



Headteacher
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Sandhurst School

the opportunity to succeed

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3rd February 2023

Dear Parents/Carer(s),

Re: School Attendance

I am writing to clarify the school's expectations concerning good attendance and punctuality.

Every day a student is absent is a lost opportunity for learning. Too many absences not only can affect achievement for the absent student but also can disrupt learning for the entire class. Attending school regularly helps young people feel better about school—and themselves.

Students who consistently miss school are at risk of lower academic achievement. We saw during the pandemic how important it is for all students to be learning in-person from their teachers and alongside their peers. Research suggests that only seventeen missed school days a year results in one full grade drop at GCSE level.

The Covid 19 lockdowns certainly had a detrimental effect on many students and as a school we have been working hard to help students catch up on the time lost. As we enter a post-pandemic world, it is vital that you send your child into school as regularly as possible, unless a genuine illness prevents them from attending

In order to support your child's attendance, we would ask you to avoid taking holidays during term time. They are considered an unauthorised absence. In addition, wherever possible, please make medical and dental appointments outside the school day. We would ask you to avoid permitting your child to miss school unless s/he is truly ill. Stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety. If your child seems anxious about going to school, please contact the school for further support.

A variety of interventions are put in place throughout the year for students whose attendance is below 96%, to ensure maximum effort is being made to improve their attendance. This is done in the students' best interest, in recognition of the clear and direct link between achievement and attendance.

Please see attached a document from the Department of Education for further guidance and support.

If you have any further questions or if you need support with any matters relating to attendance, please contact your child's form tutor or Head of House.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Bronkorst
Pastoral Manager

