attendance registers and have effective day to day processes in place to follow-up absence. These registers must be kept electronically. Contact details of relevant staff can be found at the front of the policy and other details about the School's arrangements can be found in Appendices 1-3.

11 Monitoring attendance

11.1 The School will undertake regular data analysis to identify and provide additional support to pupils or pupil cohorts that need it, and to look at historic and emerging patterns across the School and develop strategies to address them. Such analysis may include:

11.1.1 monitoring and analysing weekly attendance patterns and trends and provide support in a targeted way to pupils and families;

11.1.2 using this analysis to provide regular attendance reports to class teachers to facilitate discussions with pupils and to leaders (including the special educational needs coordinator and designated safeguarding lead);

11.1.3 undertaking frequent individual level analysis to identify pupils who need support and focus staff efforts on developing targeting actions for those cases;[5]

11.1.4 conducting thorough analysis of half-termly, termly, and full year data to identify patterns and trends;

11.1.5 benchmarking attendance data at whole school, year group and cohort level to identify areas of focus for improvement;

11.1.6 devising specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data;

11.1.7 monitoring the impact of school-wide attendance efforts, including any specific strategies implemented; and

11.1.8 providing data and reports to the Proprietor to support its work.

For the purposes of attendance monitoring, a pupil is persistently absent when they miss 10% or more of possible sessions and severely absent when they miss 50% or more. The School will identify pupils at risk of reaching either threshold early, intensify and review support as absence

[5] See paragraph 45 of Working together to improve school attendance 2024

increases, and work with the local authority and relevant partners where absence is persistent, severe or otherwise gives rise to safeguarding concerns.

12 Pupil responsibilities

12.1 School attendance is important to pupil attainment, wellbeing and development. The School therefore has high expectations of pupils as to their attendance and has systems in place to reward good attendance and manage poor attendance.

12.2 Pupils should be aware that:

12.2.1 they are expected to be present in-person for the duration of each School day;

12.2.2 they are expected to arrive on time and attend all timetabled lessons;

12.2.3 they should not leave a lesson or the School site without permission or otherwise in accordance with School rules;

12.2.4 they should engage with the School's arrangements for recording and managing attendance as set out in this policy;

12.2.5 any unexplained absence will be followed up;

12.2.6 persistent lateness or non-attendance will result in action being taken by the School. This may take the form of:

(a) offers of support to seek to identify and address any barriers to attendance;
(b) communication with Parents;
(c) reporting to other agencies such as children's social care; and
(d) sanctions against them or their Parents in line with the School's behaviour policies.

12.2.7 If pupils are having difficulties that might discourage or prevent them from attending School or specific lessons regularly, they may speak to any member of staff, although the School encourages them to speak to their Housemaster/mistress (HsM) or those staff identified in Appendix 1 in the first instance. Pupils are entitled to expect this information to be managed sensitively.

13 Additional needs

13.1 The School recognises some pupils may find it harder than others to attend School, and will work with those pupils and parents to try to remove barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and working together to put the right support in place.

13.2 The School will make reasonable adjustments[6] where a pupil has a disability that puts them at a substantial disadvantage, in comparison with pupils without a disability, in relation to school attendance.

13.3 It will also work with Parents, and where appropriate with the local authority, to develop specific support approaches for attendance for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities e.g. ensuring the provision outlined in a pupils education, health and care plan is accessed.[7]

13.4 Where a pupil has an education, health and care plan the School will communicate with the local authority where the pupil's attendance falls or the School become aware of barriers to attendance that relate to the pupil's needs.

13.5 Suitable strategies and support will also be considered for pupils with any social, emotional or mental health issue that is affecting their attendance[8].

13.6 Where barriers are outside of the School's control, the School will work with Parents and pupils to identify alternative sources of support or consider, where appropriate, making a referral for early help.

13.7 The School will make a sickness return to the local authority if a pupil is recorded in the attendance register as absent using the national absence code I (unable to attend because of sickness) and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil will have to miss 15 consecutive or cumulative school days or more for illness or the pupil's total number of school days missed during the current school year because of illness (whether consecutive or cumulative) will reach or exceed 15 school days.[9]

Where the School knows or suspects that a pupil may be a young carer, it will consider whether caring responsibilities are creating barriers to attendance, listen to the pupil and family, and coordinate appropriate support with the local authority and other relevant services. Attendance concerns will be considered alongside safeguarding, wellbeing and the pupil's right to privacy.

