

# SNAITH PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Attendance Policy

**Times of the school day  
8.55-3.30pm**

**All absence should be reported to the school office using the contact details below on the first day of absence and preferably before 9am. The office is staffed from 8.30am**

Responsibility for strategic approach to school attendance	The Headteacher - Helen Calpin
Responsibility for monitoring of daily attendance and absence	School Admin Officer Joanne Wharam and Admin Team
Both can be contacted at: Email: <a href="mailto:Snaith.primary@eastriding.gov.uk">Snaith.primary@eastriding.gov.uk</a> Tel. 01405860452	

<i>Date policy was updated</i>	<b>January 23</b>
<i>Approved by Governors</i>	
<i>This policy will be reviewed (Unless required before.)</i>	<b>January 26</b>
Person responsible for the policy	<b>Head teacher</b>

## Contents

1. Aims
2. Targets
3. Punctuality
4. School procedures
5. Authorised and unauthorised absence
6. Absence in Exceptional Circumstances
7. Persistent Absence
8. Monitoring Attendance
9. Roles and responsibilities
10. Links with other policies
11. Legislation and guidance

### Appendix 1: **Absence from School for Exceptional Circumstances - (LA Policy 2013)**

#### Attendance

All parents/carers who have children of compulsory school age are responsible in law for ensuring that their children receive an efficient education, "suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs which they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise" (Section 7 Education Act 1996).

#### 1. Aims

Our school aims to meet its obligations with regards to school attendance by:

- Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence.
- Promote a welcoming, caring and safe environment where each member of the school community feels wanted and secure.
- Ensuring every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled.
- Acting early to address patterns of absence.
- Working with parents and carers to help them meet their legal responsibility, in ensuring their children attend school regularly.
- Promote and support punctuality in attending lessons, minimising the disruption caused by late arrivals or non-attendance on the quality of the education and provisions for all pupils.

#### 2. Targets

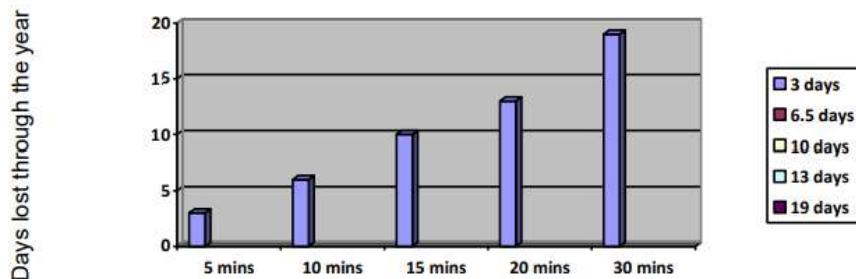
Our target attendance has been set in conjunction with the Governors and with reference to the DfE's aim of reducing unauthorised absence.

Attendance for 2021/22	Attendance Target
98.1%	Above 98%
No exclusions	

### 3. Punctuality

The school gates open at 8.45am – children should go directly to their classroom access door. Morning tasks are set out and lessons begin promptly at 8.55am. Registers close at 9am. Arriving after this time can affect your child's progress. It also disrupts the classroom when lessons have already begun. Therefore, not only must children attend school regularly, but they must not be late.

The following graph clearly illustrates how being late can add up to a loss of learning:



As you can see, if your child is late for just 5 minutes every day that can add up to over three days lost each year and arriving 15 minutes late each day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year: for that reason it is imperative that your child is punctual.

In the event of children arriving after the bell, they need to enter the school through the main office entrance and parents sign their children into school. Registers are marked by 9am and your child will receive a late mark if they are not in school by that time (L code). At 9.15am the register will close. If your child arrives after this time they will receive a mark which shows they are in school but in accordance with regulations it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence (U code). This means that if lateness persists you may face the possibility of receiving a penalty notice.

The school day ends at 3.30pm. Children are expected to attend for the full duration of the school day. However, in exceptional and specific circumstances the school recognises that some children may require a shortened day to meet their needs. For any pupil requiring a reduced or amended timetable the school will write a 'reintegration plan' in consultation with agreement, advice and support from other professional agencies involved, the child's family and the schools LA Education Welfare Officer.

