

# Annual Attendance Report 2017 -2018

## King Charles C of E Primary School

**August 2018**

### **Summary:**

King Charles School is a two form entry primary school located in Falmouth, Cornwall. The school is a faith school, Church of England, though pupils of all faiths are welcome.

This report is produced to assist both the school and the Education Welfare Service to focus on attendance issues, review strategies, address any concerns identified and to develop new initiatives in order to improve attendance next year.

Figures used in this report are taken from the school's electronic register, SIMS. Figures relate to years 1 to 6 only and exclude Reception and Nursery, unless specifically shown. Where comparison with national figures is made these figures relate to last year and include HT6.<sup>1</sup>

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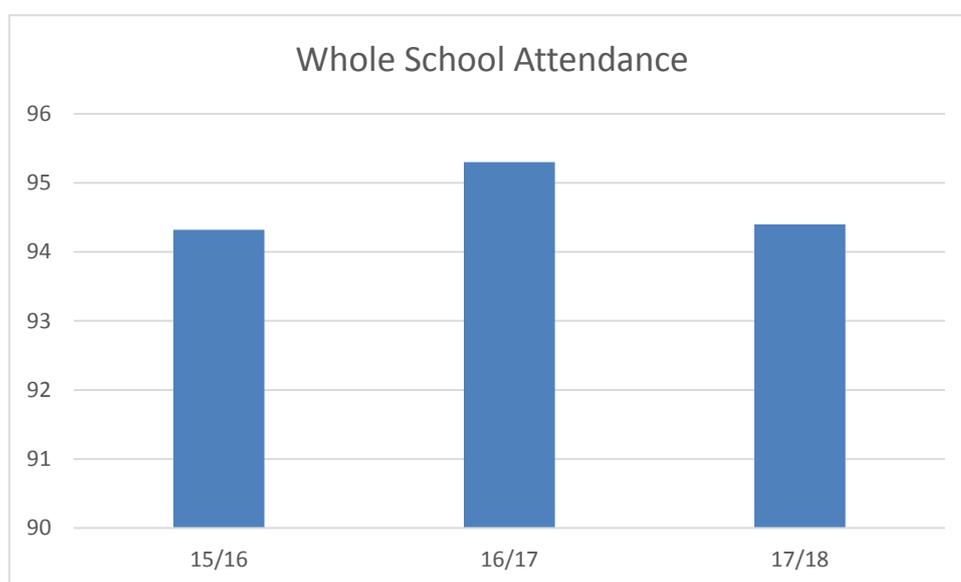
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england-2014-to-2015>

## Factors which affected attendance

Parents inform the school that their child is absent by calling the school and this is then recorded on SIMS. For pupils marked as absence and without reason provided by the parents, the school office calls home to ascertain the reason for absence.

Most absence was due to illness; this year there was a higher than usual incidence of illness causing sickness and diarrhoea. In addition, in March, much of Cornwall was affected by snow and this, despite the school only closing for three days, prevented some families from bringing their children to school even though school was open.

### REPORT



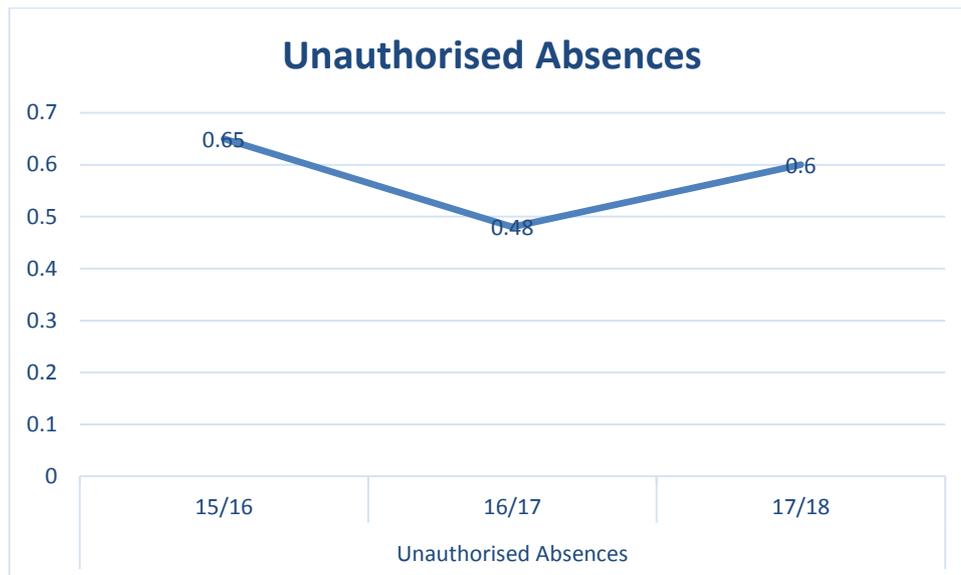
Years	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Attendance %	94.3%	95.3%	94.4%

