TIBBERTON CE FIRST SCHOOL

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September 26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Attendance

I am writing to you to stress the importance of good school attendance for your child. As you are aware, it is your statutory obligation to ensure that your child attends school regularly and punctually (as agreed in our home-school agreement). This remains a national educational priority, as attendance at many schools is at crisis point, damaging pupil outcomes.

We are very grateful that our two schools can celebrate strong pupil attendance. This is very much a team effort between our home-school communities and should be recognised. As I am sure you all recognise, being in school is vital for children's academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. This is also clearly reflected in the latest evidence and guidance from the Department for Education (DfE).

We greatly appreciate that our families work extremely hard to support good attendance. Absences from school, particularly where absence falls below 95%, have been shown to have a significant impact on a child's education. They will miss out on valuable learning opportunities and fall behind their peers. Furthermore, persistent absence (attendance below 90%) from school can also have a negative impact on your child's social development and prospects. Research shows that children who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve higher grades, go on to further education, and secure good employment in the future.

To meet our obligations in supporting the best possible attendance in our schools we review attendance each half term. In the first instances, those children falling below 95% attendance will receive a letter to highlight attendance issues. For those families where attendance does not improve, parents will be invited to a meeting to discuss attendance.

I understand that there may be occasional circumstances where your child may need to be absent from school. However, I would like to remind you of the importance of ensuring that absences are kept to a minimum, and that any absences are authorised by the school in advance where possible. Requests for leave in term time are always considered individually and will only be authorised in *exceptional* circumstances. For example, a family wedding or a funeral. Holiday costs do not meet the exceptional threshold.

Please be aware that unauthorised leave can result in a fine. It's the responsibility of the local authority to decide when to issue fines to parents. Under the national rules, a fine is considered when a child has missed **10 or more sessions (5 days)** for unauthorised reasons.
https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/19/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/

If your child is absent and we do not know why you will receive a call, email or even a home visit if we cannot make contact regarding the absence. Please let us know if your child is off school and why before 8:30am.

The most recent statutory guidance for schools reiterates that *persistent and severe absence* can result in a home-school attendance contract, a local authority education supervision order, prosecution, parenting orders and penalty notices.

We are very aware that seasonal illness can often take a hold over the winter, both with pupils and staff. We really appreciate how all our families work with us in helping manage illness and in supporting the best possible attendance in those circumstances.

We celebrate attendance on a weekly basis with the children, who love finding out which class has the highest weekly attendance and has won OTIS (On Time in School) bear in our Celebration Assembly. You will find this on our weekly newsletter. We also celebrate 100% termly and annual attendance which our children are always very proud to receive.

Thank you all for your continued support in ensuring the best possible school attendance for our children. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards

Mrs R Jordan
Head of School

TRAUMA INFORMED UK™ SCHOOLS
School with TISUK Practitioners
school achievement award
Department for Education and Employment
worcestershire countycouncil
Healthy School
Eco-Schools