### 4. School Procedures

*School follows DfE guidance to ensure compliance. Every entry in the attendance register will be preserved for 3 years after the date on which the entry was made*

#### Attendance register

By law, all schools are required to keep an attendance register, and all pupils must be placed on this register. The attendance register will be taken at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session.

It will mark whether every pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

Any amendment to the attendance register will include:

- The original entry
- The amended entry
- The reason for the amendment
- The date on which the amendment was made
- The name and position of the person who made the amendment

### **Unplanned absence**

Parents must notify the school each day of an unplanned absence – for example, if their child is unable to attend due to ill health – by 9am or as soon as practically possible by telephoning school or sending an email to the office.

Absence due to illness will be authorised unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness. The school may ask parents to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence.

If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and parents will be notified of this in advance.

### **Medical or dental appointments**

Missing registration for a medical or dental appointment is counted as an authorised absence; advance notice is required for authorising these absences. However, we encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary. Advance notification of appointments should be made to the office only, either by telephone or email.

Applications for other types of absence in term time must also be made in advance. Information relating to whether the school can authorise such absences can be found in appendix 1.

### **Following up absence**

The school will follow up any absences to ascertain the reason, ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary, identify whether the absence is approved or not and identify the correct attendance code to use. We will call parents/carers on the first day as soon as possible after the close of register for absences not reported. If we do not get a response, we follow Safeguarding Policy for missing children. This will include contacting other named contacts for the child and/or undertaking a home visit.

## **5. Authorised and Unauthorised Absence**

### **Authorised Absence**

Only the Headteacher can authorise an absence.

Absence should be authorised if: -

- The pupil is ill or prevented from attending by unavoidable cause.
- The absence occurs on a day exclusively set aside for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parent/carers belong.
- The school at which the pupil is registered is not within walking distance of their home; and no suitable arrangements have been made by the L.A. for the pupil's transport to and from school in special circumstances.
- The pupil is the child of traveller parent/carers who temporarily leave the area giving reasonable indication of their intention to return.
- There is a family bereavement.
- The pupil has a local authority licence to take part in a public performance and the school has given leave of absence.
- The pupil is attending an interview for a place at another school.
- The pupil is involved in an exceptional special occasion e.g. a family wedding other than that of a parent. (It is deemed that parents should select a date during the school holidays.)

## Unauthorised Absence

An absence will be deemed to be unauthorised by the Headteacher following the Local Authority guidelines. Examples of such are: -

- No explanation is forthcoming from the parent/carer.
- The school is dissatisfied with the explanation.
- The pupil is staying at home to mind the house or look after siblings.
- The pupil is absent for unexceptional special occasions e.g. the pupil's birthday.
- The pupil is on a family holiday Term Time Holidays.

## 6. Absence in Exceptional Circumstances

If you need to take your child out of school due to exceptional circumstances you must complete a request form for this to be considered for authorisation. There is a discretionary power held by headteachers to authorise absence in extenuating circumstances.

Snaith Primary School follows the East Riding Policy regarding this. See appendix 1

In accordance with the LA agreed policy, holidays during term time are strongly discouraged and will be classed as unauthorised.

In any event holiday absences should not take place during the following:

1. The first six weeks of any academic year (for all pupils).
2. Year six transition day (for pupils in that year group).
- 3 Year six SATs week (for pupils in that year group).

### Exceptional Circumstances:

In the event of requests for absence in exceptional circumstances-  
EVIDENCE WILL BE REQUIRED IN EVERY CASE.

Please see appendix 1 for further information on what constitutes an Exceptional Circumstance.

## 7. Persistent Absence

The definition of persistently absence (PA) pupil as set out by the DfE for 2015-2016 is a pupil with 10% or more absence (90% or less attendance). This is referred to the LA Education Welfare Officer in half termly meetings with the Head teacher and school admin and attendance officer.

The table below, derived from the census guidance, gives an indication of the minimum number of sessions a pupil would miss by each half term to be classed as PA. 1 session is ½ a school day.

