



Termly Attendance Update

Term 6

w/c

6th July 2026



Welcome to the 6th and final attendance newsletter of the 2025/26 academic year. You 'said' we 'listened'. This newsletter has been streamlined and highlights key updates and priorities relating to school attendance. It should be read alongside our new supplementary attendance information document, which provides standing items and important reminders.

*Term 1's Attendance Update for 2026/27 is due for release in **October 2026**.*

For further information and back copies, please refer to our webpages [Attendance and Education Welfare Service](#) and the [Bristol City Council Attendance Toolkit Attendance Toolkit - Home](#)

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Termly Top Tips



This section aims to provide a couple of suggested operational attendance activities aligned to the point in the academic year. Please note, these suggested activities aren't the only activities that we recommend delivering.

A 'targeted intervention' means that you should triage the cases and decide on the type of intervention that is most suitable. For example, a phone call, text message, email, letter, meeting or attendance plan etc... Try using the LEAP approach – listen, empathise, ask, problem solve.



Termly Top Tip 1: End of academic year register housekeeping routines

Make sure that pupil attendance registers have been reviewed for missing session marks, coding accuracy and updated information.



Termly Top Tip 2: Celebration of success

Recognise pupils that have achieved positive attendance over the course of the academic year, including those pupils who have made improvements to their attendance.



Termly Top Tip 3: Remind and reset

Remind your school community about arrangements for the start of academic year including start date and time. Use the start of the new academic year as an opportunity to provide a reset and a 'fresh start' for any pupils who might have struggled with attendance this academic year.

Don't forget: BCC Traded Attendance Services Cessation



- **What** - Bristol Attendance and Education Welfare Service – Traded Attendance Services Cessation Notification.
- **When** – At the end of this academic year we will stop our traded attendance services.
- **Why** – Over recent years, this has generated a very small amount of revenue which has been reinvested in our attendance team.
- **Benefits** - It means we can divert resource from trading to strengthen our free & universal core offer to all schools in the city.
- **Core attendance offer** – The core statutory attendance functions, including attendance targeted support meetings, elective home education, children missing education, and attendance legal work – all of which is delivered free at the point of delivery.
- To support a smooth and well-managed **transition** for schools and settings that currently purchase traded attendance services from BCC, we are in direct contact with them to confirm the next steps, arrangements, and key timescales.
- **T&Cs** - All traded work will continue in line with the original terms and conditions, and the Attendance and Education Welfare Service will maintain full delivery of traded attendance services through to the end of the current academic year.

For enquiries please contact education.welfare@bristol.gov.uk

Attendance and Education Welfare Service Core Offer



All remain universal services free at the point of delivery:

1. Attendance advice, communication, support and challenge
2. Attendance targeting support meetings (TSMs)
3. Attendance legal interventions
4. Children missing education (CME)
5. Elective home education (EHE)
6. Child employment, licensing and chaperones (CEAL)

