



09 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to write to you about the importance of attendance.

Meden School is working in partnership with parents/carers and Nottinghamshire County Council to encourage children back into school following several very difficult months for parents and schools. We would like to thank parents for the work you have done in ensuring your children have received an education during the difficult start to 2021.

Now the circumstances have changed, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development. We know that children have missed being with their friends and the wider social aspects of school. Missing out on more time in the classroom puts pupils at risk of falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school.

At this time, it is important to remind you of the usual rules on school attendance, including:

- Parents/carers of compulsory school age children have a duty to send their child to school regularly;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence, that is accessible to local authorities to use legal sanctions, including penalty notices and prosecution in court.

If you are worried about your child attending school, the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with the school directly. The school has specialist staff who can help, and all schools work closely with health and council teams who may also be able to help if needed.

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 do not need to prevent your child from coming to school. If we know of any issues we will look after and support your child. From half term we will be conducting return to school drop ins with students who have been absent for minor ailments/concerns.

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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.

Family emergencies need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members.

No school or local authority wants to take legal action, and every attempt to resolve parents' concerns and improve a child's attendance will be made before any formal action is considered.

After so much disruption to your child/ren's education over recent months, 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.

I have attached a diagram to this letter which illustrates how days absent 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.

Yours faithfully,



David Penman
Assistant Headteacher Behaviour and Standards

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR - 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household and other appointments

100%	190 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR	10 days absence	180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	19 days absence	171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	29 days absence	161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	38 days absence	152 DAYS OF EDUCATION	47 days absence	143 DAYS OF EDUCATION
	95%	180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	19 days absence	171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	29 days absence	161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	38 days absence	152 DAYS OF EDUCATION	47 days absence	143 DAYS OF EDUCATION	
VERY GOOD		Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start.		WORRYING		Less chance of success. Will make progress difficult and reduce level of success.		SERIOUS CONCERN		Not fair on your child, their learning progress severely hindered. Court action likely.	
YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION IS THEIR FUTURE. DON'T LET THEM WASTE IT!											