

Priority: The % attendance for children at the school increases further.

Why is this a priority for us?

The school has been working hard to improve the overall levels of school attendance for a number of years. Our main focus has been to address levels of attendance which have been below the average attendance levels achieved nationally (approximately 96%), and to ensure that we remain below national % for persistent absence measures.

A key area of concern for us is term-time holidays as a significant % of our pupils have had time away from school for this reason.

What impact is this having?

Over the last few years, our close monitoring of, and targeted action towards, improving individual attendance rates has helped us to achieve a steady improvement in attendance for the school overall.

Across the Autumn and Spring terms of 2019 - 2020, average attendance was in line with national averages except for two weeks in December when attendance dipped significantly due to a flu-type virus and a stomach bug which affected a large proportion of pupils.

We are affected by families taking unauthorised holidays in term time.

What are we doing?

The school **closely monitors** whole school, individual and group attendance on a daily basis. This information is used to inform our intervention strategy.

As a whole school, we publish a weekly **Attendance League** in our Friday News; this is also displayed in the hall. The class with the highest attendance wins a 'free playtime'.

We **band attendance into Gold (98%+), Silver (97-98%) and Bronze (95-96%)** levels - all children who achieve these bands by the end of the year receive an Attendance Certificate, a Book Bank Cheque and entry into the Attendance Prize Draw.

Using the regular monitoring of individual attendance, we issue **letters to parents** where the overall attendance level or the percentage of broken weeks is a concern. This letter is designed to have minimal text and clear graphical images showing our concerns relative to the national picture and the financial cost of the education which has been missed. This letter will invite the parent in to **discuss our concerns** with Mrs Daylak or Mr Higgs.

We buy in a support package and use this to pursue individual case concerns where our in-house actions have not been successful in achieving positive changes.

We have introduced fines for term-time holidays, following a consultation with parents and governors.