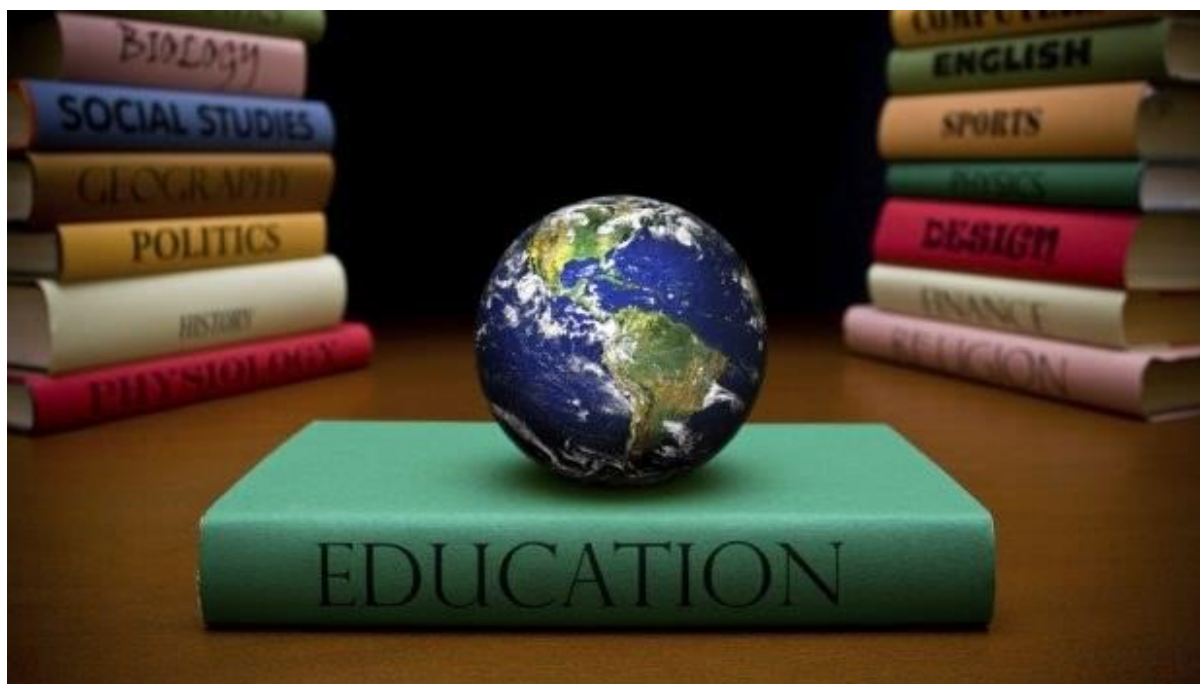
For questions please contact education.welfare@bristol.gov.uk

Coming soon - autumn 2026: Bristol Attendance Campaign



Work is already underway, partners across the city are working together to devise and launch a Bristol Attendance Campaign, including shared practice, consistent messaging and the voice of the child. The intention is for this to be launched in autumn 2026.

Update from the Department for Education - New attendance resources, upcoming webinars and hot weather guidance



The DfE would like to remind all schools about the following:

A new package of attendance resources was shared with schools recently, to help with understanding and acting on attendance patterns in schools.

The package included:

- Explore your attendance patterns: a new digital tool that shows school's attendance as a colour-coded chart across the year, so they can spot patterns in their data at a glance
- an [attendance research report](#): setting out the national picture on some common predictable absence patterns such as broken weeks, birthdays, religious observance and one-off local events
- an updated [Attendance toolkit for schools.pdf](#) with a new chapter on responding to attendance patterns
- a new [communications guide](#) with ready-to-use resources for communicating with parents on attendance

The resources work together, giving schools the evidence, insight and practical support to make meaningful, proportionate improvements to attendance.

More details can be found in the [Teacher bulletin](#) that was shared with schools, and we'd appreciate your help in getting this information to schools.

Preparing for winter illness

Illness remains the leading cause of absence.

Updated [UKHSA guidance](#) on immunisation programmes is also available, alongside practical steps to reduce the spread of infection in schools.

Hot weather guidance

Hot weather is forecast in the coming days. We want to remind schools and settings to consider what changes they may need to make to keep children safe, as children are more at risk of heat-related illness than adults.

To find out more, visit the [Education hub](#) and search 'hot weather'.

Explore your attendance patterns for schools

Explore your attendance patterns is a new tool for schools in the Monitor your school attendance service.

Currently, this tool is only available for schools and is accessed through [View your education data](#).

It shows a school's attendance data as a colour-coded chart across the current and previous academic year, making it easier to spot when attendance dips and whether those dips follow a pattern.

The colour-coded chart is based on the school's own data. It is not a comparison with other schools or national averages.

Watch our video guide

Our short video guide on YouTube shows how the tool works and how it can help understand a school's attendance patterns.

