# ATTENDANCE

#### **Objectives:**

- To understand the importance of students attending school regularly.
- To understand what 'good' attendance means.
- To understand the affect that non-attendance can have on an individual student.

### WHY IS GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT?

Good school attendance gives your child the opportunity of success and helps develop Your child should attend school every day unless there is an unavoidable cause such as

Missing school damages a student's learning and grades (Research shows that missing school often leads to a drop in GCSE grades.), disrupts routines and can make children

Students should never miss school for reasons like shopping, birthdays or to wait in for a vulnerable to crime.

Missing school can seriously impair learning and affect life opportunities.

#### WHY DO CHILDREN NEED TO COME SCHOOL?

- $\succ$  To get a good education.
- $\succ$  To learn new and interesting things.
- $\succ$ To develop their social skills.
- $\succ$ To see their friends.
- $\succ$  To get a good job in the future.
- ≻It's the law.
- ≻lťs fun!
- ≻Good school attendance can lead to increased learning and greater achievements in life.



## WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE ?

If your child achieves **90%** in attendance, for one academic year. Would you think that is good?

What does 90% mean?

#### **90% SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY HIGH PERCENTAGE, BUT WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN REAL TERMS?**

90% Attendance = Half a day of learning missed each week through out the academic year!!

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri

#### LET'S LOOKS A LITTLE CLOSER.....

A student who has 90% attendance

- Misses almost 4 weeks of the school year, which equates to over 100 hours of learning.
- Over five years this is the equivalent of about one half of a school year.

#### DAYS OFF SCHOOL ADD UP TO LOST LEARNING



FACT: The more time your child spends in school, the better your child's attainment.

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#### ODD ABSENCES ADD UP AND AFFECT YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS AT SCHOOL



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#### **LESSON SEQUENCING**

Lessons are planned in sequence in order to build understanding. When a lesson (or more) is missed, this can impact on the foundation blocks of learning. Learning can seem confusing and can take longer to embed.

### **A FEW FACTS ON NON-ATTENDANCE**

- Children with poor attendance often have friendship issues.
- Children with poor attendance find it harder to follow a sequence of learning.
- Poor attendance habits can follow through into employment.

Poor school attendance impacts a child's future, not just through their educational achievement but also socially and developmentally.

#### **ATTENDANCE MYTHS**

- 'Absences are only a problem if they are unauthorised'. Authorised absences still affect your child's learning and opportunities in the same way.
- 'Sporadic absences are not a problem in the same way as consecutive ones'. All absences contribute towards a larger issue of poor attendance.
- 'Attendance only matters in the older year groups'. The key stage 3 (years 7,8 and 9) curriculum acts as a foundation for learning in key stage 4 (years 10 and 11). If your child has poor attendance in the lower years, they will be behind their peers when they reach their GCSEs.

#### **AIM HIGHER**



•90% attendance is not as good as it first seems.

•What can you do as a parent to increase your child's attendance?

 $\checkmark$ Establish good habits.

 $\sqrt{Be}$  prepared the night before.

 $\checkmark$ Set a good bedtime routine.

 $\checkmark$ Have a good morning routine.

 $\sqrt{\text{Praise your child.}}$ 

 $\checkmark$ Communicate with your child.

 $\checkmark$ Speak positively about school and learning.

 $\sqrt{\text{Remind your child why attendance is important.}}$ 

ENCOURAGEMEN1

 $\checkmark$  If anything is worrying your child, listen to their worries – acknowledge them, and speak to a member of staff.

 $\checkmark$  If there is a problem, tell school as soon as possible and work together to develop a shared understanding.

We are committed to working in partnership with families to achieve the best possible attendance for your child.

Children should be in school every day they're expected

- We do understand 100% isn't always possible due to a child being unwell
- Nevertheless, full attendance should always be the aim

#### ABSENCES

- There will be times when children are poorly. You know your child best and whether they are well enough to be in school. Please always call 01453842227 or email <u>attendance@klbschool.org.uk</u> before 9am if you are keeping your child at home.
- There are some illnesses that require keeping your child at home e.g., diarrhoea and vomiting (48 hours after the last episode). If you are unsure, please always call the office and we can help.
- Coughs and colds don't usually mean a child needs to be kept at home.
- If your child needs medicine during the school day this can be kept in the medical room in school - A medical consent form needs to be completed for any medication that is to be taken at school (excluding inhalers, auto-injectors/EpiPens and insulin) Only medicines that remain in their original container with clear instructions regarding dosage can be accepted.



#### APPOINTMENTS DURING SCHOOL TIME

Taking children out of school for medical appointments disrupts their learning. Where possible, try to book appointments after school or during the school holidays. When this isn't possible, try to ensure your child is in school for part of the day on the day of their appointment.

#### HOLIDAYS

- Headteachers have no discretion to grant leave of absence during term time unless there are genuinely exceptional circumstances. Without exceptional circumstances, we can not authorise absence for holidays.
- Please take your holidays during the school holidays.
- If you do decide to take a holiday in term time, please complete a leave request form. It is very important that we know where the children are if they are not in school.



#### **ATTEND AND ACHIEVE**



School success starts with attendance

Attendance is directly linked to achievement. Students who attend more get better grades. Department for Education research shows that 17 school days of absence results in all of a student's GCSE grades dropping by one grade. This could be the difference between passing or failing any of their courses. Higher attendance means higher achievement. If your child's grades suffer because of poor attendance, the qualifications they miss out on could have a long term impact on their future.





We want to work with our students, parents

and carers to ensure that every child has access to the full curriculum. We understand that sometimes students struggle to come to school and we will do all we can to support parents/carers to fulfil their role in ensuring regular and punctual school attendance. Katharine Lady Berkeley's school is duty bound to follow Gloucestershire County Council's code of conduct for dealing with absences and, as such, we will refer cases to the LA.