Overall attendance has been below 96% for the last three years and the trend line indicates that this does not remain static and neither is there a trend. A priority for the school is to ensure that attendance is at least in line with the national average. By way of comparison the average attendance of primary schools across England last year was 96.0%.

### **ACTIONS FOR IMPACT:**

- \*Attendance is to have a higher priority within the school based on previous years.
- \*High levels of attendance will be celebrated more widely.
- \*Information about attendance and the impact of poor attendance will be shared with parents.
- \*There will be a greater level of support for managing attendance from within our MAT and also the EWO (Education Welfare Officer) as last year, we were only able to access 1 day of locum EWO support.

## Unauthorised absence for the last 3 years



Years	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Unauthorised %	0.65%	0.48%	0.60%

A number of families took unauthorised leave during term time with a high number of families taking holidays in term time due to working within the hospitality and tourism trades. These reasons have contributed to the unauthorised absence figure.

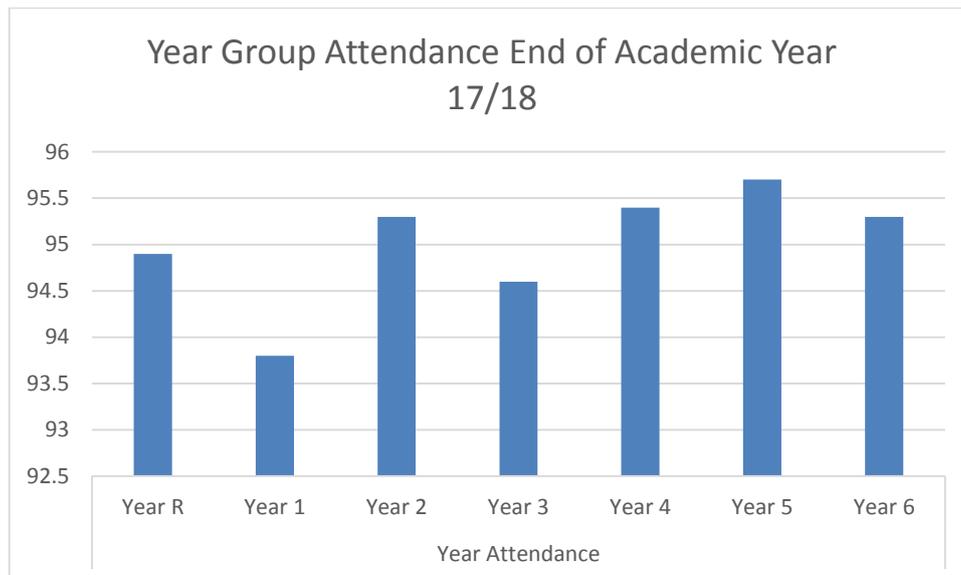
By way of comparison the unauthorised absence level nationally for all primary schools in England was 0.9% therefore showing that compared to schools nationally, the level of unauthorised absence is lower.

### **ACTIONS FOR IMPACT:**

\*Absence requests will be monitored more rigorously with a higher number of face-to-face meetings with the head teacher or other school leaders when absence is requested.

