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**Gilbrook School**

**Attendance Information 2022**

**What to do when your child is absent**

We understand that occasionally your child may be too poorly to come to school. When this is the case, it is important you let the school know that your child will not be in that day.

Phone us on 0151 512 3900 and speak to a member of our office staff, or if it is before the office is open, leave a message. Alternatively, you can email attendance@gilbrook.wirral.sch.uk letting us know why your child is off and when you think they will return.

We have a duty of care to know where our children are when they should be in school, if we do not know, we may have to make a home visit, or arrange an attendance meeting in school. Failure to engage may result in a referral to the Wirral Attendance Service.

There are many reasons why you may feel a child is too poorly to come to school, but it does not always mean they have a sickness bug or need to stay off. Please consider this when deciding if your child is well enough to come to school or not. Equally if you have kept them off in the morning but they improve, bring them in for their afternoon mark.

Please do not keep your child off unless you feel they really are not well enough to come to school. With many illnesses, your child is still welcome to be in school, however if there is vomiting or diarrhoea, the child should stay at home for 48 hours after the last incident to avoid spreading to other children.

When possible you should make all medical/dental appointments for outside school hours. Coming and going from class disrupts lessons and learning time. In addition, we ask you give us notice and proof of any appointments.

Speak to us, be honest and accept the support and guidance that we offer to families. We want to work together to ensure that your child is in school every day, on time and ready to learn and get the most from all opportunities that we give to our children.

**“...But my child’s attendance is good! It’s 90%...”**

90% is a high percentage if you are taking a test, but not when talking about attendance. In fact, a child who has a 90% attendance rate is missing a huge amount of school ...

* 90% or less is the equivalent of missing 19 days of school.
* 90% or less is the same as them missing four whole weeks over the school year.
* If your child’s attendance stays at 90% for the seven years of primary school, they would have missed the same as three quarters of a school year in that time.
* Your child also could be missing out socially by not being in school, making friends is also a huge part about being in school, and by regularly missing school may affect their ability to make and keep friendships.
* Attending school every day gives children a sense of purpose and belonging, where their emotional resilience is developed and they build their self-confidence and coping strategies to support them through the rest of their life.

**Poor Attendance & the Impact on Children**

* Less than 65% of children get good results in Maths and English when they have an average of 15 days of absence a year.
* If a child had an attendance percentage of 80% from F2 to Year 6, then this is equivalent to missing more than entire year of school.
* It is very hard to catch up on work that has been missed, especially in younger years when they are learning the foundations of how to read and write. Our children are already ‘catching up’ on lost learning time from the pandemic, lockdown and COVID related disruption to school attendance– they do not need to miss any more time.
* The main impact that we see is on children’s emotional wellbeing, ability to socialise and build meaningful relationships. Routines, stability and a sense of belonging is vitally important for all children to thrive and succeed.

**Monitoring attendance:**

**Green 96% to 100%** - celebration letter

**Amber 90% to 95.9%** - letter to advise monitoring attendance

**Red below 90%** - Attendance Panel letter

**What the Law Says**

As a parent, you MUST make sure your child gets a full time education that meets their needs. It is a legal requirement for your child to be in school and on time every day. We can support and work with you to help achieve this.

**Holidays in Term Time**

The ‘Application for Leave during either Term Time’ form can be requested from the school office. If you take your child on holiday in term time, it will be noted on their records as an unauthorised absence and you may be fined by Wirral Council for £60 per parent per

Child, which would rise to £120 if not paid within 21 days, Section 44 Education Act 1996.

High rates of absence are often an indicator of the need for extra support. We want to work with you to ensure the best for your child.

**Our Family Liaison contact is Jo Murphy is available to help.**

**Jo can be contacted on the school office number – 0151 522 3900.**