



Stepping Stones Nursery

Child Absence Policy

At **Stepping Stones Day Nursery** we believe good attendance plays a fundamental role in supporting children's educational achievement, well-being and in keeping children safer. Establishing regular routines for young children supports the settling-in process and enhances their sense of security and belonging.

This policy outlines the procedures to promote and monitor attendance and those that will be followed if a child is absent from the setting. We wish to create a culture where good attendance and punctuality is valued by all and so will work with parents to work together to remove barriers to attendance. We recognise that sometimes families may need extra support with attendance, therefore effective communication is essential between parents and the setting, who may be able to offer advice and support or referrals to other agencies who may be able to help, such as the health visiting team, portage or early help.

To promote good attendance, we will:

- Share our attendance expectations with parents prior to admission, including conveying clearly to parents that regular attendance
 - Is expected
 - Is in the child's best interest, and
 - That unexplained absence will be investigated
- Keep records of attendance to enable monitoring and evaluation so that emerging patterns are addressed
- Foster a positive attitude to good attendance by quickly responding to children's absence
- Have discussions with families where absence is consistent to discuss strategies to improve attendance.

Whilst attendance at nursery is not statutory, absence will always be granted in the following circumstances, where parents inform the nursery on the first day of absence or prior to the first day of absence:

- Illness of the child
- Illness of siblings or parents
- Bereavement
- Health services appointments
- Holidays, including extended visits to family overseas
- Religious observance
- Emergency or exceptional circumstances.

Monitoring attendance

Records of children's attendance are accurately kept and regularly monitored to ensure that we can identify any potential problems and look for patterns. All managers and staff are alert to signs that children and learners who are missing might be at risk of abuse or neglect, and appropriate action is taken when children stop attending. While we are aware that attendance is not statutory, we recognise that non-attendance could be an indicator of other

concerns. All managers and staff are particularly aware of the need to monitor groups such as those who are considered to be vulnerable learners.

Procedures to record, monitor and follow up non-attendance

Registration will be completed at the start of each session.

Non-attendance:

- If a child is absent and we are informed of their reason for absence this will be recorded on the register as well as documented in room communication books.
- If a child is absent without an explanation a telephone call will be made to the main carer to establish the reason for the absence on the first day.
- If no contact is made, then we will follow this process:
 - Contact any second main carer
- If contact cannot be made by telephone call, a follow up call will be made the next day.
- If there continues to be no contact and there is cause for concern, the health visiting service and/or the Children and Family service will be contacted to ascertain if family support may be needed
- In more urgent cases, the police may be contacted to carry out a welfare check.

Any non attendance is recorded on our online Cpoms platform. Leaders within rooms regularly check registers to look for any attendance trends and DSLs regularly evaluate Cpoms. If any patterns are established discussions between the Nursery and family will take place to establish any ways to support. Any cause for concern will be documented and shared with external agencies if required.

Leaving the nursery

If you decide to withdraw your child from the nursery, please see our Parent Terms and Conditions for notice periods. This will ensure that we remove your child from our systems and therefore will not expect them to attend.

If your child is transitioning to another early years provider or school, please provide us with the details of the new setting so that we can transfer essential information.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>May 2026</i>	E.Keller	<i>May 2027</i>