



15 June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Graham School Attendance newsletter

At Graham School, we are passionate about education and the opportunities that it presents to children. As such, we believe that it is essential for a child to attend school in order to receive the benefits of what their school is offering.

Whilst the law continues to state that a person with parental responsibility towards a child is still expected to get their child(ren) into school, the Government have released new guidance around how schools should manage the attendance of their pupils. We felt, therefore, that it could be useful to highlight a few of the key messages from the guidance so that you are aware of our approach to ensure that children are in school when they should be.

Key points are as follows:

- Schools are expected to proactively manage attendance – this means looking for patterns and responding quickly to them, or simply being right on top of which children are not attending well enough to achieve well in their education, or those children that have less than 90% attendance. This group of children are otherwise known as 'persistently absent'.
- Schools are expected to analyse data regularly and respond accordingly with strategies that can help to support children to get into school.
- Schools are required to build strong relationships with families. This means that we will be in touch when your child is not in school and that we will try to support you to remove any barriers that are causing them to not attend. We will also intensify support whenever the absence does not improve.
- Schools are required to support children with medical conditions or special educational needs or disabilities, to enable them to attend.
- Schools must work collaboratively with other schools in the area, the local authority and other partners, to ensure that when absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe everyone works as a team to make sure that child is supported to attend.

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In reality, Graham School already does these things and many of our families have already experienced a number of the processes that we put into operation when a child is not attending school. Therefore, if there is a concern about your child's school attendance, please don't be surprised if we get in touch over the coming months and years as we continue to fulfil our duty to deliver the best education and life chances for our students.

Further details of the new government guidance around school attendance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>.

Yours faithfully

A.N. Wilson
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Graham School