

Dear Parents/Carers

We are very well aware of the anxieties surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic with regard to school attendance. The school, in line with guidance from Public Health England, have gone to great lengths to make our school a safe environment for both staff and students alike.

However, as part of the move towards "Living with Covid," there are no longer special considerations given to Covid absence on the register. The government has made it perfectly clear that all students should be back in school and have re-instated Section 444 (1A) of the Education Act 1996 which means that it is an offence to keep students out of school without authorised consent from the school itself.

There have been concerns regarding persistent absence (below 90%) of students in schools. The Wirral has found itself in the bottom 25% of the country with regard to this issue. As a consequence, there continues to be a major drive for improvement in attendance in all schools and protocols are in place to help schools to achieve this. Outlined below are the main strategies which we as a school have adopted in order to improve attendance.

- A letter will be sent out requesting a panel meeting as soon as there have been 10 absent sessions (i.e. 5 days absence). **Medical evidence is required for us to authorise any absences. Guidance can be found on the school website**
- Education Penalty Notices will be issued by the local authority if attendance of the student fails to improve.
- No holidays in term time will be authorised. Holidays will be subject to an Education Penalty Notice unless deemed as exceptional circumstances. In such cases, letters should be addressed to the headteacher and a decision will be taken. We will no longer accept Covid related reasons as exceptional circumstances.

We are already aware of a number of students who experience serious long term medical conditions and this is obviously taken into consideration but it is important that the Attendance Team are fully aware of such circumstances.

As a school, we have adopted a whole school approach to improving attendance and your son may be asked about his attendance at any time by his form tutor, subject teachers or members of the senior leadership team. Students returning from absence will also be expected to copy up missed work.

The biggest reward for good attendance is that your son will make good progress and achieve well. To encourage and reward students, there are also a number of rewards and prizes for good attendance. Attendance is also used as criteria for selection on rewards days. The students who perform best in our school are those who attend regularly.

We hope that you will support us in our efforts to get the very best out of your son. If you have any concerns regarding this letter, you should address them to Mrs S Coats or Mrs Sandy Kennedy - The Attendance Team.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Whiteley  
Headteacher

