Cedar Park School & Nursery
Be kind ★ Be inspired ★ Believe

Cedar Park's Approach to Improving Attendance

At Cedar Park, we believe that attending school regularly is essential for children to achieve their full potential. We foster a positive culture where every child is supported, inspired, and encouraged to believe in themselves.

We actively encourage attendance through a range of opportunities and incentives, including:

- Enrichment days that extend beyond the National Curriculum
- A wide variety of after-school clubs and activities
- Rewards for demonstrating our core principles, values, and behaviours

Our administrative team and Pastoral Leader works closely with senior leaders to monitor pupil attendance regularly. Families of children whose attendance falls below 90% are contacted promptly, in line with DfE guidance, to offer support and discuss strategies to improve attendance.

We take a **supportive, partnership-based approach** to help families, which can include:

- Attendance review meetings to discuss strategies and solutions tailored to each child
- Guidance on establishing effective morning and evening routines
- Support from our linked Family Support Officer
- Funding or assistance with breakfast club where appropriate
- Workshops for parents on sleep routines and wellbeing
- Connecting families with others locally to support school drop-off and pick-up
- A dedicated Pastoral Leader can support attendance by building positive relationships with families, identifying barriers to regular attendance early, and working collaboratively with parents to put practical support in place to help every child attend school regularly and confidently.

Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA)

For children experiencing EBSA, we provide a compassionate and personalised approach. Working with parents and external professionals, we develop achievable targets to help children access education successfully.

- Children identify moments in the week based on their anxiety levels to guide a bespoke timetable
- Timetables are initially adapted to reduce stress and build confidence
- Progress is reviewed regularly, and targets are updated to ensure children feel successful and supported

Our approach has successfully helped children move from partial or full school refusal to regular attendance, reflecting our commitment to personalised support.

Support from Buckinghamshire Local Authority

Where attendance does not improve despite our supportive measures, we work with the **Buckinghamshire Attendance and Reintegration Team (ART)**. This team provides guidance and can implement formal procedures, including issuing attendance notices, in accordance with statutory requirements and DfE expectations.

At Cedar Park, our priority is to combine **high expectations with compassion**, ensuring every child has the best chance to attend school regularly and thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.