

Wednesday 19 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We write on behalf of Kingsnorth CE Primary School to give you the most up to date information with regards to changes in expectation from the Department for Education (DfE)

As many of you will be aware, during the summer term there was some press coverage about absence and lateness during term time. The document, '[Working together to Improve School Attendance](#)' released by the DfE applies from September 2022 and reads as:

"Only exceptional circumstances warrant a leave of absence... As head teachers should only grant leaves of absence in exceptional circumstances it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday. "

"Fixed penalty notices can be used by all schools where the pupil's absence has not been authorised by the school and the absence constitutes an offence." Any penalties are paid to KCC and do not come into school.

Our school expectation is, as per our policy, 100% attendance unless there is a genuine unavoidable reason. The policy goes on to say:

"We believe that regular attendance is the key to enabling children to gain the greatest benefit from their education and reach their full potential. Regular attendance is defined as attending school on time every day when the school is open, unless there is an unavoidable reason for not doing so."

In line with the DfE and Ofsted expectations, the school works very hard to ensure that our attendance levels are as high as possible. It is not possible to support children and their learning if they are not in school, in their classrooms, engaged in their learning. This is supported by our Home-School Agreement – please see attached.

95% attendance, means two weeks out of school and two weeks of lost learning. This significantly reduces the chances of achieving academic potential and in many cases unsettles children beyond just the absence in being able to re-establish routines.

Of course absence is far more than just a 'holiday', it is more likely that illness or lateness causes children to miss time in the classroom. We would warmly encourage all parents to continue to work with us to ensure that children are at school where ever it is reasonably possible.

We will challenge illness and poor attendance where a child is persistently absent, there has already been 10 or more sessions absence in the current school year or when it is considered that the explanation is unjustified or unreasonable.

Lateness, can often cause anxiety and worries in children as they may miss the beginning of the day, a crucial time for regulating children and establishing a calm start to the school day.

The timetable for the beginning of the school day is:

8:40am – Gates open

8:45am – Classroom doors open

8:50am – Gates close – please enter via the school office after 8:50am

8:55am – Register closes – marked late after this point.

We hope that you can continue to support the school in our drive for improvement and work with us for the benefit of your children.

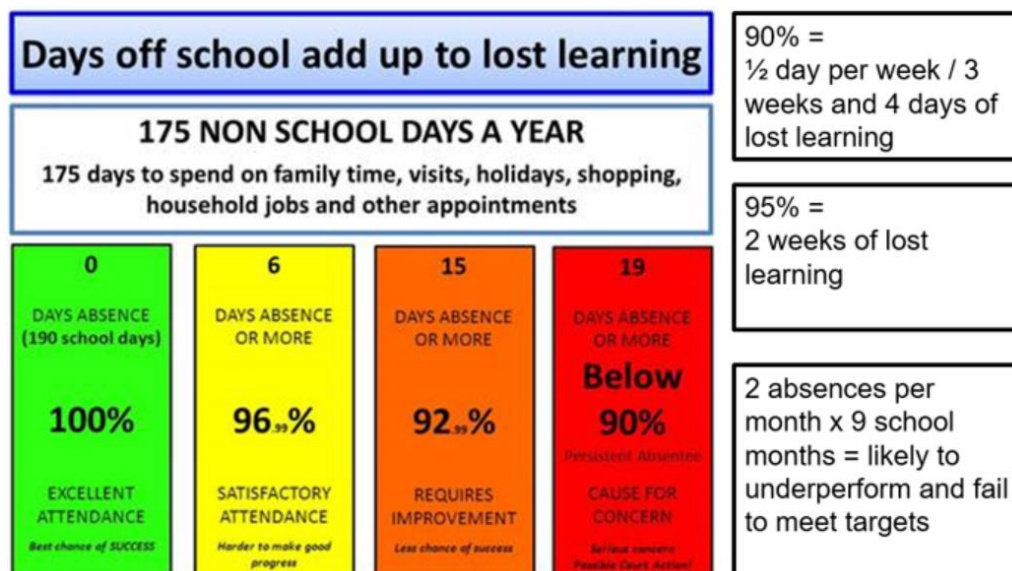
If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mr I Witts

Mr C Myers

Graphics showing the impact of Absence and Lateness



PUNCTUALITY DATA

