



## **Dial Park Primary School** **Attendance Policy**

Excellent attendance and being on time every day is vital. Research has proven that even short breaks from school can reduce chances of succeeding by as much as a quarter. It shows where pupils miss up to just 14 days of school they are significantly less likely to achieve the required level or above in reading, writing or maths tests than those with no absence.

The research also highlights the striking differences in achievement between pupils with the best and worst attendance records. It shows:

- pupils with the lowest 5% of absence rates were more than 4 times more likely to achieve 5 good GCSEs, including English and maths, and 22 times more likely to achieve the English Baccalaureate, than pupils with the highest 5% of absence rates
- pupils with no absence from school were nearly 3 times more likely to achieve 5 A\* to C GCSEs, including English and maths, and around 10 times more likely to achieve the English Baccalaureate, than pupils missing 15 to 20% of school across key stage 4
- And, most relevant to us, primary school pupils with no absence were around 1.5 times more likely to achieve the expected level of attainment, and 4.5 times more likely to exceed the expected level of attainment, than pupils that missed 15 to 20% of key stage 2

The government's plan for education includes a number of reforms to encourage good behaviour and attendance in school, including:

- changing the law so that headteachers only grant leave from school in exceptional circumstances
- encouraging schools to tackle the problem of persistent absence earlier by reducing the threshold by which absence is defined as persistent from 20% to 15% from October 2011.
- making clear teachers can use 'reasonable force' to maintain behaviour and extending their searching powers from 2011

As a school we do the following to promote excellent attendance:

1. Provide an environment where our values are lived so that children feel nurtured, welcomed and excited about coming to school. We also provide

food, warmth, clothing and anything else children may need which might be a barrier to them wanting to attend school. This may also be in the form of sanitary products or quiet spaces to work or worship. All of these pastoral and curriculum areas are central to being a part of Dial Park Primary School.

2. Have a Senior Attendance Champion (James Clark, Headteacher) who is a part of the leadership team.
3. Closely monitor attendance patterns and intervene before they become persistent absence through working with families to remove the barriers to poor attendance. This may take the form of home visits where the teacher and teacher and pastoral / attendance lead come to a families home to discuss ways in which attendance can be improved. This currently happens for every class around 3 times per year. It as paused during covid but resumed when the pandemic reduced.
4. Work closely with local partners such as Neighbourhood Hubs and school age family plus workers to identify where families need additional support. We then work with these families to ensure outcomes that improve attendance.
5. Have robust systems for encouraging good attendance which track attendance in the moment, day to day, every day.
6. Closely monitor the attendance of children from families that are more vulnerable / disadvantaged.
7. Inform the linked social worker if a child has an unexplained absence from school.
8. Work with the LA to formalise support where voluntary support has not been effective through the se of parenting contracts or other forms of legal intervention.
9. Attend targeting support meetings with our education welfare officer to ensure growing and persistent is monitored and effective action taken.
10. Have a leadership team and governing body that monitor and address with rigour, any attendance issues which might be detrimental to a childs learning, progress and most importantly safety.

As a consequence of this, we are unable to authorise any holidays during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

We follow the regulations as set out by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council. You can view them [here](#). If you wish to request a leave of absence, please speak to Mrs Smith or Mrs Atkinson in the office or to our pastoral teacher Mrs Johnson.

**We would strongly recommend that you do this before planning any leave of absence.** You will then be given a "request for exceptional leave" form. This request should be made by the parent or carer with whom the child lives. This is the case even where it is another person who wishes to take the child out of school. You will then receive a reply from the headteacher within a 14 days, which will dictate whether your request has been authorised or unauthorised.

If the absence hasn't been authorised, but you remove your child from school, the absences will be marked in the school register as unauthorised absences. This may result in fixed penalty fines of £60 (rising to £120) per parent, per child being issued by the Local Authority. In some cases, parents may be prosecuted for the offence

of failure to ensure regular school attendance. These guidelines are issued by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council. <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/attendance-at-school>

All of the above ensures that our children are safe, happy and attending school every day.