Half Term By end of...	10% Absence means	Days
Half term Autumn 1	7 or more sessions	3 ½ days or more
End of Autumn Term	14 or more sessions	7 days or more
End of Spring Term 1	20 or more sessions	10 days or more
End of Spring Term	25 or more sessions	12 ½ days or more
End of Summer Term 1	31 or more sessions	15 ½ days or more
End of Summer Term	38 or more sessions	19 days or more

OFSTED recognise that attendance of 96% or below is also a cause for concern.

## 8. Monitoring Attendance

- Children's attendance is monitored daily and any unreported absence is followed up on after the close of morning register.
- Admin staff along with class teachers monitor any patterns in absence or concerns and raise these with the Headteacher and/or Designated Safeguarding Lead to follow up on.
- If school is unable to account for an absence the school is likely to pay a home visit and/or inform external agencies of concerns as required and appropriate.
- Attendance data is monitored monthly. However, admin staff will alert the Headteacher to any prolonged periods of time or patterns in absence.
- Attendance letters are sent to parents half termly. Letter will congratulate children for high attendance and concerns are shared with parents where there is a dip in attendance.
- In the event of persistent absence, from the end of the first term (or sooner if significant issues are identified) the Headteacher may request a meeting with parents to discuss concerns and formulate a plan as appropriate.
- The Education Welfare Officer undertakes half termly attendance monitoring with the school and children with low attendance and persistent absence are details are discussed. This may result in the Education Welfare Officer contacting families to offer advice, support of further direction.

## 9. Roles and Responsibilities

### Parents

- It is the legal responsibility of every parent/carer to ensure his/her child attends school regularly and punctually.
- Must contact the school without delay to report any absence.
- Ensure that the school has up to date contact details.
- Adhere to the policy with regard to holiday absence.
- Ensure children have a good attitude to learning and attendance.
- Work in partnership with the school to promote the best interest of their child.

**If any family is experiencing barriers to their child attending school they should contact the school admin team and/or Headteacher as soon as possible. School will try to help you find a resolution.**

### School Administration Team

- Monitor attendance on a daily basis
- Ensure correct attendance codes are used (The school follows the DFE guidance for maintained schools with regard to pupils registers and attendance codes – August 2020)
- Mark pupils arriving during registration as L (late) and those who arrive after the register has closed (15 minutes after the start of the session) as U (unauthorised absence)
- Maintain and update all contact information
- Prepare attendance data reports for the Head Teacher every half term
- Prepare a monthly list of pupils' with less than 90% attendance
- Identify and monitor pupils at risk of becoming persistent absentees, using the school management system (SIMS)
- Contact parents/carers if attendance/punctuality becomes a concern by telephone/letter
- Make first day absence telephone calls
- Inform the Headteacher and/or Designated Safeguarding Lead of any child whose absence is unaccounted for
- If necessary will arrange an action plan meeting in school with parent/carers with the Headteacher

### **Class teachers**

- Record accurate details of attendance at the beginning of each session
- Pass information regarding absence to the administration office
- Will speak to every pupil on returning to school about the reason for the absence to ensure he/she is supported and given the opportunity to catch up with missed work

### **Headteacher**

- Ensures there are named key members of staff with responsibility for attendance
- Will undertake a home visit, in the event of a child/ren being absent and from school and are cannot be accounted for.
- Will hold review meetings with parent/carer for pupils deemed to have persistent absence
- Will maintain pupil notes regarding attendance concerns
- If required, will make a referral to the Education Welfare Service and liaise with the Local Authority Education Welfare Officer. (Ref. ER Education Welfare Service – Penalty Notice to Address Poor Attendance and/or Unauthorised Absence at School advice for Parents and Carers)
- Will, with the support of the Admin Team, send half termly updates to parents informing them of their child's attendance record, celebrating those with high attendance and sharing concern for those with low attendance
- Submit reports to the Governing Body on various aspects of pupil attendance, including measuring progress against targets
- Ensure a whole school approach to the development and implementation of the school attendance policy
- Encourage staff, including ancillary and administrative staff, to see attendance as part of their responsibility
- Offer clear guidance to parents with regard to their legal responsibilities in relation to attendance matters and information on attendance procedures
- Establish clear channels of communication between school and parents
- Chair attendance action plan meetings
- Work closely with the Education Welfare Service with regards to enforcement action

