

International School of Creative Arts

# **Attendance Policy**

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## Control Page

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# ISCA School Attendance Policy

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## Introduction

ISCA is committed to promoting good attendance and punctuality. ISCA recognises that central to raising standards in education and to ensure uninterrupted progress, is the need for students to attend school regularly. Being absent without leave can have a serious effect on a student's academic and social progress and development on their welfare. Missing out on lessons leaves students vulnerable to falling behind and not meeting their progression ambitions.

## Legal framework underpinning attendance

This Policy complies with the *Education Act 1996 the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006 and the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2013*.

Under the legislation parents and carers are responsible for ensuring students attend school regularly and punctually. Failure to do so could result in legal action being taken against them by the Local Authority. As ISCA is a Boarding School, it closely monitors Students' attendance to lessons by use of a register.

The register is a legal document and schools must take a register at the start of the morning session, and again during the afternoon session. Since September 2006, schools have been required to use statutory registration codes. Only the school (and not parents/carers) can authorise an absence. Where the reason for a pupil's absence cannot be established at the time the register is taken, that absence shall be recorded as unauthorised. If a reason for absence is provided the school may decide to grant leave of absence which must be recorded as authorised using the appropriate code.

Holidays during term time are normally refused unless there are exceptional circumstances which will be considered by the Head of School on a case by case basis. Whilst the Head of School will consider all requests on a case-by- case basis, parents must be aware that requests will normally be refused. The DfE have not provided any guidelines as to what they would consider to be exceptional circumstances. This is solely at the discretion of the Head of School. Where possible, ISCA should look to have a consistent approach to all leave of absence requests.

The legal framework governing school attendance is summarised in School attendance: Departmental advice for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities (2016), published by the Department for Education (DfE).  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/818204/School\\_attendance\\_July\\_2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/818204/School_attendance_July_2019.pdf)

ISCA follows guidance published by the Independent Schools' Inspectorate (ISI) and advice published by the Buckinghamshire Local Education Authority (LEA), regarding school attendance.

## Aims

The ISCA attendance policy is intended to address the following points:

1. To protect the safety of students by ensuring that all boarding students are on campus, unless authorised to be absent
2. To support the students' academic progress by enforcing attendance at timetabled classes

3. To conform to Home Office, UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) reporting requirements so that ISCA performs its sponsorship duties effectively.

### **Attendance expectations and monitoring**

Good attendance and punctuality is essential to ensure that students make good academic progress and feel part of school life. Full attendance on every school day is expected, along with any specific weekend requirements.

Using Live Register, a system for biometric registration of students, attendance is monitored in the morning before class, in the afternoon and in the evening by biometric registration to safeguard students and ensure all are present. On a weekly basis this information is printed out and archived centrally in the school office. The electronic register also generates attendance statistics that enhance the schools monitoring capability.

In addition to morning, afternoon and evening registration, class attendance records are kept by tutors using Engage, the School Information Management System. This allows the school to monitor progress and ensure students are accessing teaching contact hours in line with school attendance targets. The system automatically generates class attendance statistics that enhance the schools monitoring capability.

Parents of international boarders must make sure that holidays are not extended either side of the School holidays. Parents are, therefore, urged to book flights well ahead of the holidays so that they do not encounter problems with limited availability of flights

Students are expected to attend and be punctual for school every day, when school is in session, as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so. The following are the attendance and punctuality expectations of ISCA students:

- Attend all lessons and all relevant activities when at school
- Be punctual and arrive at lessons on time particularly those which come after a break/ lunch
- Be ready to learn and be organised with the right equipment
- In the case of sickness, students should inform boarding staff. If illness occurs whilst at home or offsite during the holidays, parents should contact the school.
- Follow the protocols in place for late arrival and expect sanctions in line with the school's behavioural policy
- Students may be asked to bring in proof of illness, sickness or other causes of absence
- Inform a trusted staff member if they are being bullied or if they feel uncomfortable for any other reason while they are in the school environment

## **Absence – definition and type**

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### **Authorised v. Unauthorised absence**

If a student has a reason for being absent which the School decides is justified, the student will be marked as having an 'authorised' absence. If their reason for absence is unjustified, the absence will be marked as 'unauthorised'. Arriving late at the start of term, or leaving before the end of term, will be classified as an unauthorised absence unless there is an 'suitable' reason (see section on Criteria for Authorised Absence).

