



Attendance Action Alliance

Terms of reference

The Alliance is formed with the single aim of raising attendance and a single belief that ultimately children are better off in education – and all barriers to this should be removed.

Alliance members, as far as is compatible with their professional responsibilities and organisational remit, will:

- Use their role as national leaders to disseminate clear expectations on improving school attendance to their professional networks
- Steer the activities of a wider range of workforces where these support improvements in attendance
- Use their expertise and experience to identify the issues which impede children's regular attendance at school and the solutions which remove barriers
- Undertake actions as agreed within the Alliance's meetings
- Provide the Alliance with an appropriate update on any actions undertaken through both qualitative and quantitative evidence of impact
- Identify innovative and best practice within their sector and promote its adoption across relevant organisations
- In those places experiencing the greatest challenges in securing better attendance, provide focused support and challenge and assist in ensuring these locations have the necessary resources, capacity and capability to improve attendance

A wide range of issues can affect a child's attendance in school. A wide range of activity may therefore be needed to tackle barriers. The Alliance should be clear in any activity it undertakes what the link is to attendance, and how the activity supports efforts to improve it.

The Alliance's membership will be reviewed as necessary to ensure it continues to have the right expertise to deliver its objective. It will have firmly in mind whether it is making the progress it needs to over time. The Alliance has been operating since December 2021. The first meeting of 22/23 was held in January 2023. The Alliance will continue to meet regularly until the end of the academic year, at which point its role will be reviewed.

Individuals on the Alliance will attend in a professional capacity. Members may request additional attendees at specified Alliance meetings where this advances business.

The Department for Education has a strong culture of inclusion and diversity. Alliance members commit to upholding these values, as well as the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#) (the “Nolan Principles”).

1. Operations

Alliance members are not remunerated, and the Alliance does not have a budget. The Department will reimburse reasonable travel and subsistence costs incurred by members in the course of their business for the Alliance in line with the terms of engagement.

The Department will provide secretariat support. The Secretariat is contactable via Attendance.ACTION@education.gov.uk.

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