14 Parent / carer responsibilities

14.1 The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education.

[6] In this case to meet the school's duty to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with a disability under section 20 of the Equality Act 2010.

[7] The Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools states in the non-statutory summary of responsibilities document that 'in many cases the school may be able to agree with parents / carers adjustments to its policies and practices that are consistent with the special educational provision set out in the EHC plan. In other cases, additional or different attendance support identified may require the LA to review or amend an EHC plan.'

[8] See Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools which includes a Summary of responsibilities where a mental health issue is affecting attendance and Support for pupils where mental health is affecting attendance: effective practice examples

[9] See paragraph 57 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024

14.2 This means pupils must attend every day that the School is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the School.

14.3 The School will help Parents to understand what is expected of them and why attendance is important to their child's attainment, wellbeing, and wider development and provide clarity on the short and long term consequences of poor attendance.

14.4 Expectations the School places on Parents can be found in Appendix 1 of this policy

14.5 Parents are bound by the terms relating to conduct and attendance in the parent contract and failure to ensure a child's attendance or engage with the School about it could amount to a breach of contract or a finding that the parent is treating the School unreasonably.

15 Training

15.1 **Staff:** The School ensures that regular guidance and training on attendance is arranged on induction and at regular intervals thereafter so that staff and volunteers understand what is expected of them by this policy and have the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out their roles. As a minimum this will include all staff understanding:

15.1.1 the importance of good attendance and that absence is almost always a symptom of wider circumstances; and

15.1.2 the School's strategies and procedures for tracking, following up and improving attendance.

15.2 Dedicated attendance training is provided to any member of staff with a specified attendance function in their role, including administrative, pastoral or family support staff and senior leaders. This should include:

15.2.1 the law and requirements of schools including on the keeping of registers;

15.2.2 the process for working with other partners to provide more intensive support to pupils who need it;

15.2.3 the necessary skills to interpret and analyse attendance data; and

15.2.4 any additional training that would be beneficial to support pupils and pupil cohorts overcome commonly seen barriers to attendance.

15.3 The School maintains written records of all staff training.

16 Information sharing

16.1 Personal information on attendance will only be shared in line with legal obligations and having regard to government guidance on attendance, safeguarding and children missing education.

16.2 The School, local authorities and other local partners should work jointly and share data on individual cases where it is of benefit to a pupil (e.g. health services where there are medical conditions or the police where there are extra-familiar harms).

16.3 Where appropriate, the schools will attend regular targeting support meetings.[10]

16.4 The School is legally required to share information from the registers with the local authority. As a minimum this includes:

16.4.1 New pupil and deletion returns;

16.4.2 Attendance returns[11];

16.4.3 Sickness returns.

16.5 The law allows local authority officers access to the attendance and admission registers of all types of schools to carry out their functions under the Education Acts to support joint working between schools and local authorities. These officers are also permitted to take digital or physical extracts of the School's registers.

16.6 The School will provide attendance information and statutory returns where required by law. As an independent school, it is not required to submit daily attendance data to the Department for Education, but it will continue to share information with the local authority and Secretary of State where a statutory requirement or lawful request applies.

16.7 Where appropriate, the School is expected to inform a pupil's social worker and/or youth offending team worker if there are unexplained absences.

17 Record keeping and confidentiality

17.1 All records created in accordance with this policy are managed in accordance with the School's policies that apply to the retention and destruction of records.

17.2 The information created in connection with this policy may contain personal data. The School's use of this personal data will be in accordance with data protection law. The School has published privacy notices on its website which explain how the School will use personal data.

18 Version control

Date of adoption of this policy	October 2024
Date of last review of this policy	September 2026
Date for next review of this policy	October 2027
Policy owner (SMT)	Adam Pape, Deputy Head, Pastoral

[10] Targeting support meetings are meetings local authorities have with schools to discuss attendance data and identify pupils and cohorts at risk of poor attendance and agree targeted actions and access to services for those pupils. See chapter 4 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024.