### **Governing Body**

- Are required by legislation to see that registers are kept correctly and this is also monitored by the Education Welfare Officer (EWO)
- Are required to inform parents annually the schools attendance figures
- Should review attendance statistics and trends and support measures to improve attendance
- Appoint a governor with specific responsibility for attendance matters and ensure this Governor is available to attend meetings with parents Education Welfare Service
- To provide a dedicated Education Welfare Officer who will work with the school (as per service level agreement) At Snaith Primary School this is the Local Authority EWO.

### **The Dedicated Education Welfare Officer (Local Authority):**

- Will support school staff in identifying attendance concerns and becoming familiar with the procedures and documentation required for referring attendance concerns to the Education Welfare Service
- Will advise on policy, strategies and legal requirements
- Area Education Welfare Officers will liaise with school staff following referral to the service

## **11. Legislation and guidance**

This policy meets the requirements of the school attendance guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on school attendance parental responsibility measures.

These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education Act 2002
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016
- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013
- This policy also refers to the DfE's guidance on the school census, which explains the persistent absence threshold.

### **Absence from School for Exceptional Circumstances - (LA Adopted Policy)**

#### **Background**

Schools are required to provide education for 190 days a year and it is expected that children who are registered at a school will attend for this time. Parents do not have an automatic right for their children to have time off school and any requests for absence are entirely at the Head teacher's discretion.

Research shows that children do not achieve as well in their education and in public examinations the more school absence they have, for example a child absent from school for a period of two weeks each year, for exceptional circumstances and with the average absence for illness may miss the equivalent of one whole year's education over their school life.

#### **General Principles**

The following general principles underpin this policy:

- (i) The principles of honesty, openness, transparency and the spirit of co-operation underpin the policy.
- (ii) All schools within the East Riding that have adopted this policy agree to follow it through to penalty notice if appropriate. This will ensure that the policy is applied in a consistent manner and provides equity for all parents and schools.
- (iii) Support of this policy from the local authority will be as a partner in both the primary and secondary behaviour and attendance partnerships. The achievement and inclusion services of the Council will ensure other local authority departments are aware of and include the philosophy of this policy in their practice.
- (iv) Where a request for absence form is not submitted, absences cannot be authorised retrospectively; this is prescribed in law and in these circumstances the penalty notice code of conduct must be followed.
- (v) Data from each individual school in relation to requests for absence will be monitored by the local authority and shared with schools and the partnerships. This will allow the partnerships to assess the impact of this policy.
- (vi) The behaviour and attendance partnerships will review this policy annually or in line with any legislative changes. In order for consideration to be given, requests for absence must be for exceptional circumstances only.



The primary behaviour and attendance partnerships and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council agree to follow the law, in such that the provision for Headteachers to authorise absence purely for the purpose of a family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance.

**Exceptional circumstances could include:**

1. Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
2. Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.
3. The death or terminal illness of a person close to the family.
4. To attend a wedding or funeral of a person close to the family.
5. Where there are exceptional and unforeseen circumstances that fall outside of 1 to 4 above, the Headteacher agrees to consult with the principal education welfare officer prior to any authorisation being given to the parent.

The principal education welfare officer will discuss each case with an independent Headteacher and will make a recommendation to the referring school. Evidence would be required in each case. If a request meets the above exceptional circumstances but falls within the following times, the Headteacher must be convinced that absence from school is the only option:

- 1) The first half term of any academic year (applies to all pupils).
- 2) Year six transition day (for pupils in year six).
- 3) Year six SATs week (for pupils in year six).

Consistency across our large geographical area is vital for parental confidence. If a Headteacher has any doubts their thoughts can be discussed with the principal education welfare officer for advice and guidance prior to informing parents of their final decision. Headteachers would be well advised to keep a log of their decision making rationale.

