

## 4.5 Behaviour and attendance

Good behaviour, good attendance and positive relationships and attitudes to learning will be key to your Free School's success.

**In this section you should consider producing draft behaviour and attendance policies that your school could adopt upon opening. Example policies can be found using the links provided in "further information".**

You will need to consider current legislative requirements and the criteria in the Ofsted inspection framework when devising your policies. There are differences in the law between maintained schools and Academies. Nevertheless, you could look at legislative guidance for maintained schools as a model of good practice.

Your application will need to address the following questions:

- How will your school's ethos promote good behaviour and how will you address discipline issues, including exclusion?
- How will you secure good attendance?
- How will you develop positive relationships and attitudes to learning?

These questions may be partly answered in other sections of your application. For example, your system for organising pupils may promote good behaviour. However, you should restate the relevant points here. One approach would be to provide the proposed behaviour and attendance policies for your school.

### ***Promoting good behaviour and addressing discipline issues.***

Inspection shows a strong association between good behaviour and stimulating and engaging teaching which meets the needs of pupils. Behaviour is almost always good or outstanding in the schools where teaching is at least good. Good behaviour can also be reinforced through:

- Clear expectations and behaviour policies which are consistently applied; and
- Effective, targeted support for individual pupils whose behaviour is particularly challenging.

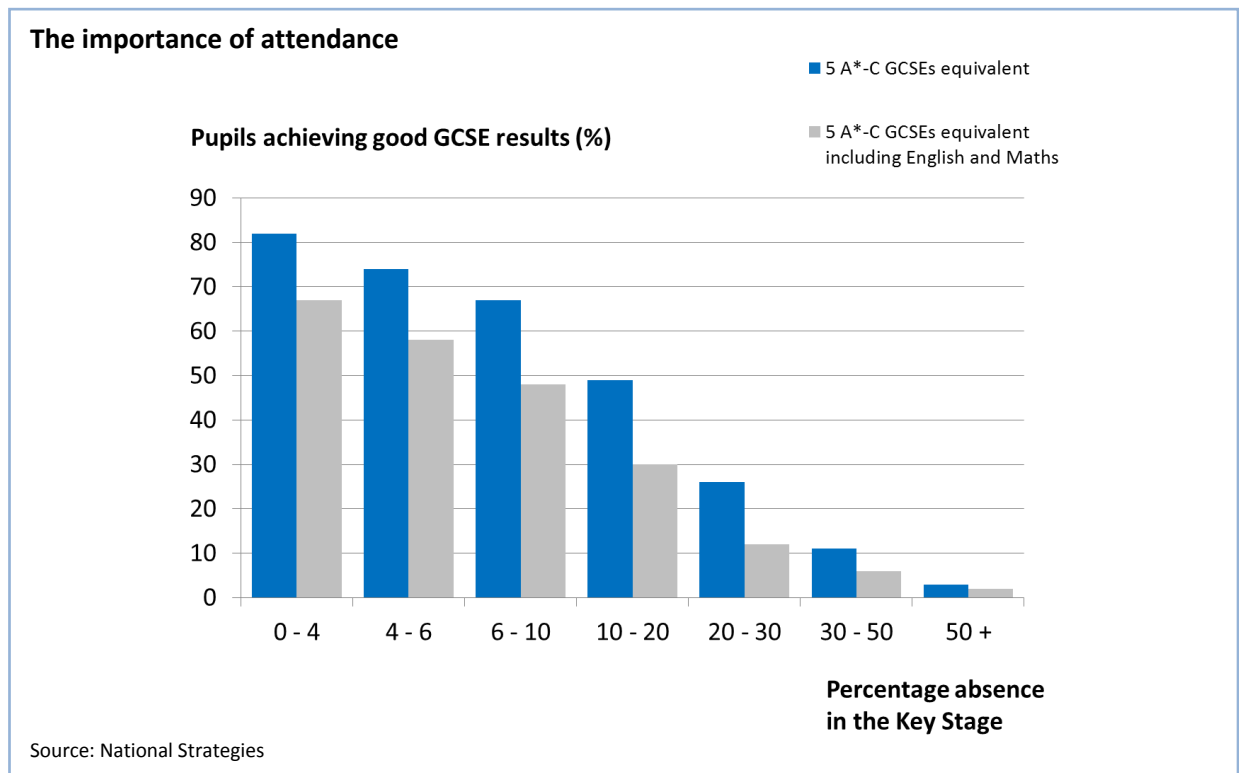
#### Key considerations

Your behaviour policy should include disciplinary measures, promote good behaviour and deter bad behaviour, especially bullying. It should be publicised to everyone involved in the school.

