

Bradford Education Priority Improvement Area

District-wide Multi-Agency Attendance Charter for promoting good attendance for children and young people
The Attendance Charter is a collaborative approach to promote good school attendance across Bradford, so that all children and young people can fulfil their potential.

The Attendance Charter recognises that improvements in overall attendance rates in our schools can only be achieved through a partnership approach. This will involve schools and other agencies working with children and families across the town working together.

The understanding that promoting positive school attendance is a responsibility that belongs to everyone is central to this work if we are to achieve the district's aspiration of a continuous improvement in overall attendance rates and a significant reduction in persistent absenteeism.

School leaders have signed a school Attendance Charter committing to principles and practices which support improved school attendance. This Multi-Agency Attendance Charter will support schools with Principle 9 of the school Attendance Charter:

“Commit to multi-agency working to address underlying issues facing families and communities, including a commitment to active engagement with wider team around the child and whole family approaches to supporting children and families with more complex or entrenched needs.”

External partners and agencies pledge their support and agree to the principles of the Attendance Charter

1. Agree to work together to support the Attendance Charter and, where necessary, improve school attendance for every child in our district.
2. Accept our responsibility to act as attendance role models for the children and young people in our care.
3. Champion outstanding and improved attendance by addressing barriers to attendance we come across in our own organisations and work with partners to overcome barriers together.
4. Recognise that patterns of low attendance can form early. We support and encourage good attendance across the early years.
5. Support parents and carers to prioritise school attendance and link with school attendance practitioners and staff to ensure a multi-agency approach.
6. Work together with children, young people and their families to support and encourage positive transitions across all phases of education and on to the world of work. Reinforcing the importance of good attendance each step of the way.
7. Work together during uncertain times to support all children, young people, and their families to help break down the barriers to good attendance related to anxiety and mental health.

Practices

Our organisation will:

1. Share information about our service, including any support, advice and resources available to families, with all our Bradford District schools.
2. Offer a point of contact for Bradford District schools to our service, to support and encourage families to access appropriate support where available.
3. Create awareness of the importance of school attendance in keeping safe and promote the understanding that, if you are in school you are less likely to be at risk of engaging in activity that could make you unsafe.
4. Support improved communication channels with schools and other partner agencies working with children and families to break down barriers to attendance.
5. Offer schools additional support linked to health, keeping safe or seeking help when needed.

Additional individual organisations pledge:

Staff and managers commit to promoting positive attendance across all ages and stages, including early years. We recognise the importance of good school attendance in achieving positive family outcomes and will support the families we work with to encourage their children and young people to achieve a good level of attendance. We will share information across our own service and with our Bradford schools about any support that families can access to help them.

