

# SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING



The Sutton Academy

Issue 11 - April 2024

## Attendance Matters at The Sutton Academy

Regular attendance at school ensures that children get the best possible start in life. Good attendance supports learning, the development of social skills and friendships, as well as building good habits that are essential for adult life.

At The Sutton Academy we aim for at least 96% attendance

### Good attendance is important because:

- Statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and absence below 95%
- Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically
- Regular attenders find school routines, school work and friendships easier to cope with
- Regular attenders find learning more satisfying
- Regular attenders are more successful in transferring between primary school, secondary school, and higher education, employment or training.
- There are only 190 directed teaching days allocated to an academic year. This highlights there are 175 days where students are not in school. Please arrange any appointments etc during these days if possible.

### Understanding different types of absence

Every half day absence from school has to be classified by the school (not by the parents), as either AUTHORISED or UNAUTHORISED. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required and it is a legal requirement. If we are unaware of the reason for your child's absence it will be recorded as unauthorised. Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a good reason like illness, medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time (e.g. hospital or orthodontist appointments), emergencies

or other unavoidable cause.

Unauthorised absences are those which the school and the Trustees, following Government guidelines, do not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been given. This type of absence can lead to the Local Authority (Educational Welfare Service) using sanctions and / or legal proceedings including penalty notices and fines.

### Unauthorised absence includes:

- Parents / carers keeping children off school unnecessarily e.g. because they had a late night or for

non-infectious illness or injury that would not affect their ability to learn.

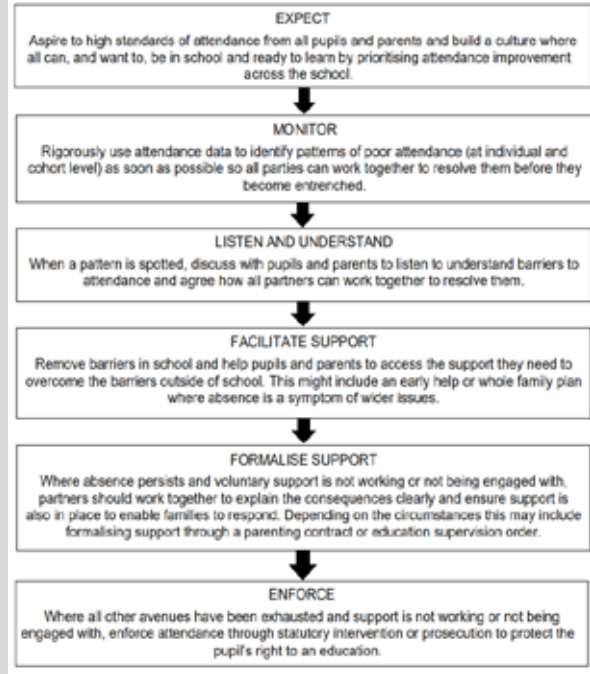
- Truancy during the school day.
- Absences which have never been properly explained.
- Shopping trips.
- Looking after other children or children accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments.
- Their own or family birthdays.
- Day trips.
- Holidays in term time.

### Holidays in Term Time

There is no entitlement in law for pupils to take time off during the term to go on holiday. Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'.

It is important for parents / carers to be aware that while decisions will be made on a case by case basis, requests will normally be refused.

### Our role in improving attendance:



Description	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 Days	0	0
	99%	188 Days	2	10
Good	98%	186 Days	4	20
	97%	184 Days	6	30
Satisfactory	96%	182.5 Days	7.5	37.5
Cause for Concern	95%	180.5 Days	9.5	47.5
	94%	178.5 Days	11.5	57.5
	93%	176.5 Days	13.5	67.5
	92%	174.5 Days	15.5	77.5
Unsatisfactory	91%	173 Days	17	85
Serious Cause for Concern	90%	171 Days	19	95
	89%	169 Days	21	105
	88%	167 Days	23	115
	87%	165.5 Days	25	125
Critical	86%	163.5 Days	26.5	132.5
	85%	161.5 Days	28.5	142.5

As always, if your child needs any advice or support please contact the Safeguarding Team or Year Team.

