



## **School Attendance**

We would like to ask that all parent/carers consider the following 3 areas:-

### **1 Holidays during term time**

From September 2013, a change to the government legislation means that the Headteacher is no longer allowed to authorise requests for children to be taken out of school for a holiday, during term time. Requests for leave can only be granted by school Governors if there are exceptional circumstances (holidays are not considered exceptional).

In the first instance, a Holiday Request form must be completed and sent to the Headteacher. If you feel the absence is an exceptional circumstance and you would like the Governors to look at your request, you would need to submit a covering letter, giving more information. Your request will then be presented to the Governors at the next Governor meeting.

### **2 Sickness**

When your child is unwell, it can be hard deciding whether to keep them off school. The advice of the following link should help you consider whether they should attend or not. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>

### **3 Snow Days**

Living in Queensbury it is inevitable that during the winter months, it can be more difficult to travel to school. School does all it can to ensure that we remain open as normal during these times. Please make every effort to ensure that if school is open that your child is able to attend. If it is going to be difficult to make your normal journey, please consider alternatives or why not ask parents of other children in your immediate area to share the burden of the journey.

Whilst school has targets to maintain on attendance, we do not feel that it is essential that parent/carers and pupils are focused on these targets, as this is the school's concern. What we would like you to focus on is your own child's attendance and the impact this can have. As a parent/carer you clearly want the best for your children and regular attendance at school is vital to help children achieve and get the best possible start in life.

### **The facts about school attendance**

Did you know that: a child who is absent a day of school per week misses the equivalent of a whole term of school throughout their entire school life.

Secondary school may seem a long way off for you and your child, but all absence at any stage in school leads to gaps in your child's learning. This in turn can:

- Mean that they fall behind in work
- Affect their motivation
- Affect their enjoyment of learning
- Lead to poor behaviour
- Affect their desire to attend school regularly
- Affect their confidence in school
- They miss out on the social life of school and extra-curricular opportunities and experiences
- Affect their ability to have or keep friendships

If you want to read more, please follow the link below:-

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/the-link-between-absence-and-attainment-at-ks2-and-ks4>

### **Social Media**

If you have any concerns about school please refrain from discussing your concerns on social media. The discussions on social media are often counter productive as they display your child's school in a poor light and in a very public way. Whilst we understand that at times you may disagree with a school decision or feel the need to complain, we would urge you to speak to someone in person. Both staff at school and the Governors are a very friendly, approachable bunch of people. Misunderstanding can usually be cleared up and everyone benefits from the speedy resolution of difficulties. Suggestions for improvement are always welcomed.

If you have a concern or complaint, you should contact the appropriate member of staff. This may be the class teacher in the first instance. If you do not feel the matter is resolved, you should contact a senior leader in school. If your complaint is still not resolved, you should put your complaint (in writing) to the Chair of Governors, as per our complaint policy.

Thank you for your continued support.

Board of Governors