

Brampton Village Primary School,
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Headteacher: Mr Peter Allen



School Attendance

July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

This year our attendance rate is 94.1.% which is broadly in line with the national figure. The Department for Education has issued new statutory guidance for attendance called *Working Together to Improve School Attendance* which comes into effect on the 19th August 2024. It includes some important changes and outlines what schools, parents and Local Authorities should do to improve pupils' attendance at school.

Schools are legally obliged to provide support and intervention for pupils who are at risk of persistent absence (90% attendance or below) and this will take the form of meetings with parents, school-based interventions, and the offer of support from outside agencies and professionals. Schools are very keen to identify the barriers to attendance that families face and will welcome opportunities to overcome these barriers together. However, when a child's attendance falls outside of the parental legal obligations to send their child to school, there are legal pathways that must be followed.

Term Time Leave

If a pupil takes unauthorised term time leave for 10 consecutive sessions or more (generally 5 days) they will be subject to a penalty notice. Under the new guidance the fine for a penalty notice is increasing to £80 per parent, per child, and this increases for further offences. These fines will apply to term time leave taken after 19th August 2024. The school will be requesting penalty notices from September 2024.

Irregular School Attendance Over Time

If a parent is willing to support their child and the school in improving school attendance, and engage with school to achieve this, an *Attendance Contract* will be offered. This is a way of school and parents working together to improve attendance in a supportive way. If a parent is not engaging with any offers of support from school, and attendance continues to decline, the school may use a different method of support, called a *Notice to Improve*. This is a last effort to engage parents before legal sanctions are considered.

If these attempts at formal support fail, and a pupil's attendance continues to be a concern, the school will make a referral to the Local Authority for legal sanctions to be considered. If a pupil has unauthorised absences for ten sessions or more in a 10-week period, the school may refer a parent for a penalty notice.

Requests for Absence

Requests for absence should be made by parents in line with the school's Attendance Policy. This will be in written form with the date of the proposed absence and as much detail as possible about the reason for the absence. As is currently the case, Headteachers may still only authorise absence that they consider to be an unavoidable and exceptional circumstance. The school will reply to parents to advise them whether the absence will be authorised or not.

Attendance Policies

Our Attendance policy will be updated to reflect these changes in time for next term. However, please accept this information as prior notice of the changes which will come into effect from the start of the school academic year in schools.

Learning

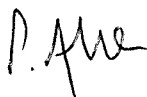
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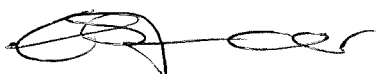
Good attendance and punctuality are vital for success at school, and to establish positive life habits that are necessary for future success. The school requires all children to attend regularly and we aim to support you to achieve this. If you have any issues with your child's school attendance we would encourage you to discuss this with your child's teacher, Our Child and Family Worker Mrs Shears, or the Head Teacher, all of whom can offer support and advice.

We appreciate your support and will keep you updated of any changes but if you have any questions or concerns please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Allen
Headteacher



Emma Spencer
Chair of Governors