### **Absence due to illness**

If a student is unable to return to School after a holiday or weekend away due to illness, their parent/guardian must notify the School by email to [exeat@isca.uk.com](mailto:exeat@isca.uk.com). Until they inform the School, their absence will be marked as 'unauthorised'.

The student should produce authorised medical evidence/a certificate for any extended period of absence (over 3 days).

### **Absence due to an appointment**

If a student needs to leave School during timetabled classes because they have an appointment, they must inform the School Office 24 hours ahead of time and complete an Academic Permission Form, in addition to requesting normal permission to go off site. As far as possible, appointments should be made outside School hours, so that their programme of study is not interrupted. (Refer to the list below for reasons considered as appropriate authorised absences)

### **Absence due to illness whilst in school**

If students are too ill to attend morning registration, they must inform boarding staff before 8:30 am via WhatsApp using the boarding phone number. Until they do this, their absence will be marked as 'unauthorised'.

On receiving notification of illness from a student, the on-duty boarding member of staff will either ask the student to come to the school office or visit the student in her/his room, depending on how ill the student is deemed to be. After meeting the student, boarding staff will decide whether their absence can be authorised and what action to take e.g. recommend student rests for the morning, send student to see a doctor etc.

If a student falls ill during the School day, they should report to the School Office. The on-duty member of staff will decide whether their absence can be authorised and what action to take.

### **Absence due to an accident whilst in school**

If a student cannot attend classes following an accident necessitating medical intervention, then the matter should be reported to the School Office, and the absence will be authorised.

### **Criteria for Authorised Absence**

The following would be considered suitable reasons for an authorised absence:

- Home Office or visa-related appointment e.g. police registration
- Sickness (medical evidence required for any absence over 3 days).
- Medical appointments that could not be made outside School hours.
- Visits to therapists/counsellors that could not be made outside School hours.
- Visits to university/HE Open Days or career-related interviews - as discussed with and agreed by their tutors.
- Attendance at a funeral or wedding of a close family member.
- Severe travel disruption that leaves students with no method of travel.
- A driving test.
- Genuine family emergencies.
- Exceptional extra-curricular activities such as representative sport at national, regional or county level.
- Adverse weather conditions that lead to travel disruption.

The following would be considered unacceptable reasons for authorised absence:

- Holidays during term time.
- Part or full-time work that is not part of a programme of study.
- Leisure activities.
- Birthdays or family celebrations.
- Babysitting.
- Driving lessons.
- Dropping or picking up family members at/from airports.
- Caring for friends or family members.

The above lists are not exhaustive and each request should be considered on its merit.

## Using the Registration Codes

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### LIVE REGISTER

The attendance register is taken:

- In the morning every week day, between 8:00 and 8:30 am
- In the afternoon every weekday, between 12:45 and 1:25 pm
- In the afternoon on Saturday and Sunday, between 3:00 and 3:30 pm
- In the evening every day, between 9:00 and 10:00 pm Sunday to Thursday, and 9:00 to 10:30 Friday and Saturday

On each occasion it must be recorded whether every student is 'Present', has an 'Authorised Absence' or an 'Unauthorised Absence'.

By default, all students will be marked blank. This should be replaced by one of the following codes:

### Present

Students are considered 'Present' for the following reasons:

- / if they are present
- L if they are late (but not unreasonably late)
- B if they are on an alternative, approved educational activity e.g. critique, CPP
- J if they at a university interview or an approved open day
- V if they are on an educational trip e.g. gallery visit, residential trip etc.

### Authorised Absence

Students are granted 'Authorised Absence' for the following reasons:

- I if they are ill
- M if they have a dental or medical appointment
- H if they are on leave or holiday and it has been approved by the School
- C if there is some other exceptional reason for absence, approved by the School

### Unauthorised Absence

Students are considered to have 'Unauthorised Absence' for the following reasons:

- O if no explanation is given or the School is unsatisfied with the explanation
- U if the student turns up 'Unreasonably Late' (see below for definition)
- G if a request for leave or holiday has been refused by the School

### Follow up and Verification

The chase-up team will follow up any absences to ascertain the reason and inform the DSL where appropriate to ensure the proper safeguarding action is taken. Registry should identify whether the absence is approved or not and identify the correct code to use.