[11] Schools are required to provide attendance returns to the local authority with the names and addresses of all pupils of compulsory school age who fail to attend school regularly or have been recorded as absent for a continuous period of ten school days where their absence has been recorded with one or more of the national attendance codes (G, N, O, and/or U). Individual local authorities must agree the frequency that attendance returns are to be provided with all schools in their area. This should be no less frequently than once per calendar month - see chapter 2 and content on sharing information in the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024

Policy owner (Proprietor)	The Governors

Appendix 1 School arrangements[12]

1 Managing attendance

1.1 The School monitors, records and shares data about pupil attendance and as part of its duty to safeguard and protect pupils and promote attendance. It accurately completes admission and attendance registers[13] as required by law and set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 respectively. The admission and attendance registers must be kept electronically and retained by the School for the relevant time period as stated by law.

1.2 The School expects all pupils to be present at School for the whole of the School day, usually from registration at 08.20 to close at 16.15 but this period may be extended, for example for out of school clubs, sports fixtures or school trips.

1.3 The boarding nature of the Junior King's School means that boarders are on-site 24 hours a day during term time unless parents have explicitly requested, via the HSM, e.g. a weekend exeat or Sunday Leave. All boarders are expected to attend a number of roll calls during the day which will be marked on the roll call sheet in house, these are logged on iSAMS for the morning (AM) and final evening (PM) roll call. In addition, boarding houses operate a signing in and out system for when boarders, in their free time, are allowed eg. to go a private lesson or go to voluntary music practice. All pupils, day or boarding, are expected to register their mobile number with their HSM and these are available to staff on duty if required. House staff are responsible for marking boarding pupils out of school for weekend exeats so as to pre-populate weekend AM and PM roll calls. Those sponsored pupils with educational visas will have weekend travel plans logged on a centralised spreadsheet held Head of Boarding.

2 The role of Parents / guardians

2.1 The School expects all Parents to:

2.1.1 make any application for an authorised leave of absence at the earliest opportunity;

2.1.2 notify the School of any absence or delay as soon as reasonably possible in accordance with this policy and when doing so, give an accurate explanation for this; and

2.1.3 cooperate with the School to explore possible barriers to attendance and to improve it where attendance has been raised as an issue.

2.2 Parents of day pupils should ensure their child attends School by 08.25 (8.50 on Saturdays) for morning roll call;

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[12] The School should tailor this section to ensure that its arrangements are set out clearly

[13] Boarding schools without day pupils are not required to keep an attendance register. Schools with a mixture of day pupils and boarders must keep an attendance register for the day pupils.

2.3 Parents of boarding pupils should ensure their child returns to their boarding accommodation by 21.00 on Sunday before the beginning of the school week.

3 Registration and attendance checks

3.1 Morning registration for the whole School, including day and boarding pupils, opens at 08.25 and closes at 08.55. Staff must complete registration promptly. On Saturdays, day pupils are expected by 08.50 and the register closes 30 minutes after it opens. The afternoon register opens at the published registration time for that day and closes 30 minutes later.

3.2 In accordance with the School Attendance Regulations, Nursery registration is aligned with the School's established morning and afternoon registration arrangements. To ensure that children attending morning-only Nursery sessions are accurately accounted for, a clear departure procedure is in place. At 11.30am, Nursery staff record each child's departure on the Nursery attendance clipboard and update their status on iSAMS to 'Out of School - X: Non-Compulsory School Age Absence'. At the School's formal afternoon registration at 1.00pm, these children are recorded using the code 'X - Non-Compulsory School Age Absence'. This ensures that there is a clear and accurate record of each child's departure between 11.30am and the afternoon registration at 1.00pm, maintaining effective safeguarding oversight and ensuring that no child appears unaccounted for during this period.

3.3 Prep registration (PM) will be conducted at 13.35-13.45. All colleagues are required to complete this registration by 13.35. In the Pre-Prep afternoon registration is conducted between 13.00-13.30. Exceptions to this are on Wednesday and Saturday when the afternoon register is completed at 12.15 in lesson 6

3.4 Boarding houses will log an evening roll call and add it to the fire list.

3.5 Once the morning and afternoon registers close, a pupil will be recorded as absent if not present.

3.6 If a pupil is absent when the register starts being taken but arrives before the register is closed they will be recorded as a late arrival (code L).

3.7 If a pupil arrives after the register has closed but before the end of the session, the School will record code U unless the pupil's late arrival is attributable to a reason for which another attendance code must be used. The reason given, or the absence of any explanation, will also be recorded.