[Watch the video guide](#)

Learn more

You can find out more about Explore your attendance patterns in the [user guide on GOV.UK](#).

Year 6 attendance and absence data is now available to secondary schools



Secondary schools can now access attendance and absence data for year 6 pupils offered a year 7 place at their school. They can find it in the Monitor your school attendance tool in [View Your Education Data \(VYED\)](#) under 'Year 6 transition data download'.

This data can help schools plan a positive transition for their pupils and see where early interventions might be needed to improve and maintain attendance.

We encourage secondary schools in your area to use the data and collaborate on transition planning.

How transition data can support secondary schools

National data shows pupils attend school less regularly once they transition from primary to secondary school. This makes transition a critical opportunity to intervene early and establish strong attendance habits before patterns of absence take hold.

Access to transition absence data ahead of September can help schools plan transition as a structured process, spanning the months before, during and after pupils join Year 7.

Secondary schools can use this data to:

- identify pupils who might need support – this includes pupils with high absence rates and pupils at risk of persistent or severe absence
- collaborate early to understand barriers to attendance – they can start working with feeder schools, local authorities and families ahead of transition
- plan targeted support – for example additional visits or early help for pupils at risk of poor attendance in September

For more guidance and a case study on using transition data to improve attendance, [watch our webinar on transition](#). You can also check [‘Key Area 7: Transition’ in our RISE attendance best practice toolkit](#) for schools.

You can also [register for a Monitor your school attendance webinar](#) on 29 April to learn more about how our attendance tools can support you. This webinar will focus on cohorts.

What the data includes

The data available to secondary schools is from the start of this academic year until the end of January 2026. Secondary schools will get updated data in June and September.

Don't forget: Monitor your school attendance pre-populated attendance codes



The DfE recently resolved an issue that was affecting attendance sessions that had been pre-populated by schools.

What the DfE fixed

We recently identified a limitation that meant pre-populated attendance sessions were not appearing correctly in Monitor your school attendance dashboards. This may have impacted the accuracy of your local authority weekly downloads from 26 February to 27 April 2026.

This issue has now been resolved. On 24 April we made a change to correct schools pre-populated attendance codes in the Monitor your school attendance dashboard.

Tools that are not impacted

The following tools are not impacted by the change:

- Year 6 transition downloads
- Similar schools comparison reports (for schools, trusts and local authorities)

Reminder for schools

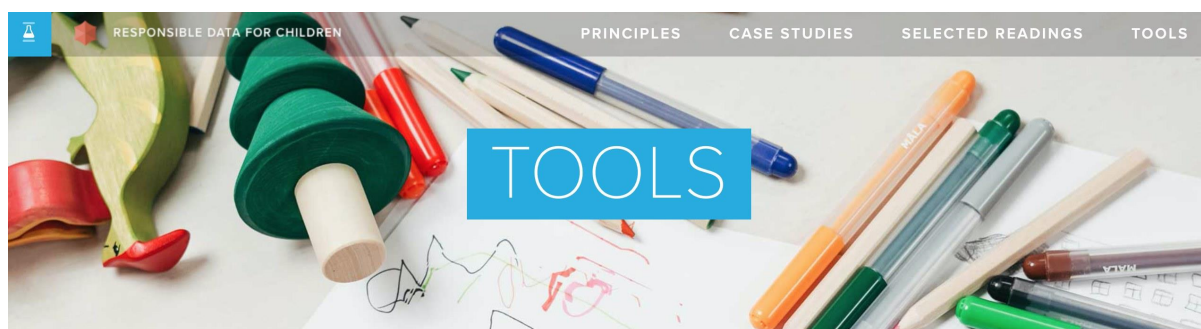
The DfE would like to remind schools that they should not input future attendance session codes into their attendance registers and that the attendance register should be recorded during their morning and afternoon sessions.

If you need support

[Read this customer help centre article](#) to find out more.

