

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SUPPORT SERVICE

“ATTENDANCE IS EVERYONE’S BUSINESS”

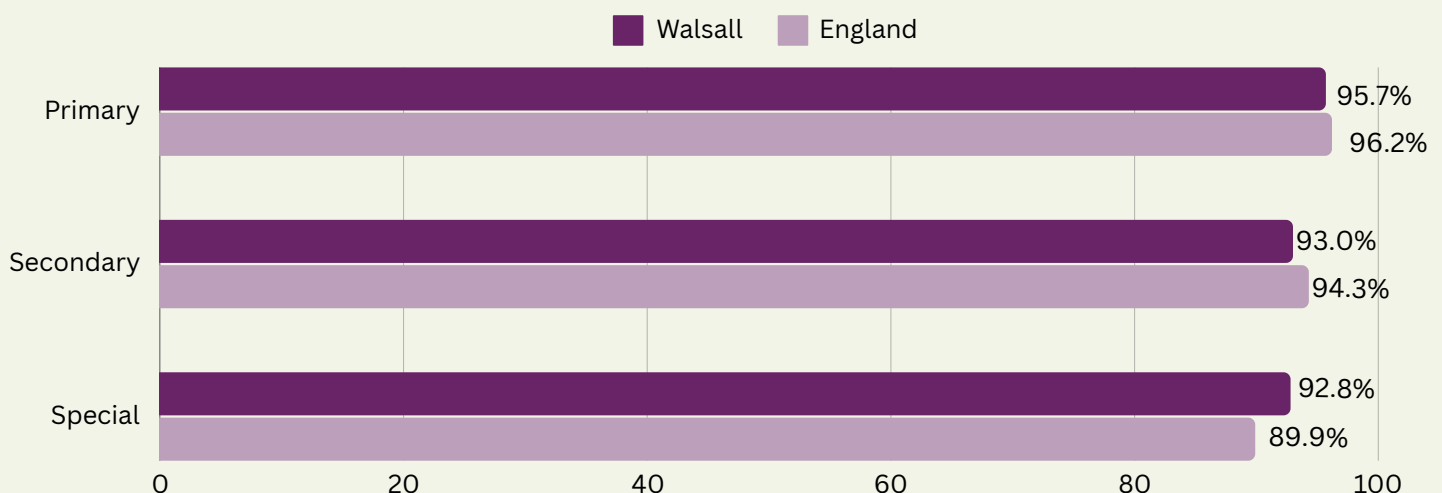
WELCOME BACK!

Whether a child has started school for the first time, joined a new school, made the transition to secondary school from primary, or returned after the summer for another year, there is much to look forward to in the weeks ahead. From catching up with friends – or making new ones – to meeting new teachers and getting stuck into learning. Children will have opportunities to try new activities, start new lessons & join new clubs.

The evidence on how important the first few weeks back is clear: children who miss the first few days of term are predicted to have a much higher overall absence rate. In 2022, an analysis of attendance patterns found that a child who misses the second, third and fourth day of a new term was predicted to have an overall absence rate of 43%, out of 30 days across that term.

During the week 09 September to 13 September, **23,678 sessions were missed in Walsall due to absence**. 13,455 of those sessions were unauthorised.

Attendance during that week for Primary, Secondary and Special in Walsall compared to National was:





DFE WEBINARS

The DfE had originally scheduled webinars for June and July but the timing of the General Election meant the Civil Service had to limit its engagement with stakeholders and therefore, they were cancelled.

The DfE took the decision to pre-record the webinars and you can access them using this [link](#), or use the links below to access specific webinars:

[Working Together to Improve School Attendance: DfE guidance overview for schools](#)

[The Senior Attendance Champion role: school senior lead for attendance](#)

[School attendance register: attendance and absence codes](#)

[Q & A - School attendance register: attendance and absence codes](#)

[Data Returns: sharing attendance information with local authorities and others](#)

[Effective Targeting Support Meetings between school and LA](#)

[National framework for penalty notices for school absence overview](#)

[School admission register: deletion from the school roll](#)



**** NEW** - Monitor your school attendance webinar - **NEW****

[Register for DfE's Monitor your school attendance webinar](#) on **Wednesday 2 October at 2pm.**

The session will cover:

- how to use the tool to help you manage attendance
- new features
- latest attendance policy developments



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TOOLKIT

Our 'School Attendance Toolkit' is now live!

The toolkit has been designed to provide schools with access to a variety of documents, including relevant guidance, example processes, and referral forms.

Please ensure that you download any referral forms and save them to your desktop before completing any pupil information and returning.

You will have received notification that you have been added to the toolkit, if you have any issues with access to the toolkit, or did not receive notification, please let me know.



Toolkit

COMMANDO JOE'S

Earlier this week, I met with Commando Joe's. Commando Joe's (CJs) is a private organisation, founded in 2009, with the founding ethos 'No Child Left Behind'. All programmes are fully inclusive, and easily accessible to all within a school, Alternative Provision and Community Youth settings. CJs provide fun and engaging practical activities aimed at improving the educational outcomes of children and young people through developing essential life skills and early intervention strategies for those disengaged with their education.