By the end of a registration period, the default blank should be replaced with one of the other codes to describe their attendance.

### CLASS ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is recorded on Engage and is taken at the start of each period.

There are three periods in the morning (1-3) and three in the afternoon (4-6)

- Periods 1 and 2 each last 1.5 hours
- Period 3 lasts half an hour
- Periods 4 and 5 each last 1.5 hours
- Period 6 lasts half an hour

The number of periods per class will depend on the length of the class. For example, a normal 3-hour art and design class will cover 3 periods; a 1.5-hour English class will cover just one period.

By default, all students will be marked 'Select'. This should be replaced by one of the following codes:

Description	Authorised	In Attendance	Code
Present	✓	✓	/
Present (Self-directed Study)	✓	✓	S
Late	✓	✓	L
Absent (open Days, University Interviews)	✓		J
Absent (Approved Educational Activity)	✓		B
Absent (Medical/dental Appointment)	✓		M
Absent (Other Authorised reason)	✓		C
Absent (Unwell)	✓		I
Absent (Unauthorised)			0
Absent (Student Leaves and Fails to Return)			F
Absent (Unreasonably Late)			U

### Follow up and Verification

The chase-up team will follow up any absences to ascertain the reason and inform the tutor, who should identify whether the absence is approved or not and complete the attendance record accordingly.

Within the half hour of a registration period, the default entry should be replaced with one of the other codes to describe their attendance.

### **Unreasonably Late (code 'U')**

- For *class registration*, 'Unreasonably Late' is when a student turns up later than 20 minutes after a class has begun, for sessions of 1.5 hours or longer. For lessons which are less than 1.5 hours long, 'Unreasonably Late' applies if a student is more than 10 minutes late.
- For *morning and afternoon registration*, 'Unreasonably Late' is when a student has been absent without an acceptable explanation and reports to the school office after 9:30 am in the mornings and 2:30 pm in the afternoons.
- For *evening registration*, 'Unreasonably Late' applies when a student, who has been granted leave to go off site for the evening, returns after curfew without keeping boarding staff sufficiently informed of where they are and why they have been delayed. This applies even if there is a good reason for being late. Students who are late but do keep boarding staff informed, should be marked 'L'.

A complete summary of the national codes is shown in Appendix A.

## **Taking Registration**

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### **Evening Registration**

Evening registration will be done using Live Register.

Evening registration takes place every day, between 9:00 and 10:00 pm Sunday to Thursday, and 9:00 to 10:30 Friday and Saturday.

Students register biometrically with their thumb/finger print using the biometric units spread around the school.

Students should register by reporting to the on-duty boarding member of staff in the School office if:

- they do not wish to share their biometric information with the School
- the biometric units are not working for some reason

At the close of registration, the on-duty boarding members of staff will check to ensure everyone is present or has an authorised absence, manually entering the appropriate codes on Live Register (see above).

All students must be accounted for. If a student is absent without explanation, boarding staff will make every effort to find the student. If the student cannot be found, the guardian, parents and DSL will be informed. If the student remains unfound, the police should be informed.

### **Morning and Afternoon Registration**

Morning and afternoon registration will be done using Live Register.

Morning registration takes place every week day, between 8:00 and 8:30 am.

Afternoon registration takes place every week day, between 1:00 and 1:30 pm. On Saturday and Sunday, afternoon registration takes place between 3:00 and 3:30 pm.

Students register biometrically with their thumb/finger print using the biometric units spread around the school.

Students should register by reporting to the Registrar in the School office if:

- they do not wish to share their biometric information with the School

- the biometric units are not working for some reason

At the close of registration, the member of staff on chase-up duty will check to ensure everyone is present or has an authorised absence, manually entering the appropriate codes on Live Register (see above).

Students who are unaccounted for will be contacted by the member of staff on chase-up duty using WhatsApp and, if necessary, by visiting the student's room. Students whose absence cannot be authorised will be directed to go to the lesson or activity they are timetabled to attend.

After chase-ups are complete, the member of staff on chase-up duty should update Live Register and provide the Registrar with a summary of students who are absent from class and the reasons. This should be done before 9:30 am for Morning Registration and before 2:30 pm for Afternoon Registration.

