

Our Ref: NAS

March 2022

**ALL PARENTS/CARERS**



Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Attendance**

Can I firstly thank you for your continued support in sending your child to school during these trying times. We understand how difficult it has been to ensure your child receives a regular education whilst also protecting the welfare and safety of your whole family.

After the issues we have experienced over the last few years, we now want to focus on ensuring pupils attend school on a regular basis. I know that you are fully aware the effect poor attendance can have on a pupil's progress, not only from an educational perspective but also developing their communication and social skills. Our role is to make sure we are preparing all of our pupils for their future and ensure every student maintains the best attendance possible.

With this in mind, I would like to bring to your attention the guidelines set out on the Dudley LA website regarding attending school regularly:

1. Absence is proven to have a significant negative impact upon a child's educational attainment and further education. Regular attendance is not only a legal requirement but is essential for children/young people to maximise their educational opportunities.
2. The Education Support Service (ESS) has a legal responsibility to monitor school attendance on behalf of Dudley Borough Council. If a school has a concern about a child's attendance they will refer this to the ESS.
3. By law all children of compulsory school age (between age 5 and 16) must receive a suitable full-time education. Section 444 (1a) of the Education Act 1996 requires children and young people of compulsory school age to regularly attend the school at which they are on roll. It states if 'the parent knows that their child is failing to attend regularly at school without reasonable justification to cause them to do so, they are guilty of an offence'. Upon conviction you may be fined up to £2,500 per parent, per child and/or up to 3 months imprisonment.

4. If you are experiencing difficulty with your child's attendance, behaviour or accessing support to address any additional needs your child has you should always contact your child's school. The school will then work with you to try and resolve any difficulties you have and/or identify appropriate levels of support or refer you for additional support services.
5. You can also contact the service direct if you are concerned about your child's attendance.
6. If you need further information and guidance with relation to Covid-19 and your child's return to full time education, please discuss any concerns with your child's school immediately.

As a school, we do our utmost to support our pupil's welfare and we have pastoral staff who really care. If you feel that you need help, support or guidance to support regular attendance please contact your child's Head of House, the Attendance Officers or myself and we can discuss any specific issues further.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

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**Nick Amos**  
**Behaviour and Welfare Assistant Headteacher**