

PHEASEY PARK FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CENTRE

ATTENDANCE POLICY-EYFS

Aims

To promote good attendance and punctuality in partnership with parents and carers in Early Years, ensuring that good habits are formed early, so that children are school ready.

Rationale

Regular early years attendance is important for all children, even babies, as it is only through regular, consistent routines that children build up the secure attachments they need for healthy development.

Research shows that regular part-time attendance from the age of 2 in a good quality early years setting has a lasting impact on children's social development and intellectual attainment throughout school.

Although education is not compulsory until the age of five, figures on attendance in reception classes are now published by the Department for Education. Ofsted take reception year attendance into account when a school is inspected.

Regular attendance has a positive impact on all aspects of a young child's learning and development. A regular routine supports the young child to feel settled and secure. Unsettled children have higher stress levels which, in turn, prevent them from being able to benefit fully from the learning opportunities available.

Once children are five, their attendance in school is statutory and our main school has an attendance target of at least 97%.

Establishing good habits of attendance in the early years will help to ensure that all children have at least 96% attendance by the time they enter Reception class.

Parent guidelines:

- If your child is sick or unable to attend for whatever reason please notify the Children's Centre before your child's session is due to start.
- If you have booked a holiday, please inform us of the dates as soon as possible.

- If we have not received acknowledgement of absence, by an hour into the session your child should be attending, we will contact parent/carers to check the wellbeing of your child.
- If a child is absent for two continuous sessions and the Centre has not received any notification or made any successful contact with a parent/carers. The manager will telephone the named emergency contact number(s) on your child's essential information form.
- If a child is a Looked After Child, subject to a Child Protection Plan or a child in need, the Centre will notify the child's social worker of any unexplained absence.
- Weekly fees remain payable during holiday, illness and other absences (see your Contract and Childcare Registration and Agreement for full terms and conditions.)

Procedures

At Pheasey Children's Centre Nursery we promote good attendance and punctuality by:

- Ensuring children attend for the expected hours
- Requiring parents to call the setting if they are going to be late or absent
- Requiring parents to report sickness
- Communicating with parents and following up on non-notification of absences as part of promoting good attendance and punctuality
- Encouraging parents of nursery age children to consider taking their children on holiday outside of term time, so that they are 'school ready' and get into good habits
- Monitoring children's attendance
- Consistently following up poor attendance and punctuality

Supporting Families

We recognise that sometimes families may need extra support with attendance and punctuality, therefore good communication is essential between you and your key person. We will work with you to support your child's good attendance and punctuality. Where children's attendance is poor and not

improving, we will talk to you about the available support for example, implementing bedtime routines, parenting classes.

Safeguarding

We all have a duty to keep children safe and protect them from harm and very poor attendance can be an indication of neglect and be seen as a safeguarding issue. Children with below 90% attendance are regarded in school as persistent absentees and those with attendance of less than 60% are likely to be referred to Children's Social Care for neglect.

Withdrawing a place

Clearly we will make every effort to support good attendance and punctuality, as suggested above. However, if there are no other indicators of concern or vulnerability and your child has failed to attend for 4-6 consecutive weeks or more, without a justifiable reason, we may withdraw your child's place. We can only do this once all other routes have been exhausted and the setting has provided evidence of this to and sought the approval of the Early Years Service.

The process for formally withdrawing a child's place is as follows:

- We will attempt to contact the family twice weekly to meet with them to seek a justifiable explanation (by telephone or home visit and followed up by email), including, of course, first day calling.
- The setting sends a recorded delivery letter during the fourth week to invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the situation and warning them of the action that will be taken after 6 weeks.
- We will continue to attempt twice weekly contact through phone and email
- We will send a recorded delivery letter in the final week, explaining that the place will be withdrawn on a specific date.

Transition

If you decide to move your child to another setting then please inform us so that we can take them off of our register and send on records to the next setting to ensure smooth transition.

We believe that:

- Regular attendance and good punctuality are important for maximising achievement and obtaining the greatest benefit from education
- Good relationships with children and their families are vital in encouraging regular attendance and punctuality

- Children settle well and want to attend settings where they feel valued and have a sense of belonging
- Good habits of attendance and punctuality are key skills for adult life

Mrs L Smith

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October 2019