All students must be accounted for. If a student is absent without explanation, the member of staff on chase-up duty will make every effort to find the student. If the student cannot be found, DSL should be informed. If the student remains unfound, first the guardian and parents will be informed and later, if necessary, the police.

## **Class Registration**

Class Registration will take place using class registers on Engage, the School Information Management System (SIMS).

Subject tutors are responsible for maintaining registers for students attending their classes and the Registrar is monitors to ensure they are being filled in correctly and in timely fashion

Tutors should fill in the class registers using the statutory registration codes.

The Registrar will send an email to all tutors at 9:30 am and 2:30 with a list of absent students and reasons for their absence, so that tutors can update their registers accordingly.

Tutors should immediately send a message to the Boarding Phone if students:

- are absent for unknown reasons
- disappear from class during the lesson
- do not return after the break

In this way, chase-up staff can follow up students and find out the reason for their absence.

## **Attendance and Requirements**

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### **All Students**

Students are expected to maintain their attendance by being present in each subject for at least 80% of Class Registrations, taking all tests and submitting all assignments set by their tutors. The School believes that students whose attendance falls below this level will be jeopardising their chances of achieving their academic potential. 'Authorised Absences' will be counted as an absence in this calculation.

Failure to satisfy the above requirements could have serious implications for the successful completion of the student's course. In particular, students may not be permitted to enter for examinations and/or submit assignments if their attendance level is unsatisfactory.

The parents/guardians of students who do not maintain the required attendance levels will be informed, and in extreme cases, the student may be excluded from the School. However, this last step would only be taken after full consultation with the student and after careful

consideration by the Senior Management Team (SMT). Every effort will be made to support students whose absence is due to extenuating circumstances.

If a student's attendance is being affected by difficulties which they feel gives them extenuating circumstances, the student should discuss this with his or her Tutor in the first instance, who may then refer the student to the Head of School.

### **International Students**

As far as possible, attendance policies will be applied to all students, regardless of whether or not they are in the UK on a student visa. However, the attendance of students who are studying on a student visa is governed by UKVI regulations, which have to be taken into account at all times.

The UKVI requires that students studying at levels 5 and below be required to attend a minimum of 15 hours per week. In addition, attendance must be carefully monitored and students reported after 10 consecutive missed 'contacts'. However, every effort is made to work with students who have genuine health or other reasons for poor attendance.

'Contacts' are defined as Morning Registration. Afternoon, Evening and Class Registration are not considered a 'contact'.

## **Sanctions**

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Please see ISCA Student Code of Conduct and Student Behaviour Policy for details.

## **Student Withdrawal**

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Because ISCA is a boarding school, any unauthorised absence of a student from the ISCA campus will be taken very seriously. If a student misses Morning, Afternoon, Evening or Class Registration and cannot be found on campus or reached by mobile phone or email, the DSL will be informed and the student's parents and/or UK guardian will be contacted in the first instance. If the student remains out of contact then the police will be informed and, if necessary, a missing person's report will be filed.

Apart from any police activity which may be underway in relation to a student's absence, if a student fails to respond to all efforts to contact him/her then a final letter/email will be sent informing the student that if we do not hear from them within 5 working days, we will assume that the student has withdrawn from the course. If the student does not contact us within that period, the student will be deemed to have withdrawn from the course.

If the student contacts the School but is still not attending then extenuating circumstances will be considered and if appropriate, the student will be given the opportunity to defer his or her studies to a future intake. In the absence of acceptable extenuating circumstances, a student who has missed more than 10 consecutive contacts will normally be deemed to have withdrawn from the course.

### **International students**

If an international student on a Student Visa or Child Student Visa reaches ten, consecutive missed 'contacts' then a final attempt will be made to contact the student (via parents/guardians as necessary). If the School is unable to establish contact with the student, then UK Visas and Immigration will be notified within 10 days of the last recorded contact.

If a student on a Student Visa or Child Student Visa withdraws early from their course, this must be reported to UKVI within 10 working days. Failure to do this puts the School's Sponsor Licence at serious risk.

