



6 October 2015

Dear Parents or Carers

Re: New Persistent Absence Threshold

From 1 September 2015 the Government has reduced the threshold for Persistent Absence from 15% to 10%. This will now class a student with attendance below 90% as a persistent absentee. This was 85% last year and applies regardless of whether the absence is 'authorised' or 'unauthorised'. This equates to 38 sessions or 19 days of absence across the year or 3 ½ days per half term.

We know that regular attendance at school is essential to ensuring good progress and outcomes for your child. We monitor your child's attendance weekly and we want to work actively with parents to ensure that the highest level of attendance is maintained. We will report to you the details of your child's attendance record throughout the year. If your child's attendance is below 90%, we will monitor their attendance and report to you on a regular basis.

The Department for Education (DfE) has published data on their website that clearly shows the link between attendance and attainment. This highlights the fact that there will be an impact on your child's education and exam results if their attendance is not consistently above 95% throughout their schooling.

Minor ailments, such as a headache or slight cold, are not considered acceptable reasons for not attending school. We realise that any child can suddenly fall ill and be unable to attend school but repeated absences may require us to request medical evidence from your doctor's surgery as confirmation of these absences. This is in-line with recommendations by the DfE and Local Authority.

I would like to remind you that the current law does not give any entitlement to parents to remove their child from school during term-time for holidays. I can only grant leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. If you feel you need to remove your child from school for this reason you must put this request in writing to me and a meeting will be arranged to discuss the request.

I know that you want your child to have the best possible attendance at school to support them in achieving the best possible outcomes.

If you have any questions or queries about the change in this policy please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely

Look smart. Be polite. Work hard.

Scott Martin
Headteacher

