

**Defence Children’s Services - Attendance Charter**

Defence Children's Services (DCS), schools, settings and The Education Welfare Team value education and understand the link between attendance, attainment, and wider wellbeing. We want all our children to thrive in our education settings. For this to be achieved children require a sense of belonging and have a strong and enduring relationship with their teachers, families, and peers.

In partnership with our families, and the wider community, DCS collectively ‘pledge` commitment to an Attendance Charter so that we are all aware of our responsibilities in relation to improving school attendance.

**Our promise to you:**

* To support parents/carers and pupils to make the most out of their learning opportunities so that our children and young people can thrive. In turn inspiring pupils to attend school regularly with a strong emphasis on curriculum and a flourishing enrichment programme.
* To be responsible for the culture and promotion of good attendance and reduce absences by championing good and improved attendance.
* We value and celebrate the individuality of our families and aim to work jointly with our families in a supportive capacity to improve school attendance and reduce the barriers in attending school regularly.
* Establish strong patterns of attendance with our youngest pupils and although not of statutory[[1]](#footnote-2) school age this includes our Early Years Foundation Stage pupils (EYFS).
* We use data to ensure support is targeted and offered immediately to children and families who need it most.
* Promote and celebrate school attendance, working in partnership with schools to foster their individual attendance attitudes whilst embedding a “Defence wide” positive attitude to school attendance.
* Work in partnership with different agencies to remove any barriers to attendance ensuring families are involved and advocated for throughout.

**In return we ask our families to commit to:**

* Strong home/school communication.
* Working with school and supporting agencies if required to reduce the barriers to education.
* Ensuring their child/ren attend school every day and on time.
* Notifying the school as soon as possible when their child is to be unexpectedly absent (e.g., sickness).
* Only requesting leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and where possible do so in advance.
* Booking any medical appointments around the school day where possible.

**We ask our children with the support of their families and school to:**

* Attend school every day and on time.
* Talk to a trusted adult if they have any problems that affect attending school.
* Show respect to one another and listen to instructions.
* Be kind.

1. Statutory school age in England is the term after a child’s 5th birthday. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)