## **Children at Risk of Missing Education**

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ISCA will report to the Local Authority if it has a serious concern over a child's attendance or the child has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 days or more. Also, ISCA will, after making appropriate checks, report all Children Missing from Education after a period of 10 consecutive days to the Local Authority, Education Welfare Service, who has a duty to investigate the whereabouts of such children and negotiate their prompt return to suitable education.

## **Preservation and Amendments to the Attendance Register**

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Entries must be in ink on paper registers and any amendments must show

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

A computerised register counts as being in ink. Where the attendance register is kept by means of a computer, an additional back-up copy must be made either electronically or as a printed copy, not less than once a month.

These back-ups/additional copies of the admission register and the attendance register must be retained for three years after the end of the school year in question, as must registers hand-written in ink.

## Appendix A: Attendance Codes and Descriptions

Code	Full name	Description	Code type
/ or \	Present am or pm	Present in school during registration.	The student is counted as present
L	Late	Late arrival before the register has closed	
B	Educated off Site	The student is at an off-site supervised educational activity approved by the school.	The student is counted as present, at an Approved Educational Activity
J	Interview	At a job interview, or interviewing with another educational establishment.	
P	Sporting Activity (Approved)	Pupil is taking part in a sporting activity that has been approved by the school and supervised by someone authorised by the school.	
V	Educational trip	A residential trip organised by the school or a supervised strictly educational trip arranged by an approved organisation.	
W	Work Experience	A student in the final two years of compulsory education is attending work experience.	
C	Other Authorised Absence	Only exceptional circumstances warrant an authorised leave of absence.	
E	Excluded	If a student is excluded but still on the admission register, they should be marked E, for up to the sixth consecutive day of any fixed period or permanent exclusion.	The student is counted as absent, authorised
H	Family Holiday (Agreed)	A leave of absence for a family holiday is granted entirely at the head teacher's discretion.	
I	Illness	The student is ill (unless the truthfulness of the claim is in question). This code should not be used for medical or dental appointments.	
M	Medical/Dental Appointments	The student is absent due to a medical or dental appointment that could not be made outside of school hours.	
R	Religious Observance	The student is absent for religious observance on a day designated by the religious body.	
S	Study Leave	Study leave should be used sparingly and only granted to Year 11 pupils for public exams. Students should still be able to come into school to revise.	
T	Traveller Absence	Used when Roma, English and Welsh Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers, Showmen (fairground people) and Circus people, Bargees (occupational boat dwellers) or New Travellers are known to be travelling for occupational purposes and have agreed this with the school.	

Code	Full name	Description	Code type
G	Family Holiday (Not Agreed)	The Holiday was not authorised by the school or in excess of the period determined by the Head of School.	The student is counted as absent, unauthorised
N	No Reason	The reason for the absence has not been provided. If no reason for an absence is provided after a reasonable amount of time, it should be changed to O.	
O	Unauthorised Absence	If the school is not satisfied with the reason given for absence they should record it as unauthorised.	
U	Late (After Register Closes)	Schools should keep registers open for a reasonable amount of time, after which the student should be marked with a U.	
F	Failed to Return	If a student leaves and fails to return, missing more than half the class/ session	
D	Dual Registration	The student is registered at another school and attends it during this lesson e.g. students at a pupil referral unit. Schools should only record attendance and absences for sessions the pupil is scheduled to attend at their school.	These codes are not counted so will not affect attendance figures
X	Not Required (Non-Compulsory School Age)	The child is of non-compulsory school age and is not required to be in school during this session. This code should only be used for students who have not yet passed the 1st January, 1st April or 1st September following their 5th birthday.	
Y	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	The school is closed due to an unavoidable cause or the student is unable to travel to the school. It can also be used where the pupil is in custody (for less than four months). This code is collected for statistical purposes but does not contribute to your attendance figures.	
Z	Pupil Not On Roll	This code can be used when setting up registers in advance of pupils joining. Schools must take attendance for pupils from the first day the student should be attending the school.	
#	School Closed To Pupils	This code should be used for whole or partial school closures that are known or planned in advance such as if the school is used as a polling station.	

