

Subject: The Importance of School Attendance

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday season. As we step into a new year, it's a great time for fresh starts, setting new goals, and embracing positive habits. One of the most impactful commitments we can make for our children is ensuring they attend school regularly.

Our school has set an attendance target of **96%**, and we are committed to working together to help every student reach their full potential. Regular attendance is crucial—not just for academic success, but also for social development and overall well-being.

Why Attendance Matters

Academic Success

Research consistently shows that pupils who attend school regularly perform better in exams and assessments. Even missing just a few days can create gaps in learning that make it harder for students to catch up.

Education Hub – Government Website

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/school-attendance-important-risks-missing-day/>

Social Development

Regular attendance fosters social skills and emotional resilience. Through consistent attendance, children develop crucial social bonds, learn to collaborate, resolve conflicts, and build empathy—skills that are fundamental for navigating the complexities of adulthood.

Education Hub – Government Website

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/09/what-are-ghost-children-and-why-is-school-attendance-important/>

Well-being & Mental Health

A structured school routine provides stability and access to support networks that promote emotional well-being. Studies show that persistent absence can contribute to anxiety and lower self-confidence.

Cardiff University - <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/news/view/2585411-research-explores-association-between-school-absence%2C-exclusion-and-pupils-mental-health>

What can you do?

As parents, your role in nurturing good attendance is paramount. From establishing routines to communicating openly with the school, your guidance shapes your child's perspective on the importance of education and attendance. Here are some strategies and tips for parents to promote good attendance:

- **Establish a Routine:** Maintain a regular daily routine, including consistent wake-up times, mealtimes, and bedtime. Having a structured schedule helps children get ready for school and reduces the likelihood of tardiness or absence.
- **Communicate with the School:** Establish open lines of communication with your child's school. Inform the school promptly if your child is going to be absent due to illness or other legitimate reasons.
- **Plan Appointments Wisely:** Whenever possible, schedule doctor's appointments and other family obligations outside of school hours. If it's unavoidable, try to schedule them during breaks or after school to minimise missed class time. The same is true of term time holidays. These are disruptive to your child's education.
- **Lead by Example:** Demonstrate the importance of education by showing enthusiasm for learning and valuing school attendance. Your attitude towards school can influence your child's perspective.
- **Set Expectations:** Clearly communicate your expectations regarding school attendance. Let your child know that going to school is non-negotiable unless they are genuinely sick or have an excused absence. Foster a positive attitude toward school by praising your child's efforts and achievements. Help them build positive relationships with teachers and peers.
- **Talk About the Consequences:** Discuss with your child the consequences of excessive absenteeism, such as falling behind in school, missing out on social interactions, and the potential impact on future opportunities.

Truancy

At BOA Digital, truancy from lessons is not a prevalent issue. Almost all students are in the right place at the right time. Though still very small, there has been a slight increase in the number of internal truancy incidents being reported at school. These incidents include not turning up to a lesson, extreme lateness to lesson and leaving a lesson without permission. This is both a safeguarding issue and a behaviour issue. With this in mind, it is incumbent upon me to inform you that any such incidents will be sanctioned

with a detention for 1-hour on a Friday after school. As per our behaviour policy, parents and carers will be informed 24 hours before.

A Fresh Start for 2025

The New Year is a perfect time to set positive habits, and making school attendance a priority is one of the best ways to support your child's future. We understand that occasional absences happen due to illness or exceptional circumstances, and we are here to support families facing challenges with attendance.

If you need any advice or assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out. Let's work together to ensure that 2025 is a year of success, growth, and opportunity for all our students.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy, and successful New Year!