You can also [raise an enquiry](#) through the DfE Customer Help Portal if you have further questions about your attendance data.

Bristol's Attendance Toolkit Access



We want to make you aware of an upcoming change to SharePoint access for external users, which may affect how you access the Bristol Attendance Toolkit and other shared resources.

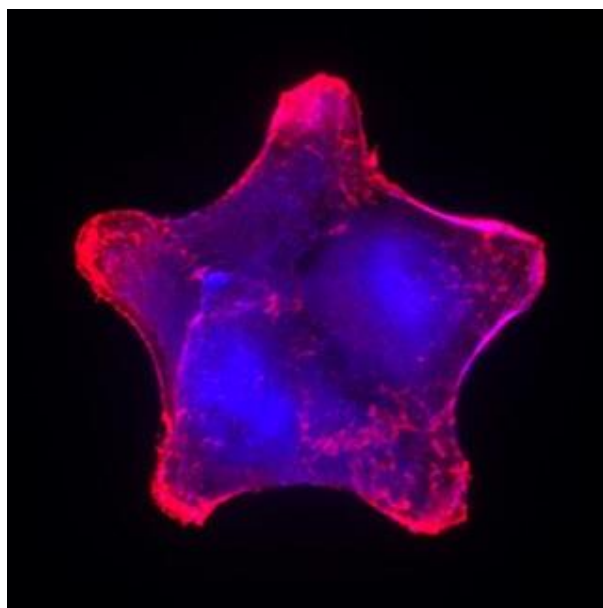
Microsoft is removing the option to access SharePoint using a one-time passcode sent via email. Going forward, external users will need to sign in using a Microsoft account (for example, an Outlook or existing work account).

This means that some existing links may stop working. If you or your colleagues are unable to access shared files or sites, please let us know and we will re-share access using the updated method.

Thank you for your understanding, and please do get in touch if you need any support with this.

Contact: education.welfare@bristol.gov.uk

Health Protection Summer Term Update - Education



Dear Education Colleagues,

This update is intended to provide education settings with the latest updates in regard to Health Protection. Please feel free to use information in this email in your own communications as appropriate. We intend on sending these short updates at the beginning of each Autumn, Spring and Summer term.

Reminder of UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Contact Details and Useful Links

Should you need any advice or guidance regarding an infectious disease concern within your education setting, you can contact the UKHSA South West Health Protection Team via the following:

Phone: 0300 303 8162

Email: swhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk

Links which may be of use:

[Managing specific infectious diseases: A to Z - GOV.UK](#)

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

This poster can be displayed in education settings: [Should I keep my child off school checklist poster](#)

Immunisation Update

A reminder that Sirona Care and Health is the School-aged Immunisations Provider for Bristol. The service is offered primarily in schools and community catch-up clinics are

available for anyone who has missed their vaccination in school or who does not attend school. For more information:

[School Age Immunisation – Children and Young People’s Services](#)

[Vaccination - BNSSG Healthier Together](#)

Measles Information pack for early years, education and childcare settings has been updated and is attached to this email. The pack is for managers and staff working in early years, education and childcare settings in England. It provides information on measles and key actions you can take to reduce the spread of measles infection in your setting. This version should now replace any other measles packs in use for these settings.

Farm visits and ticks

While farm visits are enjoyable and educational, they carry a risk of infection from animals or the environment. [How to have a fun and healthy farm visit with the family – UK Health Security Agency](#) sets out clear, practical advice for example on handwashing, and food hygiene, as well as what to do if symptoms develop after a visit.

The UKHSA farm visits toolkit has been updated and there are social assets there to be used in your setting if appropriate [Farm visits - Google Drive](#)

UKHSA encourages everyone to ‘be **tick aware**’.

A tick is a tiny spider-like creature that lives on animals such as sheep or deer. The main tick feeding season is late spring, early summer and autumn, when they can bite if you are walking through a tick infested area. Ticks can also be carried home by pets and dogs. Some ticks can pass on the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

If you have been bitten by a tick please visit [NHS.UK](#) or the [UKHSA Lyme disease page](#) for more information.

