

Dear Parents/Carers,

Several years ago, the Government changed the rules allowing Headteachers' the power to allow pupils to miss school for holidays. There now has to be exceptional circumstances for a Headteacher to give permission.

As I stated in my first newsletter, attendance and punctuality are vital to ensure that children have every opportunity to excel and flourish at school. The Government states that good attendance is 95%. The Governors, staff and I are keen to improve the attendance and punctuality of every pupil. We acknowledge that there may be times when your child is unwell and they need to stay at home to recover. However, as stated in the Government guidance, unless there are exceptional or special reasons, no permission will be granted and a referral will be made to the Education Welfare Officer, Keith Mellor who will instigate fines.

*Government guidance states*

You can be fined for taking your child on holiday during term time without the school's permission.

It also includes this information about attendance and punctuality:

*How does attendance affect outcomes for pupils?* The students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level result.

Our research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well.

The data also shows that in 2019, primary school children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard.

*What are the risks of missing a day of school?*

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year 1 who is absent for three days over a half term could miss 15 lessons in total.

The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.

Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

I have attached the schools' Attendance Policy for your information and a copy can also be found on the school website. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Kind regards,

Rachel Linton

Headteacher