

THE DIAMOND LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST

Established in the Queen's Jubilee Year 2012

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School Attendance Update 1 – September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Department of Education has issued new guidelines on how schools are to monitor attendance from September 2023. This means Headteacher's will need to challenge absences more.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1073616/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance.pdf

There will be more monitoring of absences, lateness and the associated learning that has been missed. Your child's headteacher might request medical evidence if your child is poorly, or evidence of appointments. Without this, the absence could be unauthorised. The Headteacher's discretion to authorise holidays will also be reduced. We urge you where possible to make appointments outside of school hours.

Your child's attendance percentages are monitored and categorised as below:

98% or above Excellent
95% - 97.9% Good
92% - 94.9% Concerns
Below 91.9% Serious concerns
Below 90% Persistent absentee
Below 50% Severe Absence

90% or below (persistent absentee), equates to one day absent per fortnight, or 20 days absent in a year or 1 term missed over 5 years. This adds up to an extremely large amount of work missed and means that continuity of learning is very difficult, if not impossible.

I must remind you that as parent(s) it is your legal responsibility, as stated under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, to ensure that your child attends the school at which he/she is registered, regularly and punctually. Failure to do so may result in a Penalty Notice being issued against you and/or legal proceedings being considered.

**Your child only need to be absent for 8 session in an 8 week period for this to apply.
Or take an unauthorised term time holiday for 3 days or more.**

When your child returned on 5th September 2023, their attendance was 100%. Please do all you can to ensure that this % remains as close to 100% as possible. If your child is going to be absent for any reason then please contact your school office before 9am.



Kind regards,
Susannah Connell - CEO