

St Chad's Patchway CE VC

Primary School

"Learning to love, loving to learn."

Attendance Makes a Difference

This has been written by the governors of St Chads and we thank the vast number of families that do all of the appropriate things for ensuring good attendance.

Our Recognition of good attendance at St Chad's

As a school, we value and promote attendance, with classes celebrating good attendance, as well as high

attendance being celebrated in a whole school setting. This includes:

- a 100% attendance award for each child who achieves this, on a termly basis.
- a week by week competition between classes to gain the highest attendance, where a reward will be given to the class who achieves the highest attendance across the term.

As the children are very competitive around the weekly attendance competition, regular non-attendance by one member of a class can lead to social pressure and a whole class feeling of being let down by that individual.

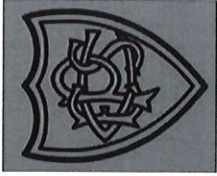
High attendance for each pupil helps high attainment for all.

Penalty Fines and Fast Track Procedures for Non-Attendance

St Chad's has noted the findings of South Glos. L.A. that there is a very clear connection between both pupils with low attendance and pupils with a large number of 'broken weeks' in their pattern of attendance and lower attainment. Pupils need the adults around them to help them achieve their best by ensuring they attend school regularly.

The findings in the recent High Court Judgement concerning the Isle of Wight appeal case have also been considered and the school policy on attendance has been reviewed accordingly. For those unfamiliar with that Judgement, the Judge found **in favour** of the Local Authority and the family were ordered to pay the fine plus related costs.

Let us work with you. We can support you if there are difficulties, through early communication.



Attendance rates and

what they can mean

90% attendance = 1 day of absence a fortnight (on average)

80% attendance = 1 day absence a week

With 80% attendance rate across 7 years' primary education a pupil misses one whole school year plus an additional two terms or **1.3 years of school**

Regular school attendance helps a child to:

- Learn
- Progress and develop
- Establish routine and discipline
- Build relationships
- Be supervised and safe
- Prepare for the future

This leads to educated, happy, healthier, mentally stronger and safer children

Let this be your child

Irregular school attendance:

- May put your child at risk in the community
- Seriously disrupts continuity of learning, making it harder for them to learn, impacts their self-esteem and impacts the entire class due to the need to help the child catch up
- Disrupts personal and social development
- Disrupts the building of relationships
- Can lead to a child being excluded from social groups
- Undermines educational progress
- Leads to underachievement and low attainment
- Reduces likelihood of further education opportunities and training
- Creates a higher risk of unemployment in the longer term
- Creates a greater risk of being drawn into criminal or anti-social activity in later years

Don't let this be your child

If you are not doing so already,

- Please ensure all children for whom you have parental responsibility are in school every day that they are able to.
- Parents and Guardians are requested to keep dental, medical and other routine appointments to hours outside school time to reduce broken weeks.
- Please do not book holidays in school time.
- Please help them to learn the values of commitment to their work and pride in doing so.
- Please help them build a strong work ethic that will help them in school and later life

Can a parent insist on a family holiday during term time?

There is no requirement in law for a school to authorise absence for term-time holidays. They are not viewed as a right in law.