Tick resources can be found here [Tick awareness and toolkit - GOV.UK](#)

Travellers reminded to protect themselves against mosquito bites

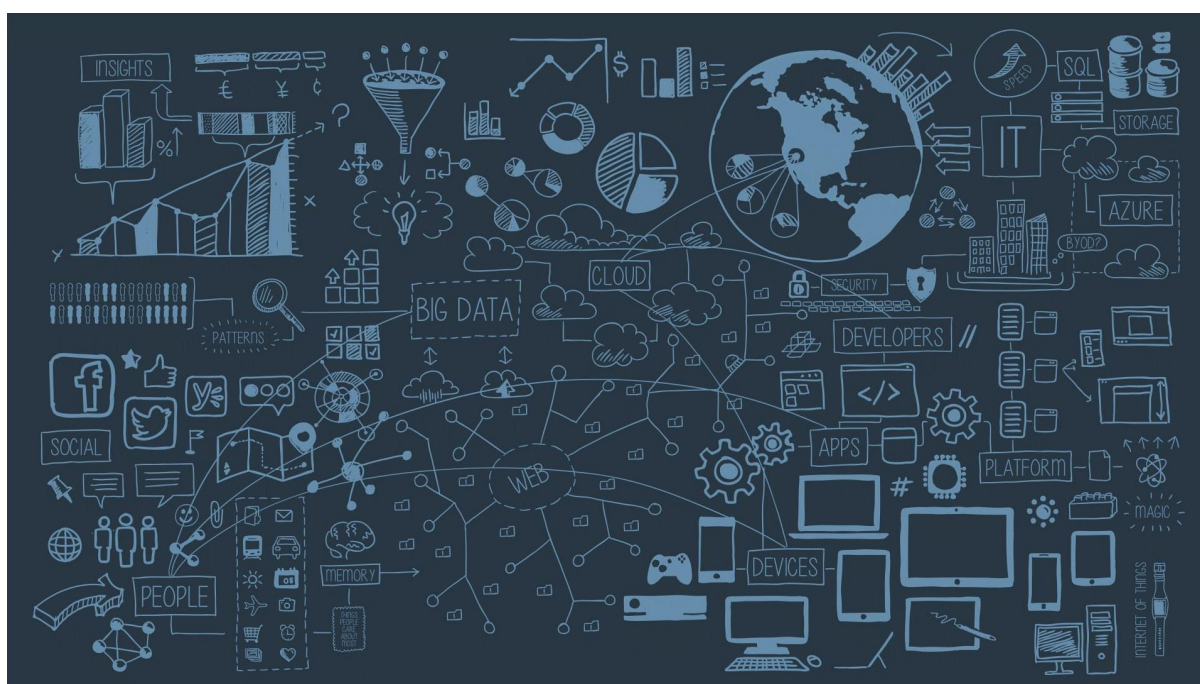
UKHSA is reminding those travelling over the summer months to prepare before you travel, and take precautions against mosquito bites. Simple steps such as using a DEET based insect repellent, covering-up skin and sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets can greatly reduce the risk. Before travelling, we are encouraging the public to check the [Travel Health Pro](#) website for the latest advice.

More information from UKHSA can be found here [Travellers reminded to protect themselves against mosquito bites - GOV.UK](#). So if you are planning on any interesting and exotic summer holidays this year, travellers are strongly advised to visit the [Travel Health Pro](#) website, supported by UKHSA, and check the country information page for specific recommendations for their destination.

[New UKHSA data](#) shows dengue cases have fallen significantly, but chikungunya infections rose 43% in 2025 and malaria continues to be reported at consistently high levels among returning travellers.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is reminding people to take precautions against mosquito-borne infections when travelling. While the latest data brings positive news on dengue, with cases falling significantly in 2025, travel-associated chikungunya cases in England are at their highest point in more than a decade and malaria case numbers in returning travellers remained at a high level.

