



At St. Joseph's we live, love and learn by the example of Jesus

Thursday 19th September 2024

New Statutory Duty for Attendance

Dear Parents & Carers,

Please find attached our updated Attendance Policy.

Please do take the time to read the Attendance Policy carefully as there have been some key changes. These changes are in line with the new statutory guidance from the Department for Education in their document called *Working Together to Improve School Attendance*. The new guidance came into effect on the 19th August 2024. It details what schools, parents and Local Authorities should do to improve pupils' attendance at school.

There are some important changes to attendance management from the 19th August 2024, which will affect the support parents and pupils receive from schools, and the legal sanctions that are used in certain circumstances.

There have been key changes to penalty notices for unauthorised absences and the amount parents will need to pay. Also, there has been updates on irregular school attendance over time and the support that is expected from both the school and parents.

We cannot stress enough the importance of your child attending school on a regular basis.

If you have any questions or if you are concerned about getting your child into school, then please do come and speak to a member of our respective office teams. We are always willing to meet to put a support plan in place where relevant.

If you do have any questions or queries after reading this policy, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards,

Mrs B. H. O' Connor
Headteacher

Good attendance means...

...being in school at least **96%** of the time

...or having **no more than 8 days** off!

365 days in the calendar year

175 non-school days a year! (all this for shopping, holidays and appointments)

0 days absence / 190 school days in each year = 100% attendance


8 days absence / 182 days of education = 96% attendance

19 days absence / 171 days of education = 90% attendance


29 days absence / 161 days of education = 85% attendance

38 days absence / 152 days of education = 80% attendance


47 days absence / 143 days of education = 75% attendance



Good attendance
best chance of success



Poor attendance
less chance of success



Very poor attendance
serious impact on education
and reduces life chances