## Securing good attendance

All schools have a legal obligation to keep an accurate attendance register.

In addition to this statutory responsibility, you will need to secure high attendance to meet your educational goals.



### Key considerations

You should state how the ethos and goals of your school will promote and lead to good attendance. This statement should:

- Emphasise the link between school attendance, effective teaching and learning, standards and pupil safety and wellbeing; and
- Be explicit that the goal is to ensure all pupils achieve their full potential in a learning environment where they feel safe, happy, accepted and included.

### **The impact of good teaching**

“The better the quality of education, the better the students’ attendance. Good leadership and management, high quality teaching and a flexible curriculum have a significant impact on attendance. ... In particular, there is a strong correlation between inspection judgements about attendance and the quality of teaching and learning.”

*Attendance in secondary schools, Ofsted 2007*

### **Checklist for behaviour and attendance policies**

Policies on behaviour and attendance should answer the following questions:

- How will your ethos and goals inform your approach to promoting good behaviour and attendance?
- How will you communicate your policies to everyone involved with the school, including parents, and ensure they contribute and take ownership?
- How will you make sure your policies on behaviour and attendance link to other pertinent statutory policies, especially bullying?
- Who will be accountable and responsible for what?
- How will you set clear and high standards, including in a code of conduct, using positive language?
- How will you use rewards and sanctions?
- What support and training will you provide for all staff, including non-teaching staff and governors?
- What support will you provide for parents and carers who want to learn more about how to help their children do well?
- How will you monitor and evaluate your policies and consult on reviewing them so that they are fair and applied consistently?

## ***Further information***

Contact NSN for tailored specialist advice: [info@newschoolsnetwork.org](mailto:info@newschoolsnetwork.org)

### **Inspections:**

- **The Framework for School Inspection** (Ofsted, **Reference no:** 090019) provides the criteria and descriptors set out in the inspection framework for behaviour, attendance and attitudes to learning. <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Framework-for-the-inspection-of-maintained-schools-in-England-from-September-2009>
- Further guidance on the inspection of behaviour and attendance is provided in the **Supplementary guidance and resources for inspectors:** <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Education-and-skills/Schools/Supplementary-guidance-and-resources-for-inspectors>

### **Behaviour and discipline:**

- **A new set of guidance documents on behaviour and discipline** has been published by the DfE. These are currently being consulted on and will be updated by July: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/a0076392/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools>
- **The statutory responsibilities of governors** for behaviour, discipline and exclusions are provided in Section 88(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and can be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/part/7>
- **The implications of the law and good practice in promoting good behaviour and discipline** can be found in 'Learning Behaviour Principles and Practice - What Works in Schools' (DfES 2005) at <http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/0281-2006PDF-EN-04.pdf>
- **The Anti-bullying Alliance** is a coalition of organisations working together to stop bullying and create safe environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They provide extensive guidance for schools on their website <http://www.abatoolsforschools.org.uk/strategies/strategies.aspx>

### **Attendance:**

- **"Ensuring Children's Right to Education"** provides guidance on the roles and responsibilities of parents, schools and the local authority in ensuring children's regular school attendance, and the law relating to school attendance. <http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DFES-00529-2007>

### **National Strategies guidance:**

- **Advice on whole school behaviour and attendance policy** <http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/96160>
- **Sample attendance policy:** <http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/95686>

- **Guidance on improving attendance and reducing persistent absence**

[http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/98020?uc%20=%20force\\_uj](http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/98020?uc%20=%20force_uj)