"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22:6

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18 July 2024

Dear Parents,

The Department for Education has published new guidance on working together to improve school attendance. This guidance applies from 19 August 2024 and, in addition, a new National Penalty Notice Framework comes into effect on the same date.

The guidance highlights the importance and the legal requirements of school attendance. Schools and local authorities must work together to identify and address barriers to attendance whilst Schools should have a clear attendance policy to facilitate the analysis of data and monitoring of attendance patterns. Early intervention has proven to be important to prevent persistent absence.

The National Penalty Notice Framework sets national expectations of when fines are issued. Fines are issued by the local authority with attendance information that is supplied by school. This new framework makes it likely that fines will be issued if these expectations have not been met, for example, an absence of 5 days or more for a term time holiday. Detail of the new fines and how these can escalate to prosecution in court can be found at: https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/29/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/

We are committed to working with you to ensure that your child attends school regularly. We will be reviewing our attendance policy in light of the new guidance and will keep you informed of any changes in September.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Mr Mike Taylor
Headteacher