



## Edmondsley Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs A Rees  
Deputy Head: Mrs V Wood

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents,

### Attendance in School

I am sure everyone will agree that attendance in school is important and has a direct correlation to academic performance.

Information provided from the DFE states the following,

*The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment.*

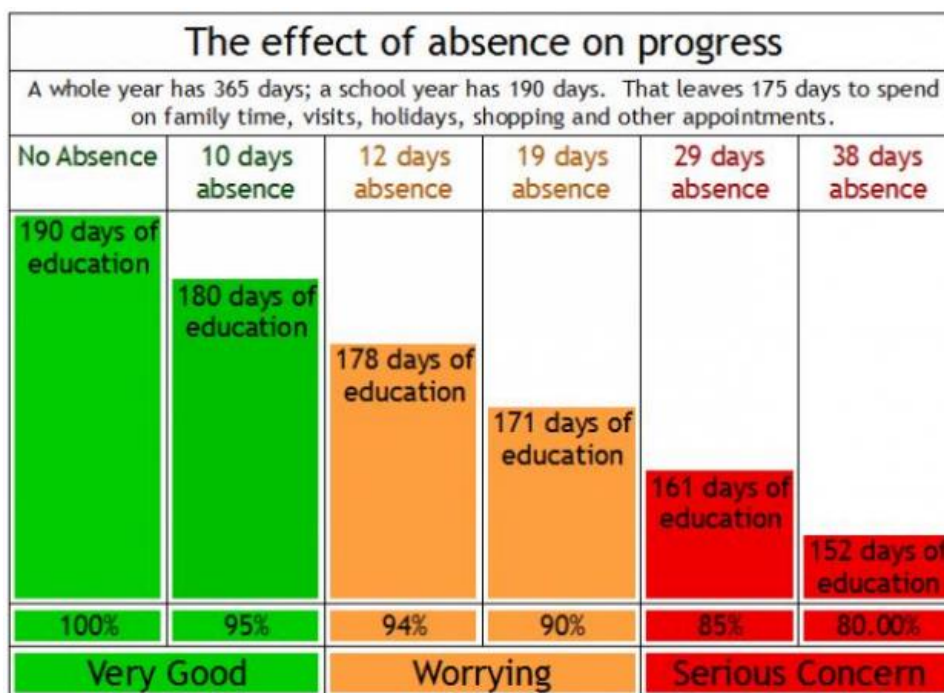
*KS2, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard. Moreover, the overall absence rate of pupils not meeting the expected standard was higher than among those meeting the higher standard (4.7% compared to 2.7%).*

*The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school. (DFE Working together to improve attendance 2022)*

There will be a greater focus on pupils' attendance in schools, starting from September 2022. As Edmondsley is a Maintained Durham Local Authority School, we have support available to us to help remove any barriers to attendance.

Where absence escalates and pupils miss 10% or more of school (equivalent to 1 day or more a fortnight across a full school year), school will work with the local authority to put additional targeted support in place.

If your child misses	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of school that's...
1 day a fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 Years
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years



Please see the diagrams below for further information.

Where all voluntary support options are unsuccessful or are not appropriate, the local authority's school Attendance Support Team will liaise with school and the early help lead practitioner or social worker (where applicable) to take forward attendance legal intervention in line with section 5 to formalise support and/or enforce attendance.

#### Leave of Absence.

Only exceptional circumstances warrant a leave of absence. Head Teachers have been instructed to only grant leaves of absence in exceptional circumstances. It is very unlikely leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday.

All Leave of Absence requests which have been received in school for the start of the new academic year will be honoured.

#### Previous overall attendance rates at our school

Governors and Senior Leaders set a whole school target of 96%

Academic Year 2018 - 2019	95.1%
Academic Year 2020 – 2021 (Covid closures taken into account)	92%
Academic Year 2021 – 2022	93.2%

#### School start and finish times in September 2022

	Start time	End time
Nursery *	8:45	3:00
Reception	8:45	3:00
Year 1 and Year 2	8:50	3:10
Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	9:00	3:20

\*Wednesday morning session finishes at 11:45.

\*Wednesday afternoon session begins at 11:45

The top school gate will close at 9:05 promptly. Please use the lower pedestrian gate if you are late and report to the Reception.

Our Governing Body will be reviewing our Attendance Policy in the Autumn Term to reflect Government changes. This will be shared with you once this has been completed.

Best wishes  
Mrs Angela Rees  
Head Teacher

**Effective school attendance improvement and management**

**PREVENTION** of poor attendance through good whole school attendance management

**ALL PUPILS** Developing good attendance patterns through effective whole school approach to attendance (including leadership, ethos and systems and processes)

**PUPILS AT RISK OF POOR ATTENDANCE** Using attendance and absence data rigorously to support pupils with increasing levels of absence, arriving at school late or taking leave in term time without permission before it becomes a regular pattern

**EARLY INTERVENTION** to reduce absence before it becomes habitual

**PUPILS WITH POOR ATTENDANCE** Intervening as early as possible and agreeing an action plan for pupils with high levels of absence and those demonstrating growing disengagement with school

**TARGETED** reengagement of persistent and severely absent pupils

**PERSISTANTLY AND SEVERELY ABSENT PUPILS** Put additional targeted support in place, where necessary working with partners, and agree a joint approach with local authorities for all severely absent pupils

**Attendance Legal Intervention**

**VOLUNTARY SUPPORT**

Helping parents to access services of their own accord and/or a voluntary whole family plan to tackle the barriers to attendance

**FORMAL SUPPORT**

A formal parenting contract agreed by the pupil, parent, school and/or local authority

Progressing to a legally binding Education Supervision Order in the Family Court if there is non-engagement and deemed necessary

**STATUTORY CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE INVOLVEMENT**

Where there are safeguarding concerns and an Education Supervision Order is not appropriate or has not been successful the case should be considered for s.17 or s.47 statutory social care involvement

**ATTENDANCE PROSECUTION**

Where all other routes have failed or are not deemed appropriate, the case should be considered for attendance prosecution in the Magistrates Court (or a FPN for irregular attendance)