3.8 Registers will also be called at the beginning of each lesson and official activity in order to identify and follow-up on absences from lessons or activities that might occur after morning or afternoon registration.

3.9 The School uses E-Registration in iSAMS. [14]

[14] There is no requirement for the policy to specify which systems it uses, however we have retained this wording should schools wish to include this level of detail.

3.10 Registration alerts are set up for pastorally vulnerable pupils whereby an email will be sent to an individually specified team on a CPOMS care plan eg. HsM, Tutor, Head of Section and DSL to immediately report a pupil missing from a registration session or a lesson or activity.

4 Reporting absence

4.1 If a day pupil is to be absent from School for any reason, the parent / guardian should contact the following below by email / telephone by 09.20 on the first morning of absence;

4.2 Where a pupil is ill, the School should be notified of the nature of the illness;

4.3 Where a boarding pupil will be absent for all of the day or for any registered lessons activities within the school day the house team will identify the reason and record in advance of that day on the iSAMS register with the correct codes and times of absence.

5 Arrangements for reporting subsequent absence

5.1 Absence will be recorded on the Attendance Register as set out in Appendix 3.

6 Managing absence

Absences reported by iSAMS are followed up in boarding houses daily during evening roll calls. Absence from lessons or activities will be followed up in the school office at the first available opportunity.

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

Staff should make it clear on the school register when taking attendance whether a child's absence is authorised or unauthorised. Where staff have concerns regarding absences, they should follow the school's Missing Student Guidance and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

For prolonged absence due to illness, parents may be asked to provide the school 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 being classed as unauthorised.

An absence will not be authorised where the school is not satisfied with the reasons given for the absence.

Where pupils have been away for either short or long term, the school will support that child when they re-enter school to help them catch up on any work that they have missed.

Sanctions will be issued for repeat offenders. The school 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 school support systems that could help.

7 Authorised absences

7.1 Authorised absence means that the School has either given approval in advance for a pupil to be away (granted an authorised leave of absence) or has accepted an explanation offered afterwards as justification for absence.[15]

7.2 There may be some exceptional instances where the school will authorise absence such as for a family bereavement. The school recognises that there may be times where children of different faiths observe religious festivals that fall outside of school holidays and will allow authorised absence for these times. Parents will be aware of these dates and should give the school written notification in advance.

7.3 Parents should make every effort to ensure medical and dental appointments and visa application appointments are made outside of school hours. Where it cannot be avoided, pupils should attend school for as much of that day as possible.

7.4 The school always strives to send parents the term dates over a year in advance in order that they can arrange their holidays without disrupting education. It remains the Head's sole decision whether to authorise any request for absence during term time and this decision is final. Where permission is granted the Head will confirm the number of days and dates of absence which are authorised. If permission is not granted, but the child is still absent, the absence is classed as unauthorised, and parents may be subject to further action by the school. It is the school's policy usually not to allow holiday to be taken during term.

8 Applications for an authorised leave of absence

8.1 Applications for leave of absence during term time will be granted only in exceptional circumstances and must be made in writing to the Head at Head@junior-kings.co.uk. The Head will determine both whether the circumstances are exceptional and, if leave is granted, the period authorised.

8.2 The School will consider each application for an authorised leave of absence individually, taking into account the specific facts and circumstances, the pupil's past attendance record and the relevant background context behind the request.

8.3 Apart from illness or where there are additional needs, no pupil should be away from School without prior permission from the Head.

8.4 Dental or medical appointments should be made during School holidays or after the school day except in cases of emergency when the relevant HsM should be informed.

[15] A leave of absence may be granted by the Head or other person the authorised to do so by the proprietor. While the guidance is not specific on this point we recommend it is a member of the school leadership team

8.5 If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the Head to determine the length of the time the pupil is or was permitted to be away from School. It will be recorded as an authorised absence. See section 3 of Appendix 3 for more details.

8.6 A leave of absence will usually be authorised for religious observance if the day concerned is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which Parents and pupils belong. Parents are expected to make a request for this type of leave of absence in advance.

9 Reporting duties

9.1 The School will make the statutory returns and notifications required by the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. This includes notifying the local authority where a pupil's absence reaches the applicable statutory threshold and providing information about pupils who fail to attend regularly. Attendance concerns will be escalated sooner where safeguarding, persistent absence or severe absence indicators arise.

