



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Student Attendance and Punctuality

We are writing to remind parents and carers about their legal duty to ensure all children attend school on a regular basis and arrive on time each day. The Secretary of State has issued guidance on attendance to all local authorities and is working hard to reduce student absence rates by improving the consistency of attendance support for schools and families who need it most. Research shows there is a very clear relationship between academic achievement and excellent school attendance; students with the best school attendance achieve the best results. Every lesson at St. Aidan's matters and absence over time will impact negatively on a child's chances of participating in our vision of Life in all its fullness. The chart below shows the reality of the impact on learning for children who are absent from school.

| If your child's attendance during the school year is: | Your child would have lost approximately: | Or they would have missed: |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| 95% | 9 days from school | 45 lessons |
| 90% | 19 days from school | 95 lessons |
| 85% | 27 days from school | 135 lessons |
| 80% | 38 days from school | 190 lessons |
| 75% | 47 days from school | 235 lessons |

Our goal is to ensure that learning time is not lost due to absence. Students whose attendance drops below 90% are categorised by the Department of Education as PA which means they are persistently absent. The DfE use this measure as a benchmark to report on individual school attendance figures. Because of the impact that absence can have on your child's academic outcomes as well as social and emotional wellbeing, we are asking all parents and carers to be mindful of their role in ensuring a high level of attendance at school for their child. If your child's attendance drops, we will contact you to discuss how we can work together to support you in improving this. We do understand that in exceptional circumstances there are situations beyond your control which mean your child needs to be absent from school and we will always work with you to support in these instances.

Headteacher: Mrs S Dover

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Punctuality is also key to reducing lost learning time so please be reminded that learning starts promptly at 8.45am each day. Students who arrive after this time will be considered late and given a late mark in the register. We do understand that there are sometimes circumstances beyond anyone's control which result in a child being late for school, so we do show some flexibility e.g., if buses are late. Morning registration closes at 9.15am. To comply with DfE guidance, any student arriving after this time will be classed as absent for the morning session. Please do all you can to ensure you child arrives at school ready for an 8:45am start every day.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting good attendance.

Mr I Addison
Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs S Dover

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