

# Dalkeith Associated Schools Group



Friday 27 August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

## Attendance

We have agreed that in session 2024-25 we will focus on doing all we can to improve the attendance levels in our schools as much as we can. To do that we need your help!

As Head Teachers across our Associated Schools Group we have taken the decision to send a consistent letter to all our parents/carers. This is because we are all worried about the level of attendance of too many of our children and young people in all our schools. We have agreed that in 2024-25 we'll focus on doing all we can to improve the attendance levels in our schools.

We wanted to be clear about the link between attendance and achievement in all our schools. The attached infographic/poster makes clear how much learning is missed as a result of absence or late coming. Please take the time to look at it. All schools have agreed to use and display it as part of our work to improve attendance.

There may of course be a very good reason for any absence/s, and your school may already be aware. In order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils it is crucial that parents/carers inform the school directly if a pupil is going to be absent for any reason. Each school is happy to discuss any issue that may be causing absences as well as any aspect of your child's progress - please contact your school through their usual methods to do this.

Holidays taken outwith the school holidays will usually be recorded as unauthorised absences.

Our collective aim is for all our children and young people to be in school, in class, on time and maximising their opportunities to learn and achieve success. I would be grateful if you would discuss these with your child, underlining the importance of positive habits and routines around attendance and timekeeping.

Our expectation is that all children and young people should aim for an attendance level of 95% or above. This is the level of attendance where they are most likely to thrive in all aspects of school life.

In an exam, we'd probably be delighted with a score of 80%. However, in attendance terms this would

mean 38 missed days over the year. This is the equivalent to one day per week. 95% attendance for a school year still allows for 10 days off. For the vast majority of children and young people this is achievable. Put simply, attendance below 95% impacts on overall levels of attainment and achievement. Children and young people need to attend in order to achieve!

As you will see from the attached infographic lateness has a significant impact on attendance. Each school monitors lateness closely and will inform you when late-coming becomes a concern.

Our collective commitment as Head Teachers, is to make sure we all do what we can to improve the attendance of children and young people in all our schools. We believe that there is a strong link between positive attendance and our children and young people doing well.

Yours sincerely



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Jane Minelly

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