9.2 In the event that a pupil holding a Student or Child Student visa sponsored by the School under the Points Based System goes missing[16], the School may report to UKVI if the pupil misses ten consecutive expected contact points. See Appendix 5 for full details.

9.3 Each time the School's attendance register is completed it is treated as a contact point for these purposes.[17]

9.4 The report will be made by the School's Level 1 user via the Sponsor Management and in accordance with prevailing UKVI guidance

9.5 Action will also be taken in accordance with the Missing child policy and safeguarding and child protection policy if any absence of a pupil from the School gives rise to a concern about their welfare.

[16] Children being absent from school, particularly repeatedly and / or for prolonged periods and children missing education, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding issues, including exploitation. Exploitation can affect any child, however international students may be at greater risk than other children. UKVI's Student Sponsor Guidance states that a school must have appropriate policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety, wellbeing and protection from exploitation of the children whom it sponsors to study in the UK under the Child Student route.

[17] The School may wish to insert its own definition of contact points e.g. just morning registration

Appendix 2 Admission register

1 Admission register

1.1 In accordance with the requirements of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 the School will:

1.1.1 maintain an admission register of all pupils (of both compulsory and non-compulsory school age) admitted to the School (also known as the school roll); and

1.1.2 inform the local authority of any pupil who is going to be added to or deleted from the School's admission register at non-standard transition points.

1.2 The admission register must be kept electronically. Every entry must be preserved for six years from the date on which the entry was made. The School will make secure back-up copies as part of its business-continuity arrangements.

1.3 The school must ensure that every entry in the School's admission register is preserved for six years beginning with the day on which the entry was made; and every back-up copy of the register is preserved for six years after the end of the school year that it relates to.

1.4 The admissions register contains specific personal details of every pupil in the School, including their date of admission, information regarding Parents and carers and details of the school they last attended and whether each pupil of compulsory school age is a boarder or day pupil.[18]

1.5 A pupil's name can only be deleted from the admission register for a reason set out in regulation 9 of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. When any of the situations set out in regulation 9 occurs, the pupil's name must be deleted.[19]

1.6 Where the School notifies the local authority that the pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register, the School must provide it with the following information:

1.6.1 the full name of the pupil;

1.6.2 the address of the pupil;

1.6.3 the full name and address of any parent the pupil normally lives with;

[18] Regulation 8 of The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 specifies what information must be included in the admissions register. See also chapter 7 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024

[19] Schools must refer to regulation 9 of The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 for full details of the legal grounds for deleting a pupil from the registers. See also chapter 7 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024.

1.6.4 at least one telephone number of any parent with whom the pupil lives or can be contacted in an emergency;

1.6.5 the pupil's future address, the full name and address of the parent who the pupil is going to live with, and the date the pupil is expected to start living there, if applicable;

1.6.6 name of the pupil's other or future school and pupil's start date or expected start date there, if applicable;

1.6.7 the ground (prescribed in regulation 9) under which the pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register.

Appendix 3 Attendance register

2 Attendance register

2.1 The School records and monitors the attendance of all pupils in accordance with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) (Regulations) 2024[20]

2.2 The School uses the appropriate national attendance and absence codes system to enable it to record and monitor attendance and absence in a consistent way which complies with regulation 10 of the Attendance Regulations.

2.3 The attendance register must be kept electronically. Every entry must be preserved for six years from the date on which the entry was made. The School will make secure back-up copies as part of its business-continuity arrangements.

2.4 The School will also use these records to identify patterns of poor attendance (at individual and cohort level) and work with pupils and Parents to resolve any issues before they become entrenched.

2.5 The School is required by law to take attendance registers twice daily - once at the start of the morning session and once during the afternoon session.

2.6 On each occasion it will be recorded whether every pupil is:

2.6.1 physically present in school when the attendance register begins to be taken; or

2.6.2 absent from the school when the attendance register begins to be taken but attends before the taking of the register has ended; or

2.6.3 attending a place other than the school; or

2.6.4 absent.

