



Higham Lane School

Helping Learners Succeed

Headteacher: Mr Michael Gannon, BSc (Hons), PGCE, MEd, NPQH

Ref: Attendance- Government Guidance and Support

Dear parent/carer,

We would like to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break and hope you and your families are well at this time.

We are writing to all parents/carers to share the most recent government guidance on how parents/carers can support their child's attendance. We have provided a summary of the guidance below and a link to the full document: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/03/improving-school-attendance/>

Summary-How to improve your child's school attendance and where to get support?

What if my child is too ill to go to school?

It's usually safe for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild illnesses, like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should stay at home if they have a high temperature of 38C or above. The NHS has published guidance to help parents and carers decide whether their child is well enough to attend school, including information on a range of common childhood illnesses and conditions <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

What does it mean if a child is persistently or severely absent?

Children that regularly fail to attend school are officially referred to as being 'persistently' or 'severely' absent. The school day is split into two sessions – one session counts as a morning or afternoon spent in school. Pupils who have missed more than 10 percent of school sessions are considered persistently absent, while children who have missed more than 50 percent of school sessions are referred to as severely absent.

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts campaign

The government have recently launched a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of school attendance, to highlight the benefits beyond just attainment, such as friendships and wellbeing. **The campaign is targeted at preventable odd days of absence – or "avoidable absence" linked to coughs and colds and mild anxiety.** Further information about the campaign via the link below:

<https://dfegovukassets.blob.core.windows.net/assets/Attendance%20campaign/Attendance%20campaign%20communications%20toolkit%20for%20schools.pdf>

At Higham Lane School **our whole school attendance target is 96%**; however, we do understand that this is a challenge for some students. Therefore, the school offers a variety of support to students that may have barriers to attending school. If your child is struggling with their attendance please contact your child's Progress Leader via email at contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk or call 0247638 8123 to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Williams
Assistant Headteacher- Attendance & Behaviour