

Dear Parent / Carer

The Importance of Good Attendance and Punctuality

The Department for Education expects schools and local authorities to promote good attendance and reduce absences, including persistent absence. This is because we know that missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary schools.

Did you know?

Children can suffer academically if they miss 10 per cent of school days or about 19 days. That is just one day every two weeks, and that can happen before you know it. It doesn't matter if these absences are authorised or unauthorised. They all represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity to learn. There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement. Of pupils who miss more than 50 per cent of school only three per cent manage to achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including Maths and English. 73 per cent of pupils who have over 95 per cent attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C.

Government Legislation

You already know that the Government amended key legislation relating specifically to the authorisation of leave in term time and this came into force on 1st September 2013. This means that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence for holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. From 1 September 2015, the Government reduced the persistent absence threshold from 15% to 10%. This now classes a student with attendance below 90% as a persistent absentee, compared with the previous figure of 85%, regardless of whether the school has authorised or unauthorised the absence.

As a school we work incredibly hard to support all children and their families so as to ensure that all children have good attendance. Regular attendance at school is essential to ensure uninterrupted progress and to enable children to fulfil their potential. BMinor ailments, such as a headache or a slight cold, are not acceptable reasons for failing to attend school. Some children's absenteeism is already reaching an unacceptable level and we are in the process of contacting parents. We may:

- Ask you to obtain medical evidence from your doctor for repeated absence from school
- Invite you into school to discuss your child's attendance
- Request your attendance at an Attendance Panel with the EWS (Education Welfare Service)
- Issue a FPN (Fixed Penalty Notice)

We are confident that you will be keen to work with us to ensure that your child's attendance improves. Some pupils are persistently arriving after 8.50 a.m. without an acceptable reason – this also needs to change.

There are a number of pupils whose attendance is currently 100%. Well done to these.

Yours sincerely,



T A Ryan
Deputy Headteacher

