

MAXIMISING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BULLETIN

JANUARY 2025 – HALF TERM 3

Happy New Year! Welcome back, we hope you had a restful Christmas break. This bulletin is a brief update, please remember to check Essex Schools Infolink (ESI) for supporting forms and documents you may find useful.

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Data:

Date	PRIMARY				SECONDARY				SPECIAL			
	ATTENDANCE		PA		ATTENDANCE		PA		ATTENDANCE		PA	
	ESX	NAT	ESX	NAT	ESX	NAT	ESX	NAT	ESX	NAT	ESX	NAT
13.9.24	96.5	96.2	n/a	n/a	94.3	94.3	n/a	n/a	91.4	89.9	n/a	n/a
	+0.3		n/a	n/a	=		n/a	n/a	+1.5		n/a	n/a
27.9.24	95.8	95.8	n/a	n/a	93.1	93.2	n/a	n/a	90.1	88.6	n/a	n/a
	=		n/a	n/a	0.1		n/a	n/a	+1.5		n/a	n/a
11.10.24	95.7	95.7	n/a	n/a	92.7	93.0	n/a	n/a	89.7	88.3	n/a	n/a
	=		n/a	n/a	0.3		n/a	n/a	+1.4		n/a	n/a
25.10.24	95.4	95.4	n/a	n/a	92.4	92.7	n/a	n/a	89.6	88.1	n/a	n/a
	=		n/a	n/a	0.3		n/a	n/a	+1.5		n/a	n/a
8.11.24	95.3	95.4	n/a	n/a	92.4	92.7	n/a	n/a	89.6	88.1	n/a	n/a
	0.1		n/a	n/a	0.3		n/a	n/a	+1.5		n/a	n/a
22.11.24	95.3	95.3	n/a	n/a	92.3	92.6	n/a	n/a	89.5	87.9	n/a	n/a
	=		n/a	n/a	0.3		n/a	n/a	+1.6		n/a	n/a
6.12.24	95.1	95.1	n/a	n/a	92.1	92.4	n/a	n/a	89.2	87.7	n/a	n/a
	=		n/a	n/a	0.3		n/a	n/a	+1.5		n/a	n/a

The above table shows data from the beginning of the Autumn term, published fortnightly via the [DfE data dashboard](#). DfE data does not include the first week of the academic year due to the variety of return dates across the country and therefore schools should run comparative data reports from 9th September 2024.



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As you can see, Essex is on par with national stats for primary phase, but 0.3% below national average for secondary phases. Like the previous academic year our special schools remain above national average for their phase.

We would like to thank all schools for their efforts throughout the first academic term to ensure as many young people are attending school daily as possible.

Improving attendance – half-term 3

A new calendar year often provides schools with an opportunity to promote new starts and encourage fresh efforts to maximise daily attendance of all its pupils.

With resolutions being made, it is the perfect time to dedicate whole school focus on improved attendances across all year groups. Raising the profile, importance, and spotlighting attendance school-wide in the new term, will help to kick start the new year in a positive way.

TSM's:

During the autumn term, the Attendance Specialist Team were busy delivering Targeting Support Meetings with schools across the County. The meetings have been extremely well received and provided schools with positive actions and best practice guidance that has led to improved attendances in all quadrants.

This vital and impactful support for schools will continue throughout the coming term and we look forward to being able to speak with you to review your current attendance position and help to plan and achieve your attendance vision.

The Attendance Specialist Team will continue to contact you where it is felt a TSM would be beneficial in line with the statutory guidance. Additional information relating to TSM's can be found on pg. 34 of the [WTTISA guidance](#) and on Essex schools info link: [Targeting Support Meetings \(TSMs\): Overview | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

Attendance Compliance Team consultations:

The Attendance Compliance Team (ACT) offer 10-minute bookable consultation slots for schools to discuss any cases that may be leading towards legal consideration or to gain updates for ongoing cases. This extra layer of support enables school attendance teams to receive professional guidance and ensure all areas of school support have been considered/offered in line with current guidance before a referral is submitted for consideration. For further information please click [here](#).

