



ST ANDREW'S INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



Attendance Policy & Procedures

Rationale

This policy seeks to identify best practice when dealing with attendance; in doing so, the school strives to achieve a whole school attendance target of above 95% and we would expect that students only miss school if there are approved reasons. Good attendance is essential if students are to be happy in school and achieve. Students who miss school find it very difficult to:

- Maintain friendships
- Progress in lessons
- Progress with completion of coursework & homework
- Feel part of the school community
- Achieve high grades at GCSE & A Level

Parents are advised to not take family holidays during term time; the school is not able to authorise such absences and it will negatively affect school attendance. The attendance of all students is monitored very closely and is reported to parents at least once each term through the reporting system; however, students and parents should always be aware of their own attendance figure and this can be checked through the online reporting tool, Go4Schools, at any time.

Aim

To ensure that every student at SAIntS can realise their full potential by attending school both regularly and on time.

Student Absence & Actions

The school reserves the right not to authorise absence where there is no evidence of suitable reason for students to be away from school. Please note that students with extended periods of illness will be required to provide medical evidence. Absences for other reasons may not be authorised. The following addresses actions in relation to certain types of absence:

Type of Absence	Detail	Action	Who
Holiday	These are strongly discouraged during term time.	Student will be marked as unauthorised absence.	Attendance Officer / HoY
Family bereavement	The length of absence will depend on the nature of the bereavement.	Please notify the school with expected return date. Necessary emotional support offered to student.	Parent/ Guardian Pastoral team
Sickness	If a student is absent for more than three consecutive days, a letter from the doctor should be given to the school on the student's return, in order for the absence to be authorised.	Notify school on first day of absence and continue to notify after 3 days to update on expected return date. Student to complete absence slip with additional note in planner.	Parent/ Guardian
Medical appointment	We discourage these during school hours but, where this is unavoidable, we expect a copy of the appointment letter.	Copy of appointment card or letter.	Parent/ Guardian
Other offsite appointment	E.g. interview for visa.	Advanced notice must be given with copy of appointment confirmation provided.	Parent/ Guardian
Special consideration	If students and families have any other reason that may affect their attendance at school, then we want to be able to support their learning. E.g. Madrassa	Contact Pastoral team and arrange a meeting.	Parent/ Guardian

Absence monitoring	Detail	Action	Who
Absent list	Assistant to HoY to email all staff daily with absences for that day.	Attendance Officer to call/email parents of students who have not communicated reasons for absence. Teaching staff to cross check with own lesson registers and report any discrepancies to Attendance Officer, Tutor & HoY.	Attendance Officer / HoY Class teacher
Weekly & termly summaries of attendance	Assistant to HoY to provide weekly and termly summaries to the relevant HoY of all registration groups and individual student attendance percentage (including cumulative figures) as well as reasons for absence.	Please notify the school with expected return date.	Parent/ Guardian

The school will always support and encourage the maintenance of good attendance for all of its students, including working with parents and external support networks where applicable, but we must take measures to ensure the effective progress of a student's education; in addition to routinely including attendance figures in references, the school will take the following steps to facilitate maximum attendance:

Actions regarding attendance	Detail	Action	Who
Students with 100% termly attendance.	Students who have maintained 100% attendance per term will be recognised under the school's reward policy.	Deputy Head (Welfare) and HoY to collate information per term and action rewards.	DHW / HoY
Students with 95% and greater termly attendance.	Students who have 95% and greater attendance per term will be recognised in the HoY termly competition.	HoY to collate information per term and action rewards.	HoY
Students with an attendance range of 85%-94% per term.	Students who have less than 95% will be flagged as a concern by the pastoral team.	HoY will lead initial discussion with student and parents to explore the reasons for non-attendance and action plan ongoing interventions if needed. Interventions could include involvement with external support networks.	HoY
Students with 85% and less termly attendance.	Students who have less than 85% are considered to be a serious concern regarding academic progress and achievement.	If an agreed action plan is in place, HoY will continue to monitor and support the student and family with improvements. If student has not engaged with support and/or failed to meet agreed targets, then the school reserves the right to withdraw entries to external examinations and/or progress to next year group or key stage. This refers to all GCSE, AS, BTEC and A Level examinations.	HoY with support from DHW & DHC. HoF with support from DHC.
Student attendance on organised trips & visits	The school does not want to further disadvantage student progress with additional absence due to school organised events so, as a general rule, students with attendance concerns will not be permitted to attend such trips with the exception of those that are essential academic activities.	Trip leaders to inform teaching staff and HoY's of proposed participants to trips and events for feedback and confirmation. An overview of student participation for trips and events to be collated for review when approving such activities.	Trip Leaders / Teachers / HoY AHT T&L