## Appendix B: Chase-up Procedure

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Students must register biometrically within a certain window of time:

- Every morning between 8:45 and 9:00 - weekdays only
- Every lunch time between 12:45 and 13:30 - weekdays only
- In the afternoon between 15:00 and 15:30 on Saturday and Sunday only
- In the evening between 21:00 and 22:00 (21:30 – 22:30 on Fridays and Saturdays)

In addition, class attendance is taken by Tutors at the start of every class and when students return from break, in the morning and in the afternoon.

Students who fail to register or to turn up for class have to be chased up in order to fulfil our threefold responsibility to ensure students:

- Are safe from harm
- Are able to progress academically
- Respect the conditions of their visa (if they have one)

### Weekdays

The *School Registrar* is responsible for monitoring morning and lunchtime biometric registration during the week and reporting the names of boarders and day students who are absent without justification to the person on chase-up duty. Distance learners do not need to complete biometric registration.

*Tutors* are responsible for monitoring class attendance, at the start of class, upon students' return from break and at the start of the self-directed study period. They inform the chase-up person of any students (including distance learners) who are absent for no known reason via the WhatsApp using the 'Absent from Class' group.

The *Operations Manager* will ensure there is an up-to-date chase-up roster.

The *Chase-up Person's* job is to find student who are late or absent and chase them into class, or wherever they are meant to be.

### Chase-up Procedure

The chase-ups follow a specific procedure and happen at four separate moments in the day:

- Immediately after classes start in the morning
- Immediately after morning break
- Immediately after classes start again after lunch
- Immediately after afternoon break

The Chase-up person:

1. Takes note of any students who are known to be authorised by checking the handover notes from boarding and sends a WhatsApp the list of names to tutors on the 'Absent from Class' group.
2. Takes note of any students reported by the Registrar who have not completed biometric registration.
3. Takes note of any students who have been reported absent by tutors on the 'Absent from Class' WhatsApp group.
4. Sends a WhatsApp to all students whose absence is unexplained, telling them to go to class and acknowledge receipt of the message.

5. Students who do not respond are absent without explanation and their whereabouts is not known; potentially, it is a safeguarding issue. The Chase-up Person follows up:
  - a) with boarders, by knocking on the door of their rooms
  - b) with day or distance students, by making contact with the parents or guardian
6. Once the student is found, the Chase-up Person:
  - a) authorises their absence (for example, if they are sick) and inform Registry and tutor via the 'Absent from Class' WhatsApp group, **OR** send the student immediately to class, reprimanding and/or punishing them for being absent, as appropriate.
  - b) updates the Fire Log as required
7. If the student is not found, the Chase-up Person immediately informs the DSL (over the phone if he is offsite) and starts searching for the student.
8. If necessary, the DSL reports the matter to the police.

Until all students accounted for, chase-ups take precedence over all other routine responsibilities. Unless it is very urgent or there is an emergency, student health issues will be dealt with **after** chase-ups are complete.

### **Evenings and Weekends**

Every evening and in the afternoon on Saturday and Sunday, the on-duty members of *Boarding Staff* are responsible for:

- Monitoring biometric registration AND
- Chasing-up students who fail to register

### The Procedure

1. 15 minutes before the end of the registration window, boarding staff pre-emptively WhatsApp students who have not yet registered, reminding them to do so.
2. At the end of the registration window, boarding staff check attendance against the Exeat Log to ensure everyone who should be, is safely on campus
3. Students whose whereabouts is not known must be chased up immediately. Face-to-face (or alternatively phone) contact must be made and their physical whereabouts established.
4. Once the student's whereabouts is known, the boarding member of staff updates the Fire Log as required.
5. If the student is not found, the Chase-up Person immediately informs the DSL (over the phone if he is offsite) and starts searching for the student.
6. If necessary, the DSL reports the matter to the police.

## Appendix C: Attendance Monitoring Procedure

The requirement is that all students maintain an attendance record of at least 80% in each of their subjects

