

**Our Ref:** AWA/kmd/attendance

November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

The Importance of School Attendance

As we are now halfway through the first term it seems an appropriate time to reinforce the importance of monitoring your child's attendance.

Every day at school counts. The evidence is clear that even a few days of missed school can have a significant impact on a child's education and future prospects. Regular attendance at school means that your child can make the most of their education and improve their chances in adult life. School can also help your child's social skills, such as making and developing friendships.

Good punctuality is important. For example, if a child arrives 15 minutes late to school each day, they lose almost 2 weeks of education over the year. Good punctuality also helps your child get into good habits for when they enter the world of work. Lateness can, in some circumstances, count as unauthorised absence.

How attendance affects attainment

Recent research by the Department for Education shows just how closely attendance and attainment are linked; the link is especially strong at secondary school. Year 11 pupils with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE, compared to similar pupils attending 90-95% of the time. In other words, missing just 10 extra days a year reduces the likelihood of achieving these grades by around 50%.

The long-term impact on earnings

Missing school doesn't just affect exam results and a child's time in education – it can impact future earnings too. Persistently absent pupils in secondary school could earn £10,000 less at age 28 compared to pupils with near-perfect attendance.

Rewarding good attendance

To encourage our learners to improve their attendance we are offering a range of weekly and half termly rewards. Canteen queue passes will be offered weekly for 100% attendance and improved attendance. Following on from half termly attendance reviews, we will also be offering vouchers to reward those who have been making progress with attendance over time.

What can you do?

As a parent or carer, you have an important role in making school attendance a priority. Once your child is registered at a school, you are legally responsible for making sure they attend regularly. This means your child should not have any unauthorised absence as this would constitute an offence in law. When attendance doesn't improve after school support you will be contacted by our Education and Welfare Officer, Mrs Emma Chafer.

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There are some things that you can do to help keep attendance on track such as, only keep your child off school when they are genuinely too ill to attend; book medical appointments and holidays outside of school time whenever possible, and talk to your child's Pastoral Manager or Head of Year if you're having difficulties with attendance.

As a school we recognise that some of our learners may encounter additional obstacles. For those experiencing complex barriers to attendance, we aim to work with parents/carers to provide tailored support that meets their specific needs. Please do get in touch if you feel that you and your child need more support with school attendance, by working together we will be able to provide the right support at the right time.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Bishell'.

Mrs A Bishell
Assistant Headteacher