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School Attendance May 2021

A very important reminder message for all parents/carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is a message about school attendance.

Northfield Manor Primary Academy is working in partnership with parents and Birmingham City Council to ensure that all children are attending school regularly and understand that attendance at school is **compulsory**. We would like to thank all parents and carers supporting their children to attend school on-time every day.

It is vital for all children to attend school regularly 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 a significant amount of face to face contact with their teachers and peers; now every minute counts.

Every minute counts

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

- 5 minutes late every day means around 3 ½ days of education are missed
- a score of 90% in a test would be a good result but 90% attendance means that a child will have missed around 100 lessons over a school year.

Attendance during one school year	Equals this number of days absent	Which is approximately this many weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

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.

This means that the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to send their child/children to school regularly where they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence

- the option for local authorities to again consider the use of legal sanctions, including penalty notices and prosecution in court.

Please note that, given the disruption to children’s education caused by the pandemic, requests for leave during term time are unlikely to be authorised by the Head Teacher.

Family emergencies also 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. Every attempt to resolve parents’ concerns and improve a child’s attendance will be made before any formal legal action, which may include a penalty notice or court action, is considered.

After so much disruption to children’s education over the past year, the most important thing is that the school and parents work together to get children back into school. The school is ready to listen so please contact them if you have any worries and they will try to help you.

We wish you and your child/children all the best for the remainder of the academic year.

Kind regards

Education Legal Intervention Team
Birmingham City Council

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