

BELONGING BRIEF

27 MARCH 2026

BUILDING A SCHOOL WHERE EVERY CHILD BELONGS

Our attendance strategy is built around the simple belief that students attend, engage, and achieve when they feel they belong.

Belonging means feeling safe, understood, valued, and known by the adults around you. When students feel connected, attendance improves naturally. Throughout the year, we focus on different themes to strengthen belonging for both students and staff.

So far this year, we have focused on:

- Warm Welcomes – ensuring every student starts the day feeling valued
- Respectful Interactions – modelling how we speak and listen to one another.
- Calm is Contagious – creating emotionally safe classrooms.

This Term's Focus: Connection Before Correction Before addressing behaviour, we prioritise understanding: - Check in with the student before addressing an issue - Ask "What's happened?" rather than assuming - Correct privately where possible - Repair relationships quickly after conflict This approach does not replace high expectations — it strengthens them. Students are far more likely to engage and attend regularly when they feel understood.



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE



Mobile Phones



Why Our Policy Matters

Recently, the Government updated its guidance on mobile phones in schools to support schools in creating environments that are calm, safe and focused on learning. The guidance states that schools should be mobile phone-free throughout the whole school day — including lessons, breaks, and lunchtime — unless there's a specific reason to make an exception (for example, medical need). Schools are encouraged to communicate their phone policies clearly to pupils and families so everyone understands expectations. Headteachers are supported to include confiscation as a proportionate sanction if phones are used in breach of the policy. ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

At MECE, our school policy is:

Mobile phones must not be seen or heard on the school site. If a phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated in line with our behaviour policy.

We also ask parents to support this rule. Contacting your child directly via phone during the school day can:

- Cause distraction and anxiety for the student
- Interrupt lessons and learning for others
- Make it harder for staff to maintain a safe, calm environment

If you need to get an urgent message to your child during the school day, please contact the school office so we can pass it on quickly and safely.

Attendance

Every Day Builds Belonging

Attendance is about routine, relationships, and being part of something positive.

Last Term's Attendance Figures:

- **Year 7: 93.6%**
- **Year 8: 87.1%**
- **Year 9: 91.9%**
- **Year 10: 90%**
- **Year 11: 86.3%**



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

Overall attendance sits at 89.9% - at this point in the academic year it equates to 10 days of school missed, that's 50 hours of lost learning! Our target for all students is 96%.

Students who attend regularly:

- Build stronger friendships -
- Feel more connected to staff -
- Experience greater stability and success

You can help by:

- Promoting positive messages about school -
- Encouraging involvement in clubs and activities -
- Maintaining consistent routines -
- Contacting us early if attendance becomes a concern

We Want To Hear From You...



We actively seek and listen to the views and experiences of pupils, staff, and parents/carers. Share your thoughts, feedback, or suggestions here:

[Paret Feedback Form - Fill in Form](#)

Useful Links:

[Support & advice for families | NSPCC](#)



Aim High



Be Inclusive



Work Together

