

Stanbridge Lower School



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Dear Parents/Guardians

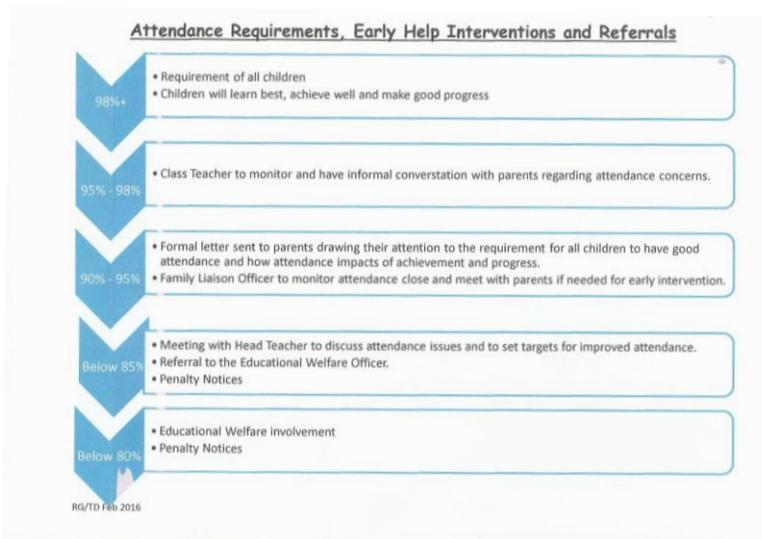
Attendance

As you are aware last year we had a very successful OFSTED inspection. After each inspection we are set points to develop across the whole school. One of the points for development focused on raising the attendance of children. There are many children who don't meet our required standard of attendance and school policies detailing procedures to improve attendance are always followed. These include

- Tracking of school attendance by the Family Liaison Officer
- The Head Teacher reviewing attendance of children who fall below 98%
- Issuing Fixed Penalty Notices to parents whose children have more than 10 absences in 12 weeks. This results in a £60 fine, per parent, per child
- Issuing Fixed Penalty Notices to parents who take their children out of school in term time where special circumstances are not apparent. This results in a £60 fine, per parent, per child
- Attendance meetings with the Head Teacher and Educational Welfare Officer with parents to set agreed actions to raise attendance
- Asking for medical evidence from the doctors when children are absent due to illness
- Forwarding all cases of poor attendance to the Educational Welfare Officer who will pursue the case which could lead to parents being fined further and imprisoned.

What is our Expectation About Attendance?

If your child's attendance falls below 95% you will receive a formal letter from the Head Teacher with your child's Attendance Summary and you will be asked to meet with the Family Liaison Officer to discuss how this can be improved. In all circumstances where attendance falls below 85% parents will be asked to meet with the Head Teacher, cases will be referred to the Educational Welfare Officer and Fixed Penalty notices will be issued if there are persistent unexplained absences. Please see the chart below. This can be found on our website.



"We believe in our children"



Does Regular Attendance Impact on Attainment and Progress?

Yes. Children who attend school achieve more and make greater progress. The expectation at Stanbridge is that all children should have 98%+ attendance across the year. This will ensure all children achieve the expected or exceeding level of development within the National Curriculum. They will achieve their age related expectations within each year group and possibly more.

Information and Advice for Parents

As parents you will interested to note that your child only has to miss approximately 4 days of school across the autumn term for your child's attendance to fall below the 95% threshold. This can be significantly improved by good attendance across the rest of the terms.

If your child has a sickness bug they must not attend school for 48 hrs from the last bout of sickness. If your child has a cold, cough, or other minor illness they should attend school as normal, however please inform us of your child's needs so their day can be adjusted accordingly.

We want to educate your children and we want to do the best we can for them. Please have the same expectation and ensure your child's attendance is maintained across the year. So with this in mind we will be sending home letters to parents if their child's attendance has fallen below 95% next week.

Yours sincerely

R J GODWIN
Head Teacher



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