2.7 The circumstances in which a pupil may be recorded as attending a place, other than the school, can include:

2.7.1 Attending educational provision arranged by a local authority;

2.7.2 For an educational visit or trip arranged by or on behalf of the school and supervised by a member of school staff;

2.7.3 Attending a place for an approved educational activity that is a sporting activity;

2.7.4 Attending an approved educational activity that is work experience provided under arrangements made by the school as part of the pupil's education;

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[20] Regulation 10 of The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 specifies what information must be included in the attendance register. See also chapter 8 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024

2.7.5 Attending a place for any other approved educational activity.

3 Recording absence

3.1 Absence will be recorded in accordance with the national absence codes set out in regulation 10 of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) (Regulations) 2024 and statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance relating to:

3.1.1 leaves of absence;

3.1.2 other authorised reasons;

3.1.3 unable to attend school because of unavoidable cause;

3.1.4 unauthorised absence.[21]

4 Remote education

4.1 The School is required to record all absence from in-person lessons.

4.2 The School may, in limited circumstances, provide remote education to enable pupils, who are well enough to learn but unable to attend the School site, to keep pace with their education.

4.3 In the limited circumstances when the School decides to use remote education for individual pupils when they are absent, the following will be considered:

4.3.1 ensuring mutual agreement of remote education by the School, Parents or carers, potentially pupils, and if appropriate a relevant medical professional. If the pupil has an Education, Health and Care plan or has a social worker, the local authority should also be involved in the decision;

4.3.2 if remote education is being used as part of a plan to reintegrate back to school, putting a formal arrangement in place to review its efficacy regularly, alongside identifying what other support and flexibilities can be put in place to help ease the pupil back to school at the earliest opportunity;

4.3.3 setting a time limit within which the period of remote education provision should be reviewed, with the aim that the pupil returns to in person education with the required support in place to meet their needs.

4.4 Pupils who are absent from school and receiving remote education still need to be recorded as absent using the most appropriate absence code. The School will keep a record of, and monitor pupil's engagement with remote education,

[21] Schools should refer to regulation 10 of The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 to ensure they are correctly recording reasons for absence and the applicable commentary in chapter 8 of the statutory guidance Working together to improve school attendance 2024.

but this is not formally tracked in the attendance register. Where appropriate, this information may be used to make plans for a pupil's reintegration to school.

4.5 The School will utilise a digital education platform that will be kept up-to-date and keep pupils safe. Staff will remain trained and confident in its use.

5 Unauthorised absence

5.1 The "unauthorised absence" code will be used when prior permission for absence has not been given and where the School is not satisfied with the explanation given for absence or delayed attendance or where no explanation has been given meaning that the code for "unable to attend due to an exceptional circumstance" is not appropriate. Examples include:

5.1.1 holiday has not been authorised by the School or is in excess of the period determined by the SAC

5.1.2 the reason for absence has not been provided;

5.1.3 a pupil is absent from school without authorisation;

5.1.4 a pupil has arrived in school after registration has closed and without reasonable explanation.

Appendix 4

5.1.5 Attendance register codes 2026/27

Notes

1. Attendance codes are prescribed by law: the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. See in particular regulation 10.
2. Government statutory guidance provides further detail: Working together to improve school attendance (DfE, July 2026).
3. The attendance register must be kept electronically.
4. A pupil cannot be deleted from the attendance register unless there is a prescribed reason (see regulation 9) to delete the pupil's name from the admission register. The pupil's name must be deleted from both registers at the same time.
5. Attendance register is taken at the beginning of each morning session and once during each afternoon session.

Attendance at school

Status	Code	Notes
Present at the school (morning session)	/	
Present at the school (afternoon session)	\	
Late arrival before the register is closed	L	Registers remain open for 30 minutes.

Attendance at a place other than the school

Status	Code	Notes
Attending an educational visit or trip	V	
Participating in a sporting activity	P	
Attending alternative provision	B	

Authorised absence

Status	Code	Notes
Regulated Performance	C1	
Employment/Educational Interview	J1	
Educated Off Site	A	

Status	Code	Notes
Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school	X	
Temporary Reduced Timetable	C2	
Medical/Dental Appointment	M	
Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance	C	
Religious observance	R	Usually limited to one day only: see para 361.
Illness (not medical or dental appointment)	I	Reporting to the local authority is required where the School has reasonable grounds to believe that a pupil will miss 15 consecutive or cumulative school days because of illness, or where the pupil's total illness absence in the current school year will reach or exceed 15 school days.
Suspended or permanently excluded	E	
Mobile Child (Parent Travelling with Work)	T	
Educational Provision Arranged by LA	K	
Authorised absence due to study leave	S	

