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To: Headteachers

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Dear Colleague

DfE Attendance reforms 2024 – what they mean for schools:

On the 29 February 2024, the DfE announced a number of initiatives with the aim of improving pupil attendance, including some new statutory requirements on schools.

In summary, these are:

1. Revised working together to improve school attendance guidance.
 - New statutory guidance will replace the existing version from 19 August 2024, in time for the new school year. Schools should continue to follow the existing version of the guidance until this point with the new version also available for review at the same link: [Working together to improve school attendance](#)

The Department for Education will provide schools with support as they transition to the new guidance via a series of webinars.
2. Regulations to mandate attendance data-sharing by all schools.
 - It is clear that robust data, used well, is critical to improving attendance outcomes. To support schools, the DfE are mandating the provision of pupil level attendance data from all state funded schools from the beginning of the school year 2024-2025.
 - 89% of schools in England have already signed up but if you haven't done so we encourage you to share school data as soon as possible ahead of the duty coming into force on 19 August 2024. To meet this duty please [share your daily school attendance data](#) with the DfE.
3. Regulations to modernise school attendance and admission registers.
 - The Department is laying regulations to revoke and replace the Education (Pupil Registration England) Regulations 2006. The changes follow extensive consultation with schools and local authorities and are designed to be as simple as possible, and to improve consistency and accuracy of attendance recording. The update to attendance and absence codes will commence from school year 2024-2025
4. New National Attendance Ambassador
 - Rob Tarn, CEO of Northern Education Trust, and the founder of England's first attendance hub, is the DfE's national attendance ambassador. His key roles will include:

- Acting as a sector-facing lead for the attendance hubs programme.
- Disseminating effective practice to improve school attendance with schools and trusts.
- Working with the DfE's regional teams to support strong attendance regionally and nationally.

5. The new National Framework for Penalty Notices for absence

- The DfE has published details of a new National Framework for penalty notices for absence and laying regulations to improve consistency of attendance enforcement across the country from September 2024. Further details are provided in the updated [Working together to improve school attendance guidance](#).

Please see below DfE links to further support your school attendance:

Access the Monitor your school attendance dashboard:

- If you've already got access, log into your reports here - [View your education data \(VYED\)](#)
- Read instructions on how to [Access your school attendance data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- If you would like to start sharing your school attendance data, then please email Wonde on support@wonde.com

Data Fields

- Find out more about what [CBDS data fields](#) are and why updating permissions is required.

Publications dashboard

- [Access the public dashboard](#) - The public dashboard provides data on attendance and absence at National, Regional and Local Authority geographic levels.

Upcoming webinars

- March webinar for schools who are not yet sharing their data - [sign up for the webinar](#)

Newsletters and research

- Be part of the research on the 'Monitor your school attendance' tool - [sign up here](#).
- Sign up to receive the fortnightly sector bulletin [Department for Education - Sector Email \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Support

- If you want to tell the DfE about a new issue then please visit the [View your education data](#) (VYED) page, scroll down to further support and select the link 'submit an enquiry'.
- [Check for known issues with school daily attendance reports](#)
- Contact the Wonde Support Team by emailing support@wonde.com

Upcoming DfE webinar

- Wednesday 24th April at 11am - [Sign up for the DfE webinar](#)

Yours sincerely

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