

ATTENDANCE - EVERY DAY MATTERS!

At St John's we actively promote good attendance. Full attendance is vital for students to excel in school and parents/carers have a key role in promoting good attitudes towards attendance. We ask for the support of parents and carers in helping our children to be in school at every opportunity, ensuring that they have the very best chances in their education. Our students need to be in school on time every day and only be absent when absolutely necessary. Parents who make clear their commitment to education with their approach to attendance and punctuality give clear messages to their children which have positive effects throughout their school careers.

Our Academy attendance target of 95% is the minimum that we expect for all students.

PERSISTENT ABSENCE

Students who are persistently absent are at a serious disadvantage in school. Not only do they miss lessons on the days when they are absent but having missed learning the lessons will be more difficult on their return. Much of the work which is missed is not caught up immediately and the effects of their gaps in learning can still be apparent years later.

A student defined as a 'Persistent Absentee' is one who misses 10% or more of school, equivalent to one day off per fortnight for the year. The Government recognises this problem and requires schools to refer parents of poor attenders for Fixed Penalty Notices (fines) or for prosecution. Fixed Penalty Notices may be from £60.00.

SUPPORT FOR ATTENDANCE

We monitor students' attendance and punctuality very closely. We follow up unexplained absence with parents/carers by telephone and/ or by letter.

Where a student's attendance reaches a concerning level, we will contact you by letter, telephone, or home visit to discuss ways in which we can work together to support you and your child. We may invite you to a meeting in school to discuss your child's attendance and how the Academy can support you to improve this.

MONITORING PERIODS AND SUPPORT PROCESSES

The Academy has a responsibility to work with families to address attendance concerns. Where a student's attendance continues to fall despite initial contact with parents/carers and the use of appropriate strategies to help improve attendance, the Academy will move to use our support process. The support process is a positive measure to help parents/carers to fulfil their legal responsibility to ensure the regular attendance of their child. Parents are invited to attend a school attendance meeting where targets are set over a three week monitoring period.

LEGAL SANCTIONS

Parents/carers have a legal duty to make sure their child attends school regularly. The Academy can make a referral to the Local Authority where parents/carers are failing in their legal duty. The Local Authority has the power to enforce school attendance where this becomes problematic, including the power to prosecute parents/carers who fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact Holly Hathaway, Attendance Manager or Maeve McNeill, Assistant Vice Principal.