Unauthorised absence

***Note**: Must provide LA with names and addresses of all pupils of compulsory school age who fail to attend school regularly or have been absent for a continuous period of ten school days where their absence has been recorded with one or more of the codes below: see para 49.*

Status	**Code**	**Notes**
Holiday not granted by the school	G	
Reason for absence not yet established	N	Short-term code only: correct absence code should be entered as soon as the reason is ascertained. If a reason for absence cannot be established within 5 school days, amend to Code O.
Absent in other or unknown circumstances	O	

Absent/not a possible attendance

Status	**Code**	**Notes**
Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements	Q	
Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available	Y1	
Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel	Y2	
Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed	Y3	
Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed	Y4	
Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention	Y5	
Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law	Y6	
Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause	Y7	Nature of the cause must also be recorded.

Other administrative codes

Status	Code	Notes
Prospective pupil not on admission register	Z	
Planned whole school closure	#	
Enforced Closure	Y	

Appendix 5

Child Student Visa Attendance

6 Definitions

The School: The King's School, Canterbury, King's International College and Junior King's.

Absence: Non-attendance for all or part of the timetabled school day.

Non-authorised absence: Unexpected or unplanned non-attendance without prior permission, including:

- Holidays during term time
- Unsatisfactory reason

Authorised absence: non-attendance requested with prior permission from either the Housemaster/mistress or College Principal as appropriate. Authorised absence is at the discretion of the Housemaster/mistress or College Principal and includes:

- Illness
- Medical or dental appointments
- Religious observance
- Study leave
- Exception circumstances

7 Overall Attendance

Overall attendance is recorded on iSAMS, which is updated twice daily.

The School completes weekly checks to ensure attendance has been recorded.

It is expected that sponsored pupil's attendance will not drop below 80% or miss 10 consecutive days of unauthorised absence. If any of the above occurs the School will assess the reasons behind this and if necessary, the School will report this on the SMS as per the sponsor guidance.

Absence is monitored using the following contact points:

- Scheduled lessons
- Mentor sessions/Tutorials
- Assessments
- Other required academic activities
- Music lessons
- One to one sessions such as those in Learning Enhancement/EAL/Counselling
- Health Centre

As soon as a pupil is absent without authorisation, a pastoral (KSC) or welfare (IC) check will be initiated by the School and if relevant / appropriate parents/guardians contacted.

The IC has a slightly different way of managing this:

How? If a student misses an agreed check in point, the Houseparent on duty takes next steps under the direction of SMT. Initially, this involves calling the student, asking the student's friends, staff searching in likely locations, and calling parents/guardians.

Where? Depending on the reasons for and severity of the incident, records are kept on CPOMS, iSAMS sanction record, and parental correspondence file. We also keep a log on the app for our regular tick-ins.

The School has a robust system in place to track and record attendance, absences identified and monitored. Parents/guardians are contacted where deemed necessary.

Attendance and absence records will be retained for a minimum of one year after the end of sponsorship, in line with UKVI requirements

8 Guardians and Homestays

Contact is made with all parents and guardians within the first half term.

IC homestay calls are made to all new homestays/guardians before a child visits them. Thereafter, they are called less frequently. The IC manages these as follows:

How? Tutors send an email home during term 1 to parents and guardians. We contact all guardian/homestays if they are a new contact to the School before a child goes to stay with them for the first time.

Where? The travel excel provides evidence that new homestays are contacted by the house team. Emails are in tutors' sent item emails.

All guardian-arranged homestays are contacted via telephone by the School house team and relevant information about the arrangement is recorded on SharePoint, along with all other travel arrangements

How? House team call any homestay that is not on our register ie any adult who has not looked after one of our students in the past. We will also call if it has been a while since a stay e.g. 2 years or if there has been other concerns or issues raised. Also discussed and recorded are any individual details that are necessary to allow the homestay to provide safe care.

Where? Travel excel

All guardian-arranged homestays are contacted via telephone by the School house team and relevant information about the arrangement is recorded on SharePoint, along with all other travel arrangements.

9 Holidays

Pupils are only issued with their passports upon satisfactory completion of their travel details.

For example at the IC:

How? Full travel details needed before the student leaves the School or departure will be delayed.

Where? Passport column on travel excel to show if passport collected and when passport returned.

Passports and BRPs are stored securely with pupil and parental consent, in accordance with GDPR and safeguarding guidelines.