



2025-2026

Hampstead Fine Arts Student Attendance Policy

This Policy makes direct references to the DfE document, 'Working together to improve school attendance' 2022. Further information can be found in this document and will be referred to by the college in all instances of attendance concerns.

We want to support all of our students and their parents/guardians so that they have the best possible experience and reach their full potential. Students with excellent attendance are more successful in school and achieve significantly higher outcomes. Low attendance can be seen as a safeguarding concern (KCSIE 2025) and is a whole school responsibility and priority.

The law entitles every child of a school age to a full-time education suitable to their age and any additional needs. Whilst we recognise that some medical conditions or SEND may provide barriers to education, the student's right to education remains the same as their peers. We will strive to work with families and students to minimise the barriers students face and put in additional support where necessary to ensure that all students are able to access their full-time education.

We recognise that there can be barriers to school attendance and for some students it is harder to attend school than others so we will continue to work closely with parents/guardians, seeking their support throughout the student's time with us. This policy will be applied fairly and consistently but will consider the individual needs of the student and their family.

It is the legal responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that their child accesses education either within a school or by education other than a school. This means the student must attend the College every day it is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances.

We would like everyone to maintain 100% attendance and it is our expectation that all students achieve at least 90% attendance.

Roles and Responsibilities

The governing body is responsible for monitoring attendance figures for the whole college and holds the Principal to account for the implementation of this policy. Attendance figures are published to the governing body through the Governors Report.

The Heads of Year/s and relevant administrative staff are responsible for the implementation of this policy at the college, as well as monitoring all absence data.

They are also responsible for leading and supporting cases of persistent absence and monitoring absence data and reporting it to governors and Head with the Deputy Head Pastoral.

The Heads of Year/s and relevant administrative staff monitor attendance data across the college and at an individual student level to support early intervention, reducing absence before it becomes habitual. They report concerns about attendance/punctuality to SLT to tackle persistent absence/punctuality issues. They will also lead on the communication with parents to discuss attendance issues. Day to day they ensure registers are accurate and complete using the relevant DfE absence codes.

The Heads of Year/s and relevant administrative staff tackle persistent absence/punctuality issues. They support communication with parents/guardians to discuss attendance issues. They have knowledge of attendance data in their respective areas of the college and at an individual student level to support early intervention so reducing absence before it becomes habitual.

Tutors will support and monitor tutees regarding issues of attendance and maintain communication with parents/guardians and members of teaching staff.

Parents perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are on the college roll attend regularly and are punctual.

All students are to be punctual to lessons and registrations. Any work missed through absence must be made up promptly upon return to college. Tutors will check that students have sought out the relevant teachers to achieve this.

Absence

If a day student is going to be absent the parent/guardian must notify the college on the first day by 8.30am or as soon as practicably possible using mail@hampsteadfinearts.com or calling the college directly. The parent/guardian should then call on each concurrent day, unless medical advice has been sought, and the length of the absence has been agreed.

If the absence is a planned absence, for example a medical appointment, the parent/guardian should notify the College in advance. We encourage parents/guardians to make medical and dental appointments out of college hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the student should be out of education for the minimum amount of time necessary. The student's parent/guardian must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as

possible. The final decision on whether an absence is authorised or unauthorised rests with the College.

If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, the school may ask the student's parent/guardian to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note or proof of the appointment or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily.

Parents/guardians, onsite medical staff and senior boarding staff are the only people who can authorise absences. All absences are recorded on ISAMS and parents/guardians will be notified by email of any unauthorised absence.

Absenteeism

Any student whose attendance falls below 90% will be referred to the DH Academic and DH Pastoral for review. Disciplinary procedures or welfare interventions will be followed as appropriate, and in accordance with local authority guidance. In order to ensure early intervention, attendance data is circulated to Personal Tutors by the DH Pastoral each week. Personal tutors can then follow up on any minor attendance issues with students/parents/guardians.

Persistent absenteeism is attendance below 85%. If a student's attendance falls below this, it will be referred to the Head.

The Deputy Head Pastoral will check the attendance data and follow up on any patterns of non-attendance half termly. Through regular monitoring, students who are identified as needing additional support with attendance will be targeted and the relevant actions discussed with the student and their parents/guardians. If there is no improvement, despite a collaborative effort, an escalation of support may be required. Depending on the individual circumstances, there may be a requirement for a multi-disciplinary support, a targeted support meeting, parenting contract, involvement from the Local Authority Attendance Support Team or Integrated Children's Services. If there is still no improvement, the local authority may seek legal intervention.

See also Children Missing in Education (CME) Policy.

Lateness

If a student is running late, they must contact admin using either mail@hampsteadfinearts.com or telephone the college.

Attendance Monitoring

The Deputy Head Pastoral is responsible for monitoring student absence and punctuality. ISAMS is the College information management system and is used to record attendance. SLT will

analyse attendance data to inform practices and next steps for individual students and cohorts who may need support.

A register is taken for each timetabled lesson and period. Tutors should take the register within the first 10 minutes of the lesson and report any missing students who have not arrived within the first 15 minutes. This should be done using the alert function on the electronic register.

An AM and PM register is recorded each day. An AM register will be marked if a student has been marked as present at any academic register point before lunch, and a PM register will be marked if a student has been marked present at any academic register post lunch.

For UKVI purposes, the college recognises a contact point each day Monday to Friday (when the College is open) if either an AM or PM register has been marked as present.

Sponsored Students

Good attendance is part of the conditions of stay for sponsored students studying in the UK. It is the responsibility of the College to ensure accurate attendance monitoring and prompt follow up. We may cease sponsorship of students who fail to meet the attendance requirements or those who miss ten consecutive contact points without authorisation from the Head.

Students missing 5 contact points without authorisation will be subject to a Pastoral Review with Deputy Head Pastoral and Dukes Student Immigration Manager. This meeting will put in place a plan to support the student improving attendance or allow the college to increase support and monitoring of the situation.

Should a student miss 10 contact points without authorisation, the College will review the situation. There is a strong possibility that the college will cease sponsorship and report the absence to the UKVI at this stage. In such cases, UKVI are likely to curtail the student's permission to stay in the UK and the student will have to return to their home country.

If a sponsored student is absent from College for a significant period of time for any reason, a Pastoral Review with Dukes Student Immigration Manager will take place every two weeks from the first day of absence. The College will cease sponsorship if, as a result of the review process, it is concluded that it is unlikely that the student will be able to complete the course of study described on their CAS within the period of their permission to enter/stay in the UK. If the absence from College exceeds 60 days, the presumption is that sponsorship will be withdrawn at that time. This is unless there are exceptional circumstances such as serious illness or injury **and** providing ongoing bi-weekly Pastoral Reviews do not conclude that the student is unlikely to be able to complete their course of study within the period of their permission to enter/stay, otherwise sponsorship will cease.

Communication

The Attendance Policy is available from the College.

Communication in the context of attendance is recorded on the student's electronic file.

| Created/Updated | Author | Approved by | Date |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Created | Deputy Head Pastoral | Head | 10 th September 2025 |