



# Attendance Matters

‘Everybody’s responsibility’

## Information on raising your child’s attendance

### What do we expect?

#### Our school attendance target is 96%

- ◆ You to inform the school daily of any absences on the school absence line **01752 402679**.
- ◆ To avoid letting your child take any unnecessary time off. This includes holidays during term time and medical appointments during the school day.

### How does your child’s attendance rate affect their achievement?

Recent studies show that missing only 17 days can lead to a drop of one whole GCSE grade. This in turn could impact on your child’s future earnings.

For example:

- ◆ No qualifications could earn £7.44 per hour.
- ◆ GCSE qualifications could earn £9.02 per hour.
- ◆ A level qualification could earn £10.25 per hour.
- ◆ Graduate degree qualifications could earn £15.01 per hour.

### When can your child miss school?

- ◆ If your child has a genuine illness.
- ◆ If they have authorised leave for an educational visit or exceptional circumstances.
- ◆ Religious Observations.
- ◆ Unavoidable medical appointments (Medical evidence must be provided)
- ◆ External examinations.

## What is the law on attendance?

The Education Act 1996 requires parents and carers to ensure their children receive effective, full-time education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

### How do I report an absence?

If your child will not be attending school, please call the school absence line on

**01752 402679**

Plymstock School operates the ‘Truancy Call’ system. If your child is absent from school without parental contact you will receive an automated call to inform you of this.

## How do we monitor attendance?

Attendance is monitored on a daily basis by our Attendance Officer and any concerns will be raised with the Head of Year in the first instance.

We also hold weekly attendance clinics between the Head of Year, Education Welfare Officer and Attendance Officer to look at all pupils below 96%.

If we have on-going concerns about a pupil's attendance or welfare we will inform our Education Welfare Officer. Education Welfare Officers are part of Plymouth City Council and they help us to ensure that all children are receiving a suitable education. They also have the power to instigate Penalty Notices for unauthorised time off.

## Encouraging good attendance

If there is a problem with your child's attendance, talk to them about it; listen to the explanation. Pursuing the reasons for non-attendance is always important.

Keep an eye out for patterns. Do they always want to stay at home for a particular lesson? Do they have a test?

And don't forget, we are always happy to discuss this so please don't hesitate to contact us on 01752 402679.

**Attendance is everybody's responsibility!**

## To sum up why attendance matters....

This chart shows the impact of every day missed from school.

| Days absent | Sessions missed | Impact on attendance |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1           | 2               | 99.5%                |
| 2           | 4               | 99.0%                |
| 3           | 6               | 98.5%                |
| 4           | 8               | 98.0%                |
| 5           | 10              | 97.5%                |
| 10          | 20              | 95.0%                |
| 15          | 30              | 92.5%                |
| 20          | 40              | 90.0%                |
| 25          | 50              | 87.5%                |
| 30          | 60              | 85.0%                |
| 35          | 70              | 82.5%                |
| 40          | 80              | 80.0%                |

## Most people think 90% attendance is good but....

- ◆ Over 1 school year that is ½ a day missed every week.
- ◆ In 5 years of secondary school that equals half a year missed.

**Would your boss be happy if you were off work this much?**