Looked After Children This policy applies to all children, including those who are Looked After Children. The Headteacher will only approve an absence for a Looked After Child in accordance with Children, Family & Adult Services guidance. The only person who can request an absence for an East Riding Looked After Child is the area manager. Requests from foster carers and social workers should not be considered. Headteachers should, in the cases of a child placed in an East Riding school who is a Looked After Child from another local authority, consult with the child's social worker. The social worker will enquire from that local authority what agreements or exemptions their policy on exceptional circumstances contains.

**Absence from School for Exceptional Circumstances - Procedures**

The school will retain a supply of 'Absence from School Request Forms' and give to parents, together with the Information for Parents, as required. The policy, information on absence from school and request forms will also be available on the Council's website. Parents must return the absence request form, in reasonable time prior to the planned absence, to the Headteacher or to the senior member of school staff who has delegated responsibility for this decision making.

If an absence is required at short notice the parent must make every effort to contact the Headteacher to discuss the planned absence. Where children are absent from school without a prior request being made to the Headteacher the absence when it occurs cannot be authorised.

The law now clearly states that no absence shall be retrospectively authorised. If siblings or other children living in the same household (of compulsory school age) are known and identified on the 'Absence from School Request Form' and attend an East Riding of Yorkshire school, the Headteachers from both schools must reach a joint decision regarding the parent's request, preferably within five school days of receiving the absence request form. This will ensure a consistent approach across the East Riding of Yorkshire. The Headteacher will decide if the request should be authorised or unauthorised using the 'Absence from School Decision Making Flowchart' and the principles within the Absence from School for Exceptional Circumstances Policy.

### **Absence from School Request Forms**

The parent wishing to remove the child from school should be the parent who completes the 'Absence from School Request Form'. Any disagreement between estranged parents should be resolved prior to submitting the request.

### **Authorised Absence Requests**

The Headteacher will reply to the parent who has made the request, informing them of the decision, the date of the child's last school day before the absence and the date the school expect the child to return to school. Within the letter it will be clear how the absence will be marked on the child's attendance certificate. A copy of the letter should be sent to any parent who does not have day to day care and responsibility of the child but does have parental responsibility. A copy of both letters will be placed on the child's school file.

### **Unauthorised Absence Requests**

The Headteacher will write to the parent who has made the request, informing them of the reason why this decision was made. The letter will clearly highlight that if the parent decides to go ahead with the absence it will be unauthorised and a penalty notice, per child, may be issued to each parent with day to day care and responsibility. A copy of the letter should be sent to any parent who does not have day to day care and responsibility of the child but does have parental responsibility. A copy of both letters will be placed on the child's school file.

### **Actions Following Return from the Requested Absence**

The school may take reasonable steps to ensure that the child catches up with missed work where appropriate. However, the school will not provide work for children to take on holiday absences. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure they maintain any learning during such an absence.

### **Delayed Return Following Authorised Absence**

If the child does not return to school on the agreed date following their absence, the school will investigate this considering the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Children Missing Education Policy. It is important to follow this policy to safeguard children.

If a child returns to school later than the agreed date and the parent claims their return was unavoidably delayed, this absence must be investigated and the most appropriate code used. Advice on this can be sought from the Education Welfare Service. Penalty Notice Referral Due to Unauthorised Absence from School.

Once the unauthorised absence has been taken and the child has returned, the school will complete a penalty notice referral form emailing it to [education.welfare@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:education.welfare@eastriding.gov.uk), together with a copy of the 'Absence from School Request Form', the letter sent by the Headteacher to the parent and a copy of the child's up to date attendance record. During an academic year two penalty notices can be issued to any one parent with respect to each child. If procedures have been followed correctly and the case meets the penalty notice criteria the education welfare service will issue a penalty notice.

**If the parent pay the Penalty Notice** - the case is closed and the period of time that the parent received the penalty notice for will not be used in any further proceedings.

**If the parent Does Not Pay Penalty Notice** – If, after 28 days the penalty notice remains unpaid, the education welfare service will liaise with the local authority Legal Services for consideration of it being dealt with in the Magistrates' Court. The education welfare service will keep the school informed of the proceedings upon request.

