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Tuesday 16th November, 2021

The Importance of Good Attendance

With so much time in education having been lost to COVID, good attendance in school has never been more important. Regular attendance is crucial to giving our children the very best start in life. It helps build confidence and raise ambition. Good attendance in school is a foundation for all future successes.

As a school, we want every child to attend school every day. However, we understand and appreciate that all pupils will need to be absent occasionally – maybe for medical appointments, illnesses or family bereavements, for example. We also appreciate the impact COVID has had and continues to have.

Persistent Absence

Any pupil who has **90%** attendance or less is classed as a pupil who is persistently absent from school. Where a child's attendance is decreasing, we will communicate directly with you but should it reach **90%** or below then your child is considered persistently absent. At this point, we would be in touch to invite you into school to discuss ways in which we can work together to help improve attendance.

How You Can Help Achieve Good Attendance

- ✓ Always ask for medical appointments outside of school time.
- ✓ If your child is showing signs of COVID then you need to book them in for a test and notify school.
- ✓ If your child is saying they feel 'a bit poorly', send them in anyway and we'll keep an eye on them.
- ✓ **Never** allow your child to stay off for a birthday.
- ✓ **Never** keep siblings of absent pupils off school; talk to us and we will work out a way round this.
- ✓ Do **NOT** book holidays during term time. All holidays are unauthorised. You could also receive a fine for each child taken out of school.
- ✓ Please **talk to us** if you feel that your child is unhappy about coming to school and we will see what we can do to help.

Poor attendance could result in warnings, fines or even prosecution through the Attendance and Placement Service - we'd much rather work with you to avoid this.

If you have any questions or would like some advice please feel free to contact school and we will be happy to help in any way that we can.



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