Stage	Description	Actioned by
1	Weekly attendance reports are distributed by Registry to the Head of School, Director of Studies and all teaching staff as a pdf file	Registrar
2	Tutors monitor the attendance of the students in their classes and intervene with them if they notice that there is a downward trend and the student risks dropping below the 80% threshold.	Tutors
3	When a student's attendance drops below 80%, a letter from the Head of school is sent to the student and copied to parents and guardian [see <a href="#">letter template 1</a> ]. A log of letters sent is kept in the Poor Attendance Log (PAL).	Head of School
4	Students on the PAL are monitored by the Head of School for 2 weeks to see if the trend reverses. If it does not: 1. a second letter is sent by the Head of School, this time directly to parents and guardian, copied to the student [see <a href="#">letter template 2</a> ]. 2. A meeting is set up with the Director of Studies and the student. The student is given a timeframe within which they must bring their attendance level back up to 80% or higher. They are also counselled on how to improve their attendance according to what the perceived problem is (poor time management, anxiety/depression, relationship with the teacher, whether absences have been authorised or unauthorised etc.). They may be referred to the school welfare tutor if opportune. The PAL is updated accordingly.	Head of School & Director of Studies
5	If students do not improve their attendance record within the agreed timeframe, the Head of School writes to parents and guardian to set up a formal (Zoom) meeting with the student and the Director of Studies [see <a href="#">letter template 3</a> ]. The expected outcome of this meeting is that: 1. Parents and student acknowledge that because the student is not attending enough lessons they risk falling behind and even failing in the subject(s) concerned. 2. Parents and student acknowledge that the school can only properly support their child academically if he/she attends classes as required. Where students live onsite, at the discretion of the Head of School, they may: 1. be advised to take on professional counselling if there are mental health issues affecting attendance, and/or 2. be warned that unless their attendance improves within a week, all exeat privileges will be revoked until it does. Where students study off site, parents may instead be asked to consider what professional support and/or disciplinary measures they might impose should attendance not improve.	Head of School & Director of Studies

Stage	Description	Actioned by
6	<p>If attendance improves after two weeks, no further action is taken, but students remain on the log and are monitored for a further two weeks to ensure the change is permanent.</p> <p>If attendance does not improve after two weeks, the Head of School writes to parents and guardian to set up another formal (Zoom) meeting with the student and the Director of Studies to discuss what the next steps should be [see <a href="#">letter template 4</a>].</p> <p style="text-align: center;">These meetings will continue every two weeks until the students attendance starts to improve.</p>	Head of School & Director of Studies

### Example Letter Template 1

Dear [student name],

Our attendance records show that your current **attendance levels for English and Fine Art have fallen below the required minimum of 80%**.

- Fine Art                      78%
- English                        71%

You now have two weeks to try and bring your attendance levels back to 80% or higher.

If you feel you will not be able to meet this requirement, for whatever reason, please ask for help and advice from your tutor or from the Director of Studies (Ms. Stewart).

Kind regards,

Robert Hunter  
Head of School

### Example Letter Template 2

Dear Parents and Guardian of [student name],

Our attendance records show that [student name]'s current attendance levels for English and Fine Art have fallen below the required minimum of 80%.

- Fine Art                      78%
- English                        71%

We have already addressed this matter with [student name] but so far there has been no improvement.

As you know, there is a direct correlation between attendance and academic performance and we are concerned that [student name] might start to fall behind. I will now set up a formal meeting between our Director of Studies and [student name] so that together they can work out an action plan and a timeframe for improvement.

We would be grateful if you could also speak with your child and encourage **him/her** to improve levels of attendance.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Robert Hunter  
Head of School

### Example Letter Template 3

Dear Parents and Guardian of [student name],

Unfortunately, despite our interventions, [student name]'s attendance levels for English and Fine Art continue to remain below the required minimum of 80%.

- Fine Art                      78%
- English                        71%

I would now like to set up a meeting between [student name], yourselves and our Director of Studies to try and persuade him/her of the seriousness of the situation. Unless he/she addresses this situation, he/she may start to fall so far behind that it becomes difficult to catch up.

We are also concerned that this behavior may start to have a negative impact on other students and we may be required to take disciplinary action.

Can you please confirm that you would be available to meet in an online Zoom call on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> march at 9:30 am (UK time)?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Robert Hunter  
Head of School

### Example Letter Template 4

Dear Parents and Guardian of [student name],

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, [student name]'s attendance levels for English and Fine Art continue to remain below the required minimum of 80%.

- Fine Art                      78%
- English                        71%

I would be very grateful if we could meet to discuss how to address this problem.

Can you please confirm that you would be available to meet in an online Zoom call on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> march at 9:30 am (UK time)?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Robert Hunter  
Head of School