



Dear Parent Carer,

Attendance

Meden School is working in partnership with parents and Nottinghamshire County Council to ensure strong attendance to school this academic year. We would like to thank parents for the work you have done in supporting us so far this year. This half term we would like to build on this to improve attendance and thus the life chances of all Meden pupils.

As a school we believe it is vital for all children to sustain an attendance record as close to 100% as possible. This will maximise their life chances and choices beyond education and promote a healthy wellbeing. We know, as a result of the pandemic, that children have missed being with their friends and the wider social aspects of school. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school.

It is important to remind you of the usual rules on school attendance, which include:

- Parents' duty to send their child to school regularly where they are of compulsory school age.
- Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.
- The availability of local authorities to use legal sanctions, including penalty notices and prosecution in court.

To ensure your child can fully engage in their education it is vital that they have sustained and unbroken attendance. Even one day off in a week can lead to them missing vital learning and development time. While one day absence may seem, small these can soon mount up and lead to significant loss of learning time. If you are considering keeping your child off, please consider if it is a serious illness or situation. Minor ailments and injuries don't need to prevent your child from coming to school. If we know of any issues we will look after and support your child.

In addition, this is not the time to take your child out of school for a family holiday or other term time leave. It is unlikely that any leave will be authorised by the Headteacher after so much enforced absence from school. The more your child is in school, the more they will catch up.

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After so much disruption to your child/ren's education, the most important thing is that the school and parents work together to ensure that all children have amazing attendance so they can maximise both their learning and later life chances.

There is a picture below to show how absences from school can soon mount up. It is important to remember that while 90% might seem like good attendance it actually amounts to 19 days absent from school in a year and can lead to your child achieving one grade less than expected in their GCSEs.

Yours faithfully,



David Penman
Assistant Headteacher Behaviour and Standards

