



ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Malmesbury Park Primary School, working together with our families, is committed to ensuring the best for all our children. Regular attendance at school is vital to ensure children make progress in their learning and achieve success. This is why we monitor every child's attendance regularly and contact you when the level of attendance of your child causes us concern. We are determined to ensure that all our children attend school regularly and have the best opportunity to learn and achieve success. As a result of this, Malmesbury Park Primary School expects **ALL** children to have **at least 96% attendance**.

You will be aware from information published by school and guidance issued by the DfE (Department for Education) which has been highlighted nationally through various media channels, that good attendance at school is important in improving a child's chances of success in life and in establishing positive attitudes to life-long learning. There is clear evidence to show the link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement.

- E.G. A child's attendance is 90%. This means they have missed one day of school every fortnight. Over a school year this is equal to 4 weeks of absence. If the attendance level remained at 90% for a 5-year period, it would mean the child had missed half a year of school and lost half a year of learning.

A child's attendance causes us concern when it falls below 96% (this is the **minimum** national expectation for attendance at school) and becomes very concerning when it falls below 90% (this is called Persistent Absence). If your child's attendance causes us concern, we will contact you to discuss our concerns and offer support. If by working together attendance does not improve, we will refer to our ESW (Education Social Worker). This will result in a formal attendance meeting with the family, the ESW and school. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss concerns, any support already offered/in place and possible ways forward to ensure regular attendance at school is established and a maintained. As a result of the meeting several outcomes could be recommended. These include; a further period of monitoring with a targeted, time-bound action plan put in a place to bring about improvement; the issue of a £60 Fixed Penalty Notice; a Parenting Order or Prosecution which could result in a fine of up to £2 500.

Our attendance process is designed to identify poor attendees quickly and address the issues that are affecting their attendance. When attendance improves, monitoring will continue, if it falls then the attendance process will be resumed. At Malmesbury Park Primary School we hope that all children have a good record of attendance, are happy, successful and benefit from their time at school and therefore, formal attendance meetings will not be needed.

The attendance of the vast majority of children at Malmesbury Park Primary School is excellent and we are grateful for your support in achieving this. Your continued efforts to ensure your children are in school on-time, every day is very important in achieving the best outcomes for your children.

If you have any concerns or wish to discuss your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office (Tel: 01202 291227, Email: office@malmesburypark.bournemouth.sch.uk).