



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School

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Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

Dear Parent/Carers

Thank you to all of you who fully support us with your children's attendance, however we need everyone's support to ensure that our schools' attendance and punctuality is improved. The impact upon children's education through lost learning is huge. At a time when so much education has been disrupted through COVID, it is vital that we make every school minute count. I urge you to ensure that your child is in school and on time every day to prevent anyone falling behind with their learning.

Persistent cases where poor attendance and punctuality do not improve can be considered to be neglect.

Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is **persistent absence** which will be closely monitored by school staff. Failing to improve on this 90% can lead to prosecution, which school want to help families avoid.

Currently, the number of children who are considered persistent absentees is 47 pupils. This number is well above the national average and I am sure you will agree this is not acceptable.

From January we will tighten our procedures and work more closely with the local authority to improve attendance across school. The local authority will be contacting families where school strategies are not having enough impact on a child's attendance.

There are things you can do to improve your child's attendance and avoid falling into the persistent absence category:

- If your child is unwell and you are unsure whether to send them to school, contact the office to seek advice on 0191 5862264
- **Avoid taking any holidays during term times (these will not be authorised and lead to fines)**
- Keep up to date with what % attendance your child has so that you know if they are at risk of persistent absence (the office staff will provide this for you)
- Speak to school staff-particularly Mrs Myhill or Mrs Sutherland with any concerns and we will support you in any way we can getting your child to school.
- Talk to your child about the importance of them being in school and let them know how important **you** feel it is..

Punctuality is also highly important. Pupils who arrive late to school are not only losing learning but also disrupting the learning of others as they arrive late for lessons. Pupils do not like being late into school and we witness every day how upsetting it can be for them. We want to prevent this.

We want to help families get their child to school on time. Here are some things you can try:

- Have everything you/your child needs for school prepared the night before
- Ensure that your child goes to bed at a reasonable time so they are not too tired to get up in the morning
- Ensure your child has a good night's sleep by minimising their use of electronic devices at bed time.
- Have a consistent bedtime routine for your child
- Set an alarm to allow plenty of time for your morning routine in getting to school on time
- Bring your child to breakfast club (7:45am – 8.45am)

Finally, if you would like to discuss any concerns you have regarding your child's attendance, or punctuality to school, please contact the school. Thank you for your support. We hope we can make improvements to attendance and punctuality.

Mrs M Graham

Mrs C Sutherland

Mrs K Myhill

Executive Headteacher

Head of School

Child Wellbeing Lead