

Churchside Federation

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Godbold

Friday 8th December 2023

Absence Why am I getting this letter?

Over the past few weeks some of you will have received letters regarding your child's attendance. Often these letters cause parents to become upset and angry with the school staff but absence is one of the biggest factors of children not making progress and attaining well throughout their school careers.

The DFE website states: Any child with a school attendance lower than 90% is classed as a persistent absentee. Persistent absence is a serious problem for pupils. Much of the work children miss when they are off school is never made up, leaving these pupils at a considerable disadvantage for the remainder of their school career. There is also clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement. Poor attendance of pupils can disrupt their own learning and that of other pupils. Quickly these children begin to fall behind their peers and often fail to fill in gaps in their skills or knowledge - sometimes in basics like reading or writing. Over time these pupils can become bored and disillusioned with education. These pupils are often lost to the system, overtime they can fall into anti-social behaviour and crime. That is why it is vital schools tackle absenteeism.

Schools have a legal obligation to provide education for all children of statutory age. As part of this duty we are required to chase attendance. Making sure that children are in school every day wherever possible. Where attendance starts to drop the class teacher will make contact with you to check everything is alright. If your child continues to have time off school, we will send a letter inviting you to have a meeting with a member of SLT to see if we can help remove the barriers for your child in attending school. If absences continue after these interventions, we are required to start the Fast Track process which could lead to parental fines.

Regular attendance is vital for children's development. Not being in school is detrimental to their attainment and therefore their life chances as they get older. Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. 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 shows that in 2019, 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.

School and home working in partnership together is the best way to ensure that children are attending regularly and reaching their full potential. Our intention is to work with you to make sure your child is accessing education every day.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Godbold