



Ryhope Infant School Academy
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Headteacher: Mrs T Allen

13 October 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I appreciate we have had a few bugs going around school since the return however I am greatly concerned regarding our attendance.

We have had an email regarding attendance from the new Secretary of State which states...

'As the new Secretary of State for Education has made clear, young people regularly attending school is a national priority and is important for their education, wellbeing, and long-term development. Attendance continues to be mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and schools should communicate clear and consistent expectations about attendance.'

At Ryhope Infant School Academy, we believe that good attendance and punctuality are important in helping pupils achieve the best that they can be. Pupils should be at school on time dressed in accordance with the school uniform policy, and ready to learn, every day the school is open, unless the reason for absence is unavoidable.

A pupil becomes a 'persistent absentee' when they miss 10% or more schooling across the school year for whatever reason. Absence at this level is doing considerable damage to any child's education and we need parents' full support and co-operation to tackle this. We monitor all absence and the reasons given thoroughly. Any case that is seen to have reached the PA mark or is at risk of moving towards that mark is given priority and we will inform the parents/carers immediately. Parents of pupils who are persistently absent are at risk of being fined.

I am monitoring attendance very closely and will be sending letters home to parents of pupils whose attendance is of concern.

Our children need to be in school. We would always send a child home if we felt they were not well enough to be in school but our children have missed enough education in the last 2 years and having more time off is only doing further damage.

Please support us to improve attendance across the whole school.

Kind regards

Mrs T Allen, Headteacher

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Days off school add up to lost learning

365 DAYS
IN EACH
YEAR

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS IN A YEAR				
To spend on holidays, visits and other appointments.				
190 DAYS OF EDUCATION	184 DAYS OF EDUCATION	180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	175 DAYS OF EDUCATION	171 OR LESS DAYS OF EDUCATION
100%	Above 97%	95%	92%	90% and below
Pupils in this group will almost certainly get the best grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future. Pupils will also get into a habit of attending school which will help in the future.		Pupils in this group are likely to achieve good grades and form a habit of attending school regularly. Pupils who take a 10 days holiday during term time every year can only ever achieve 95% attendance.	Pupils in this group are missing three weeks of school per year; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best. The school may consider referring pupils with this level of attendance to Sunderland Local Authority	The Government classifies pupil's in this group as "Persistent Absentees" and it will be almost impossible them to keep up with work. Parents of pupil's in this group could also face the possibility of legal action being taken by Sunderland Local Authority.

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