



ATTENDANCE UPDATE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Department for Education (DfE) has issued new statutory guidance for all schools regarding attendance.

This guidance will take effect on 19th August 2024, coinciding with the new academic year.

Key information for parents and carers

- Schools and partners should work in partnership with pupils and parents and carers collaboratively to remove any barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and working together to put the right support in place.
- The DfE has changed the fining system. **School does not receive any money from any fines issued by the local authority.**
- Penalty Notice fines may be issued for term time leave (holidays) of 5 or more consecutive days and for fewer days where this has happened before.
- The fine for school absences across the country will be: **£80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.**
- In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of **£160.**
- Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period.
- Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

10 Sessions of Unauthorised Absence in a 10-week period

- Penalty Notice fines may be considered when there have been 10 sessions of absence in a 10-week period.

Medical and Other Appointments

Appointments such as the dentist and opticians, should be booked outside of school hours. For any other doctors or medical appointments, evidence of the appointment should be forwarded to the school office, to ensure this becomes an authorised absence. Any child in Persistent Absence (PA) below 90%, will need to provide medical evidence or any missed days from school. Any other reason for absence (such as parental appointments or inability to bring your child to school) will be unauthorised.

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Headteacher: Mrs L Baxter



Important of Good Attendance

High levels of attendance not only supports academic learning but also fosters social skills, builds relationships with peers and teachers, and contributes to overall personal development. Being part of the school community on a daily basis enhances students' engagement, motivation, and sense of belonging, all of which are vital for their growth and success.

We are committed to working with families to overcome any barriers to attendance and to providing an environment where every child can thrive. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact the school office or contact Mrs Chauhan, the school attendance Champion. Your partnership with us is crucial in promoting a culture of regular attendance and supporting your child's educational journey. Please see the further attachments for additional information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Baxter



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