SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

The **Sutton** Academy

Issue 11 - April 2024

Attendance Matters

at The Sutton Academy

Regular attendance at school ensures that children get the best possible start in life. Good attendance supports learning, the development of social skills and friendships, as well as building good habits that are essential for adult life.

At The Sutton Academy we aim for at least 96% attendance

Good attendance is important because:

- Statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and absence below 95%
- Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically
- Regular attenders find school routines, school work and friendships easier to cope with
- Regular attenders find learning more satisfying
- Regular attenders are more successful in transferring between primary school, secondary school, and higher education, employment or training.
- There are only 190 directed teaching days allocated to an academic year. This highlights there are 175 days where students are not in school. Please arrange any appointments etc during these days if possible.

Understanding different types of absence

Every half day absence from school has to be classified by the school (not by parents), as either AUTHORISED or UNAUTHOR-ISED. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required and it is a legal requirement. If we are unaware of the reason for your child's absence it will be recorded as unauthorised. Authorised absences mornings or afternoons away from school for a good reason like illness, medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time (e.g. hospital or orthodontist appointments), emergencies

or other unavoidable cause.

Unauthorised absences are those which the school and Trustees, following Government guidelines, do not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been given. This type of absence lead to the Local Authority (Educational Service) Welfare using sanctions and / or legal proceedings including penalty notices and fines.

Unauthorised absence includes:

Parents / carers keeping children off school unnecessarily e.g. because they had a late night or for

Our role in improving attendance:

Aspire to high standards of attendance from all pupils and parents and build a culture when all can, and want to, be in school and ready to learn by prioritising attendance improvement across the school.

MONITOR

Rigorously use attendance data to identify patterns of poor attendance (at individual and cohort level) as soon as possible so all parties can work together to resolve them before they become entrenched.

LISTEN AND UNDERSTAND

When a pattern is spotted, discuss with pupils and parents to listen to understand barriers to attendance and agree how all partners can work together to resolve them.

FACILITATE SUPPORT

Remove barriers in school and help pupils and parents to access the support they need to overcome the barriers outside of school. This might include an early help or whole family plan where absence is a symptom of wider issues.

FORMALISE SUPPORT

Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, partners should work together to explain the consequences clearly and ensure support is also in place to enable families to respond. Depending on the circumstances this may include formalising support through a parenting contract or education supervision order.



ENFORCE

Where all other avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or not being engaged with, enforce attendance through statutory intervention or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education.

	Threshold	Actual	Whole Days	Learning
Description	Attendance	Attendance	Absent	Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 Days	0	0
	99%	188 Days	2	10
Good	98%	186 Days	4	20
	97%	184 Days	6	30
Satisfactory	96%	182.5 Days	7.5	37.5
Cause for	95%	180.5 Days	9.5	47.5
Concern	94%	178.5 Days	11.5	57.5
	93%	176.5 Days	13.5	67.5
	92%	174.5 Days	15.5	77.5
Unsatisfactory	91%	173 Days	17	85
Serious Cause	90%	171 Days	19	95
for Concern	999	169 Days	21	105
	88%	167 Days	23	115
	67%	165.5 Days	25	125
	16%	163.5 Days	26.5	132.5
Critical	1155	161.5 Days	28.5	142.5

non-infectious illness or injury that would not affect their ability to learn.

- Truancy during the school day.
- Absences which have never been properly explained.
- Shopping trips.
- Looking after other children or children accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments.
- Their own or family birthdays.
- Day trips.
- Holidays in term time.

Holidays in Term Time

There is no entitlement in law for pupils to take time off during the term to go on holiday. Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'.

It is important for parents / carers to be aware that while decisions will be made on a case by case basis, requests will normally be refused.

As always, if your child needs any advice or support please contact the Safeguarding Team or Year Team.