If you would like to find out more on how Commando Joe's could benefit your school, please visit the [website](#).

VISION

To be recognised as the leading expert in building character, confidence and self-worth in young people. We want to help build a generation of resilient young people, armed with the life-skills they need to thrive in the challenging world in which we live. We want all children to recognise the unique skills and talent that they possess, and we'll guide and nurture them to become the best version of themselves.

PURPOSE

We exist to help young people find their place, feel capable and ultimately flourish in a challenging world. Because the rules for life are shifting and changing at a rapid pace. We are the most connected we've ever been, and yet the most disconnected at the same time. Traditional academic subjects may fill brains with knowledge and information. But we believe that building character, self-confidence and resilience are equally important to young people in the modern day.

MISSION

Using a robust, well-rounded, and fun-filled approach, we empower young people so that they can reach their potential. Through our RESPECT framework, and with a highly-skilled and uniquely experienced team of inspirational role models and education professionals, we work with schools and teachers to create a powerful syllabus of characterbased learning. Our considered approach, split between the classroom and outdoor activities, plays a leading role in the positive shaping of resilient and confident young people.



WORKING TOGETHER

Working together to improve school attendance became statutory guidance on 19th August. Please make sure you are familiar with the expectations and changes. Following feedback the guidance has been updated to:

- Be clearer on the link between improving attendance and wider school culture, including the importance of working in partnership with families to find supportive routes to improve attendance.
- Reflect changes to the law on keeping school attendance and admission registers including a revised set of codes, granting leaves of absence and access to, and sharing of, attendance information introduced through the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024.
- Set out the new National Framework for issuing penalty notices and reflect changes to the law introduced through the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024.
- Change ‘parenting contracts’ for attendance to ‘attendance contracts’ to better reflect the agreement between parents, schools and/or local authorities.

The expectations of schools have been updated to:

- Update the section on pupils who are prevented from attending school due to physical or mental ill health to be clear where schools’ role starts and ends, provide further clarification around medical evidence, additional support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities and part-time timetables.
- Explain the new requirements for schools on data sharing introduced through the Education (Information about Individual Pupils) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024.
- Provide clarification of the expectations of schools’ senior attendance champions.
- Expect schools to inform a pupil’s youth offending team worker of any unexplained absences.



CODE OF CONDUCT

Every local authority must draw up, and is expected to publish on their website, a Local Code of Conduct for issuing fixed penalty notices which must be adhered to by all schools, the police and any local authority officer issuing a penalty notice.

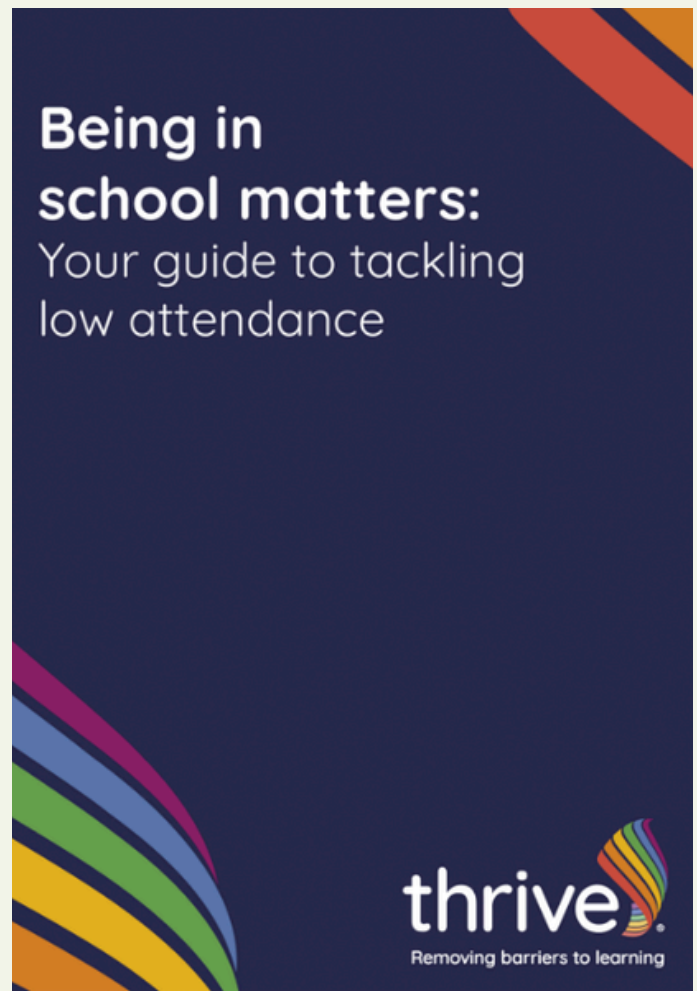
In line with the National Threshold, Walsall Council’s Code of Conduct was amended and can be found [here](#).



USEFUL RESOURCES

[Download](#) the guide to discover:

- Why attendance is important and the latest attendance stats.
- Thrive's three recommendations to implement sustainable change.
- Practical tips and suggestions for use in schools and settings



For further information, questions or queries please contact:

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