Parental support courses:

The LA, through the ACT, has secured the support of the Adult Community Learning (ACL) team to deliver specifically tailored courses for parents to support their child to attend and enjoy school.

As schools will be the only referral route for this early help support, this amazing opportunity will allow schools, during their discussions with parents, to consider whether a referral would be beneficial on a case-by-case basis. It is another way in which schools can offer the support first approach to encouraging improved attendance.

This service can be accessed via the following link: [Supporting your child to attend and enjoy school](#)

Updated attendance resources and ESI:

To promote attendance in your school the AST has the following resources available via ESI [Supporting Improved Attendance – campaign materials including posters, bookmarks, and more](#)



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Template letters and documents which reflect the 'support first' expectation of the [WTTISA guidance](#) can be found here: NEW – Attendance template letters and forms and model attendance policy – Effective September 2024 | [Essex Support First Toolkit](#)

We suggest that this page is checked frequently for live updates as additional resources will continue to be made available.

Useful Links to Other Education Services:

[Admissions information in Essex](#)

[Admissions and Deletions - roll notifications](#)

[Education access | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

[Home to school transport | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

[Safeguarding | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

[Safeguarding contacts | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

[Social, emotional and mental health \(SEMH\) | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

[SEMH strategy, policies and frameworks | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

[Youth Service - Support and information for schools and professionals](#)

Coding:

Just a reminder that as of Sept 2024 the national absence codes have been updated in line with the Pupil (registration) (England) regulations 2024, please review pages 76-93 of the WTTISA guidance for greater clarity around these codes. Additional supporting information can also be found via ESI [Attendance - Coding | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

Team Contacts:

The way schools contact the AST changed this academic year. Due to the AST's commitment to delivering TSMs there is no longer the facility for schools to call their area team. Contact is via the relevant quadrant email address, providing as much detail as possible regarding your query to enable a response within 5 working days. Please see below for Team details:

Attendance Specialist Teams quadrant email addresses:

Northeast: neattendanceteam@essex.gov.uk

Mid: midattendanceteam@essex.gov.uk

West: westattendanceteam@essex.gov.uk

South: southattendanceteam@essex.gov.uk

Dedicated Parent Contact Line: 03330322968

The AST now have a line solely for parents to make contact for advice and guidance. The phonenumber enables parents to leave their name and contact number for a call back from one of our Specialists. The phone line is strictly for parents only and is accessed by the team twice weekly. Schools/professionals leaving





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messages on this line will receive an email as a response to their call and will be advised to send their query via their Team email, see above for details.

Early Help Drop-In

Below is an image of the poster, please visit [the children and young people and families page for more information and links](#)

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Early help drop-in sessions



Weekly drop-in sessions - you can attend any session

This session is designed to give partners in Essex who work with children, young people & families the chance to: discuss anonymised cases, gain peer support, be signposted to advice & help to answer general questions.

These sessions are supported by our panel of subject experts from across the children's system including:

- Team Around the Family Support Officer (TAFSO)
- Inclusion Partners
- Essex Family Support Service
- Engagement Facilitators
- SENDIASS
- Attendance Specialists
- Essex Youth Service
- Peabody Outreach
- Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Service
- DWP
- and others



These sessions **DO NOT** replace work undertaken by the Children & Families Hub as outlined in [Effective Support for Children & Families in Essex](#)



North Essex drop-in session
Tuesday 15:30-16:30pm

→ [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Email (North) C&FPartnershipLeads@essex.gov.uk



South Essex drop-in session
Wednesday 12:30-13:30pm

→ [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Email (South) C&FPartnershipLeads@essex.gov.uk



West Essex drop-in session
Thursday 12:00-13:00pm

→ [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Email (West) C&FPartnershipLeads@essex.gov.uk



Mid Essex drop-in session
Wednesday 12:00-13:05pm

→ [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Email (Mid) C&FPartnershipLeads@essex.gov.uk

Please note that the Mid Essex has an [online booking system](#), where you are able to pre-book a slot to present a case. Colleagues are still welcome to join the session without booking, but you won't be guaranteed a time to discuss your case.