\*Office staff to ensure that levels of attendance are chased more quickly to ensure that reasons for absence are gathered as this will impact on the number of unauthorised (without reason) numbers.

## Attendance by year group (end of academic year 17/18)



Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
94.9	93.8	95.3	94.6	95.4	95.7	95.3

Whilst all year groups have attendance lower than the national average, two year groups cause particular concern: Years 1 and 3. Within these year groups, two particular families have been identified whose attendance has affected the year group as a whole. Also, within these year groups, we were affected by incidences of sickness and diarrhoea.

## Analysis for particular groups

### Boys/Girls

Boys/Girls	Average attendance
Boys	94.5
Girls	93.3

Boys had marginally higher overall attendance this year. For comparison average attendance of boys vs girls in all primary schools across England last year was 95.9% vs 96%. The attendance figures for both genders is below the national averages but are broadly in line with each other at school level.

## Free School Meals

Pupil Premium (Years 1 – 6)	Attendance	Number
Pupil Premium Indicator	94.7	68
Not PP	95.2	280

Those pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) have a lower level of attendance compared to their peers (-0.5%). Nationally the difference is much more exaggerated with those receiving FSM averaging 94.2% and those not receiving FSM averaging 96.4%. The percentage of pupils in receipt of the PPG is also lower (16%) than national average of 23.3%.

### **ACTIONS FOR IMPACT:**

\*Ensure that through pupil progress meetings with teachers, the levels of attendance are highlighted so that this can then be highlighted to parents through termly parent-teacher meetings.

## Children in Public care

No pupils are LAC

## Education, Health and Care Plan

SEN	Number	Attendance
E	4	92.7%
K	28	93.5%
No SEN	316	95.1%

For comparison the average attendance of pupils with an EHCP/SEN in 2016 across England was 93.7% and of those receiving support it was 94.8%

Pupils who are either looked after or who have an Education, Health and Care Plan are regarded as particularly vulnerable and all schools are expected to monitor their attendance.

### **ACTIONS FOR IMPACT:**

\*Ensure that through pupil progress meetings with teachers, the levels of attendance are highlighted so that this can then be highlighted to parents through termly parent-teacher meetings.

## Identification and Tracking of Pupils with Persistent Absence (PA)

The DfE has changed its definition of persistent absence<sup>2</sup>. Since the start of the 2015/16 academic year, a pupil has been classified as a persistent absentee if they miss 10 per cent or more of their own possible sessions, rather than if they reach a standard threshold of absence sessions. Meaning, that when a pupil's overall absence rate becomes 10 per cent or higher they will be classified as persistently absent. Additionally the DfE expects schools to identify pupils at the point when their attendance falls below 90%, or is about to, and to begin working with those immediately. This has had a dramatic effect on expectations for monitoring and intervention and the sheer numbers involved have proved challenging to establishing sensible working practices.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/absence-statistics-guide>

Primary Schools	% PA pupils last year
<b>King Charles</b>	<b>9.5%</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>8.3%</b>

### **ACTIONS FOR IMPACT:**

\*Half termly attendance tracking by Office Manager (newly appointed) and head teacher to inform identification of pupils.

\*Termly meeting with EWO to ensure that those pupils identified as being at persistent absentee level (or approaching this threshold) are highlighted and that parents are informed by letter.

### **Lateness**

During the academic year 17/18, lateness was not fully monitored. Within the summer term, this was more closely monitored by the new Headteacher and Office Manager.

It was identified that three families attributed for over 85% of lates (greater than 10 in a year) and these families were contacted by the school.

### **ACTIONS FOR IMPACT:**

\*Ensure that lateness is monitored rigorously and collated each half term.

\*Ensure that lateness is challenged when signing in at the office.

### **Attendance and Persistent Absence Targets for 2018/19**

Attendance and Persistent Absence Targets for 2018/19	
<b>Attendance Target 17/18</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Persistent Absence Target for 2017/18</b>	<b>5%</b>