Education Welfare Service County Hall Beverley East Riding of Yorkshire HU17 9BA  
[education.welfare@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:education.welfare@eastriding.gov.uk) (01482) 392146 DCSF school attendance team  
[school.attendance@dscf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:school.attendance@dscf.gsi.gov.uk)



**Absence from School for Exceptional  
Circumstances**

**Policy**

**Primary Behaviour &  
Attendance Partnership**

**Secondary Behaviour  
& Attendance Partnership**

**East Riding of Yorkshire Council**

**September 2013**

## Absence from School for Exceptional Circumstances Policy

### Background

Schools are required to provide education for 190 days a year and it is expected that children who are registered at a school will attend for this time. Parents do not have an automatic right for their children to have time off school and any requests for absence are entirely at the Headteacher's discretion.

Research shows that children do not achieve as well in their education and in public examinations the more school absence they have, for example a child absent from school for a period of two weeks each year, for exceptional circumstances and with the average absence for illness may miss the equivalent of one whole year's education over their school life.

### General Principles

The following general principles underpin this policy:

- (i) The principles of honesty, openness, transparency and the spirit of co-operation underpin the policy.
- (ii) All schools within the East Riding that have adopted this policy agree to follow it through to penalty notice if appropriate. This will ensure that the policy is applied in a consistent manner and provides equity for all parents and schools.
- (iii) Support of this policy from the local authority will be as a partner in both the primary behaviour and attendance partnership and the secondary twilight partnership. The achievement and inclusion services of the Council will ensure other local authority departments are aware of and include the philosophy of this policy in their practice.
- (iv) Where a request for absence form is not submitted, absences cannot be authorised retrospectively; this is prescribed in law and in these circumstances the penalty notice code of conduct must be followed.
- (v) Data from each individual school in relation to requests for absence will be monitored by the local authority and shared with schools and the partnerships. This will allow the partnerships to assess the impact of this policy.
- (vi) The behaviour and attendance partnerships will review this policy annually or in line with any legislative changes.



In order for consideration to be given, requests for absence must be for exceptional circumstances only. The primary behaviour and attendance partnership, the secondary twilight partnership and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council agree to follow the law, in such that the provision for Head teachers to authorise absence purely for the purpose of a family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance. Exceptional circumstances could include:

1. Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
2. Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.
3. The death or terminal illness of a person close to the family.
4. To attend a wedding or funeral of a person close to the family.
5. Where there are exceptional and unforeseen circumstances that fall outside of 1 to 4 above, the Head teacher agrees to consult with the principal education welfare officer prior to any authorisation being given to the parent. The principal education welfare officer will discuss each case with an independent Headteacher and will make a recommendation to the referring school.

Evidence would be required in each case.

**If a request meets the above exceptional circumstances but falls within the following times, the Head teacher must be convinced that absence from school is the only option:**

- 1) The first half term of any academic year (applies to all pupils).
- 2) Year six transition day (for pupils in year six).
- 3) Year six SATs week (for pupils in year six).
- 4) Year nine options time (for pupils in year nine).
- 5) At any time during years 10 & 11 (for all pupils in these year groups).
- 6) At any time specified by the school (this will be communicated to parents by each school).

Consistency across our large geographical area is vital for parental confidence. If a Head teacher has any doubts their thoughts can be discussed with the principal education welfare officer for advice and guidance prior to informing parents of their final decision. Head teachers would be well advised to keep a log of their decision making rationale.

#### **Children Looked After**

This policy applies to all children, including those children who are looked after. The Head teacher will only approve an absence for a Child who is looked after in accordance with Children, Family & Adult Services guidance. The only person who can request an absence for an East Riding child who is looked after is the area manager. Requests from foster carers and social workers should not be considered.

Head teachers should, in the cases of a child placed in an East Riding school who is a child looked after from another local authority, consult with the child's social worker. The social worker will enquire from that local authority what agreements or exemptions their policy on exceptional circumstances contains.