



# Hengoed Primary School

Attendance Case Study

December 2016

# School Context

ESTYN Report (December 2014) states:

*Attendance levels at the school are adequate. Whole-school attendance for the last three years has placed the school in the bottom 25% when compared with similar schools. However, the most recent data indicates that the school's initiatives to improve attendance are beginning to have a positive effect. Most pupils are punctual.*

- The catchment that serves the school is a Communities First Area. Pupils come to school with a wide range of academic and social attainment.
- In 2015-16, 32% of pupils claimed their entitlement to free school meals, which is well above the LA and Wales average. Over the last three years, an average of 50% of pupils has been eligible for free school meals meaning that the school is placed in the highest benchmarking group (over 32%).

## Attendance Journey

	Autumn 14	Spring 15	Summer 15	Year 14/15
<b>Total</b>	92.5%	92.8%	92.3%	92.5%
<b>FSM</b>	93.4%	93.49%	93.49%	92.87%
<b>Non-FSM</b>	91.54%	91.54%	90.44%	91.18%
<b>Persistent</b>	14 Pupils	8 Pupils	7 pupils	10.3%

	Autumn 15	Spring 16	Summer 16	Year 15/16
		13/3/16		
<b>Total :</b>	93.9%	94.97%	93.52%	94.10%
<b>Margin of improvement from previous year (5+)</b>	1.4%	2.71%	1.22%	1.6%
<b>FSM</b>	94.59%	95.28%	95%	95.36%
<b>Non-FSM</b>	94.18%	95.19%	92.88%	93.45%
<b>Persistent</b>	6 pupils	1 pupil (+1 under 5)	2 Pupils 1 Hospital Stay 2 weeks (complications)	1 pupil

## 100% Attendance

Autumn 14	Spring 15	Summer 15	Autumn 15	Spring 16	Summer 16	Autumn 16
<b>18 pupils</b>	21 pupils	26 Pupils	30 pupils	41 pupils	38 pupils	41 pupils

## Actions Taken

- Using the PDG Grant, the school released the DHT to take on a PT role as Family Liaison officer.
- Raising the profile of attendance through a variety of actions:  
Prominent attendance display (Foyer and each class)  
Weekly attendance assembly (each class that reached the school target wins 5 minutes extra playtime, Archie bear for the winning class)



- Close links with EW service and regularly held meetings with DHT and parents where necessary. EWO visits school on a regular basis to work with pupils, discussing the importance of good attendance. Pupils thoughts and suggestions are updated and added to display.
- Reviewed school Attendance Policy and informed all parents of required procedures.
- Termly 100% attendance trips.



### Individual pupil targets:

Where there have been longer term issues with individual pupil's absence, individual targets have been set for these in meetings between the family liaison officer (DHT) and parents. The aim is to offer an inducement for improved attendance to those pupils who will not otherwise achieve any reward for 100% attendance overall. The impact of these targets is seen in the table below.

Number of pupils with personal targets	First Half of Summer Term - Pupils achieving Target set of 94%	Second half of Summer Term Pupils achieving Target set of 94%
15	6 (4 at 100%)*	5 (4 at 100%)



## Monday and Friday attendance

Previous analysis of attendance identified a trend of lower attendance on Mondays and Fridays. The school has implemented specific teaching and learning actions to address this:

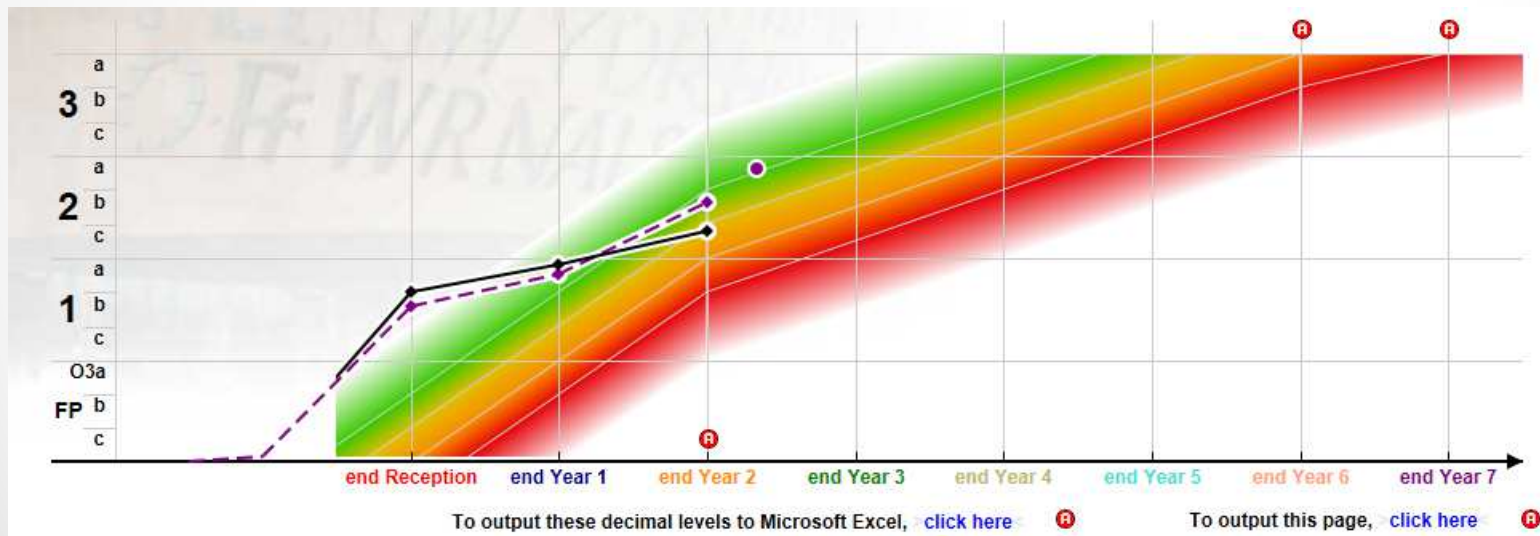
Manic Monday sessions: where pupils take part in enriched curricular activities during the first session on Monday in order to improve Monday attendance.

Feeling Physical Friday! On Friday afternoons pupils have opportunities to participate in a range of PE activities (session 1), followed by SEAL / PSE / Nurture/Music activities, including a chance to share a hot drink and snack with the HT or their teacher. Pupils of classes who have achieved the school target attendance also receive their 5 minute extra play time on a Friday.

	Academic year 2014/15	Academic year 2015/2016	Autumn term 2015	Spring term 2016	Summer Term
Mon	91.5%	93.85%	94.6%	94.3%	93.95%
Fri	89%	93%	93.5%	94.9%	92.85%

## Parent Attendance meetings

A study has been undertaken to analyse the impact of poor attendance on academic attainment using INCERTS. These are shared with parents in meetings. This allows a comparison between the pupil's attainment and that of their peers. School and parents can identify the point at which attendance improves and the attainment reduces.





## Where next?

ESTYN inspectors report strong progress has been made to address a previous recommendation concerning pupil attendance.

**Pupils' attendance has been on an upward trend for three years and the verified 2015-2016 attendance figure of 94.1%, a 1.6 percentage point increase on the 2014-2015 attendance, exceeded the school target. The school has the third most improved attendance for primary schools across Caerphilly County Borough. The school has set challenging attendance targets for the next three years to maintain and improve its performance. (December 2016)**

Hengoed Primary School will continue to strive to improve pupil attendance and achieve the challenging targets set.