



St. Peter's

Church of England Primary School

LOVE LEARN SHINE

Shine in the light and love of God.

Tuesday 19 September

Dear Parent/Carer

You may have seen in recent press articles that the Department for Education (DfE) is concerned about school absence nationally. All schools have received communication from the Secretary of State for Education outlining the expectations on schools to help improve attendance.

We are pleased to set out in this letter how we will support children and families to have high rates of attendance and punctuality and make the most of their time in school. Our overall school attendance target is 98%. We will keep families updated with our progress in relation to this target via our newsletters. Families can track their child or children's attendance on a daily basis via the [Arbor App](#).

The Impact of Absence

For every 1% of absence across a school year, two school days are missed. This equates to between 8-10 lessons lost as well as social interaction time with peers. Children who do not attend school regularly may not be able to keep up with school work and this impacts upon overall performance. Teachers plan carefully ensuring lessons build on what has been taught previously. Missing just one day may make tomorrow's lesson more difficult.

There is a proven correlation between attainment and absence.

National research shows that:

- In 2019, primary school children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard.
- Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

Our Expectations

- Families support children to strive for at least 98% attendance.
- Families support and enable children to arrive at school on time for the start of the school day at 8.45am.

Authorised Absence

If your child is too unwell to attend school, we ask you to notify the school as soon as you can and no later than 9.30 am on each day of absence by telephoning 01423 569684, or by emailing admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk. This will then be recorded as an authorised absence, if we are satisfied by the explanation given. If you are unsure as to if your child is well enough to come to school there is a handy NHS guide ['Is my child too ill for school?'](#).

Examples of other authorised absences include religious observance, medical or dental appointments, agreed sporting fixtures and music exams. If a child is attending a medical appointment during the school day, we may ask that a medical note or proof of appointment is provided. We do need to be made aware of these in advance of the absence to authorise them and we encourage, wherever possible, these appointments to be booked outside of the school day.

If an absence goes beyond 3 days, we will contact you to see what support your child may need.

Telephone: 01423 569684 Fax: 01423 521080

Headteacher – Mr Paul Griffiths. Belford Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 1JA

Email: admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk Website - <https://stpeters.ycst.co.uk>

Part of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number: 07663935. Registered Office: St Aidan's CE High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 8JR.





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Unauthorised Absence

Unauthorised absence is recorded for any unexplained absence. If we do not receive a message by 9.30am we will record your child's absence as unauthorised. Other unauthorised absence includes holidays during term time.

Working Together

We are here to help and support if your child's attendance falls below a certain level. If this happens, we will contact you. This might be a phone call or an email to open a conversation as to how we can help and support best, recognising there can be a number of reasons causing lower than usual attendance. If we do reach out, please be reassured we are here to work together and support families to improve attendance or punctuality. We know that parents sometimes worry about their children's mental health. Rather than keeping your child off school, let us know about your concerns. We can then work together to provide reassurance and support.

Further Information

In addition to this letter, we have a section of our website dedicated to supporting families to achieve good attendance. This information can be accessed [here](#).

We appreciate your support in helping us work together for the benefit of all children.

Best wishes

Mr Paul Griffiths – Headteacher

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