Local Attendance Data

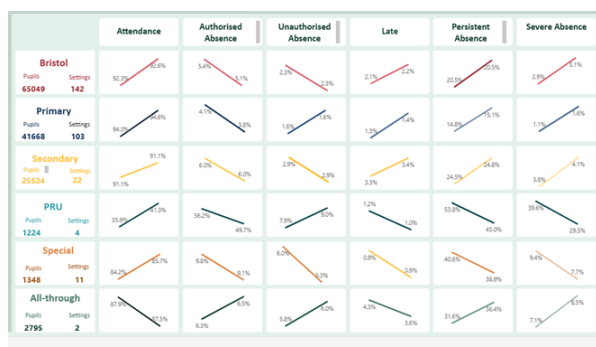


Please note that this data comes directly into the local authority from school MIS and includes schools who share their attendance data with the local authority.

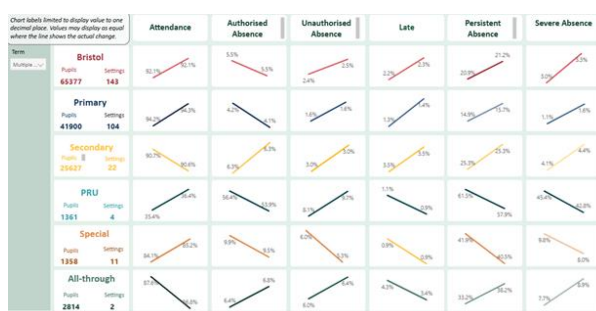
Additionally, chart labels in the images below are limited to display value to one decimal place. Values may display as equal where the line shows the actual change.

Term		Attendance	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence	Late	Persistent Absence	Severe Absence
Term 1 25/26							
Bristol							
Pupils	59789	88.2%	6.8%	2.1%	2.2%	19.2%	2.9%
Settings	141						
Primary							
Pupils	37245	88.1%	3.3%	1.6%	1.2%	13.8%	1.7%
Settings	103						
Secondary							
Pupils	24554	88.7%	5.2%	2.7%	3.0%	21.4%	3.3%
Settings	21						
PRU							
Pupils	1164	84.2%	10.2%	4.8%	1.2%	41.3%	32.1%
Settings	4						
Special							
Pupils	1295	84.6%	5.2%	4.2%	0.8%	38.8%	9.6%
Settings	11						
All-through							
Pupils	2658	88.2%	5.1%	1.7%	4.2%	29.3%	4.6%
Settings	2						

1 - Term 1 25/26 (up to 3rd Oct 2025) - academic year to date set against term 1 last academic year.



2 - Term 2 25/26 (up to 5th Dec 2025) - academic year to date set against term 1 & 2 last academic year.



3 - Term 3 (up to 6th February 2026) - academic year to date set against terms 1 to 3 last academic year.



4 - Term 4 (up to 19th March 2026) - academic year to date set against terms 1 to 4 last academic year.



5 - Term 5 (up to 15th May 2026) - academic year to date set against terms 1 to 5 last academic year.



6 - Term 6 (up to 3rd July 2026) - academic year to date set against terms 1 to 6 last academic year (year 11 term 6 excluded from the data).

Other sources of attendance data for schools include:

1. Your schools own Management of Information system attendance data reports
2. The DfE View your school's own attendance data (which includes national and regional comparators & absence bandings for your setting)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monitor-your-school-attendance-user-guide>

Contact: If you require for further information in relation to this Attendance Update, please contact Vanessa Davies (Service Manager: Attendance and Education Welfare Service) on vanessa.davies@bristol.gov.uk

Alternatively, for general attendance related questions, please contact the EWS Helpline on 0117 3521438 or email education.welfare@bristol.gov.uk and a Duty Education Welfare Officer will be available to assist you.

