The ATTEND Framework - information for parents and carers

The **ATTEND framework** is a structured conversation that helps schools and families work together to understand the barriers that may be affecting a child or young person's attendance and agree practical support.

If your child is finding it difficult to attend school regularly, there may not be one single reason why. A range of different factors can affect attendance, both in and outside school.

The ATTEND framework gives you, your child and school staff the opportunity to share your experiences and perspectives in a supportive, non-judgemental way. By bringing these different views together, a shared understanding can be developed and support agreed that meets your child's needs.

Things to remember

- ATTEND is about support, not blame.
- You know your child best and your views are important.
- There are no right or wrong answers.
- Working together helps identify barriers and agree support.
- Attendance is important, but supporting wellbeing comes first.

ATTEND may be helpful if your child:

- Is finding it difficult to attend school regularly
- Feels anxious or worried about school
- Is experiencing friendship difficulties
- Has health, wellbeing or emotional needs that are affecting their experience of school or their attendance.
- Is struggling with learning or classroom demands
- Finds parts of the school environment overwhelming
- Has experienced changes or challenges at school

Every child is different and ATTEND helps to build a picture of their individual experiences.

What to expect

Step 1

Getting started

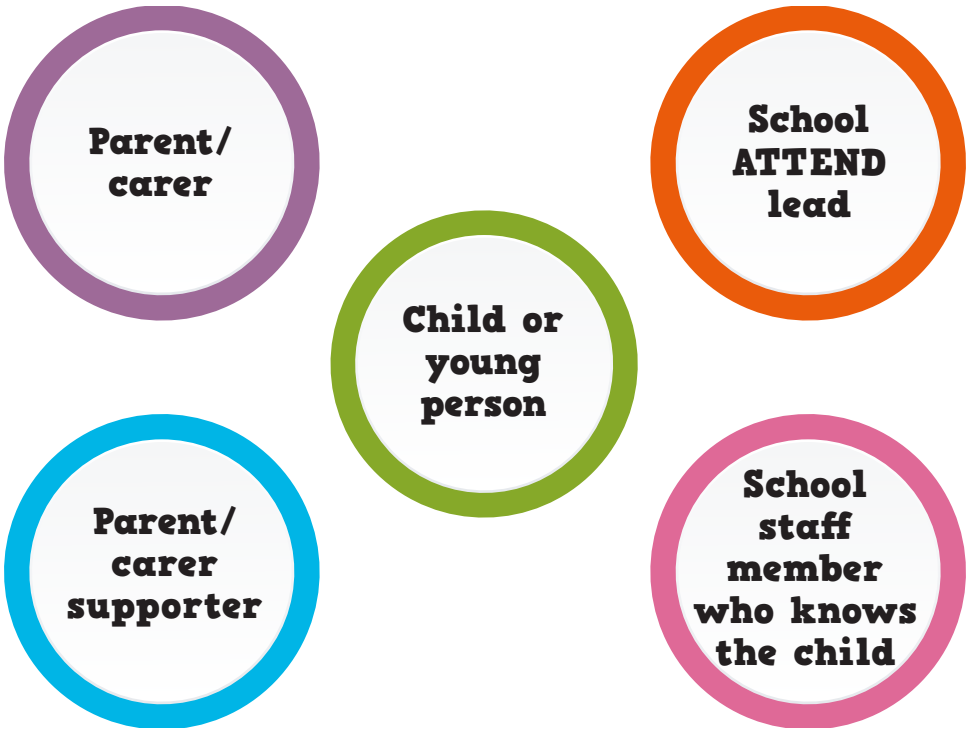
You will be invited to a meeting with school staff, and where appropriate, your child.

At the meeting you will:

- Talk about your child's strengths and what is going well.
- Explore how attendance difficulties may have developed over time.

This helps build a positive, shared understanding of the current situation.

Who should be involved?



You are welcome to bring a friend, family member or other supporter to the meeting if this would be helpful.

Step 2

Sharing different perspectives

Everyone involved in supporting your child has valuable information to share.

During this stage:

- You share your experiences of what is happening at home and in the wider community.
- School staff share their experiences of supporting your child in school.
- Your child's views are gathered through discussion, pupil voice activities or ATTEND pupil voice tools, either before or during the meeting.
- You complete an ATTEND Parent/Carer Form to help capture your views.

Parent/carer form

The Parent/Carer Form asks about factors that can sometimes affect attendance, including:

- Worries or anxieties
- Health and wellbeing
- Sensory needs
- Friendships and fitting in
- Learning, schoolwork and relationships with staff
- Changes at home or school
- Family circumstances
- Other things that might affect attendance

You are not expected to have all the answers. Different viewpoints and gaps in understanding are a normal and helpful part of the process.

Your child's voice matters

Your child's views are an important part of ATTEND. Understanding their experiences, **what is working well** and **what they may be finding difficult** helps identify the support that may help. Every child communicates differently, and there are lots of ways for them to share their views.

Step 3

Agreeing support



Information gathered from you, your child and the school is reviewed together.

During this stage:

- All identified barriers to attendance are reviewed.
- An action or support strategy is agreed for each barrier.
- Possible solutions and sources of support are explored.
- School, family and child agree on which support ideas to prioritise first.
- Responsibilities and review dates are agreed.

Step 4

Reviewing progress



Once support has been put in place:

- Progress is reviewed regularly.
- The impact of each action is monitored.
- Successes are celebrated.
- New actions can be introduced if needed.
- The support plan is updated and shared.

ATTEND is an ongoing process. Regular reviews will help ensure support remains effective and responsive to your child's needs.

For further information about education services in Warwickshire visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sortedforschool

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