

ABBOTSWOOD SCHOOL

'Helping everyone achieve their best'

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Attendance at Abbotswood

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we begin a new school year, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of excellent attendance for all of our pupils at Abbotswood. Attending school every day is not only vital for learning and progress but is also a key safeguarding concern. Children who are in school regularly are safer, happier and achieve more.

As a school, our minimum expectation is for every child to attend **above 95%** of the time. Attendance at this level is considered excellent and allows children to make the most of every opportunity school offers. Last year, we finished with a whole-school attendance of **95.1%**, which is a real achievement - this year, we are determined to go even further and we need your support to make this possible.

It is important to understand the impact of absence:

- Attendance **below 90%** is classed nationally as *Persistently Absent*.
- This equates to **19 days of school missed** over the year - almost a full month of learning lost.

We fully recognise that some children will have genuine reasons for absence and we understand that illness and unavoidable circumstances can arise. In these situations, we want to work closely with families to ensure the right support is in place for both the child and their parents or carers.

Our system to support families is clear:

- If a child's attendance drops beneath **90%**, our school office team will call home to offer support and work together to identify any barriers.
- If attendance improves, this will be **celebrated and shared with you and your child** as we want to recognise the effort it takes to get things back on track.
- If attendance continues to decline, we will follow this up further so that every child has the best chance to succeed.

Together, we can ensure that all our children enjoy excellent attendance and benefit from every learning opportunity this year. Thank you in advance for your support in helping us ensure every child at Abbotswood has the best opportunity to succeed.

Yours sincerely,
Luke McCoy
Assistant Headteacher