



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

DEVONSHIRE ROAD, BISPHAM, BLACKPOOL FY2 0AJ

Tel: 01253 353641

E-mail: admin@st-bernadette.blackpool.sch.uk

www.stbernadette.schudio.com

8th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, here at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, we have very high expectations of all our children in relation to their attendance and punctuality at school. We are supported in this by Blackpool's Pupil Welfare Service who monitor the attendance of all our children on a regular basis.

The government states that any child whose attendance falls to 95% or less, to be classed as being 'at risk of Persistent Absence.' Pupils with 90% or less are classed as 'persistent absence' children. Regardless of reason for an absence, a child who misses 19 days in any school year is regarded as being 'persistently absent.' School will contact you if your child's attendance falls below 95%, either by telephone or letter and this will be reviewed regularly. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, this automatically triggers a referral to the Local Authorities Pupil Welfare Service and in some instances legal action may be taken.

School Attendance is central to raising standards; missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Research shows children with poor attendance achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

Illnesses and appointments

Although we do not expect parents to bring their child into school if they are too ill to attend school, minor ailments, such as a headache or a slight cold are not acceptable reasons for failing to attend school. We ask that if your child has an appointment for dental, hospital, GP etc. it is made outside of school hours where possible. If absolutely unavoidable, please bring the appointment card into school so that it can be copied and put on your child's records. Repeated absences of illness may require the school to ask that you obtain medical evidence from your doctor's surgery or local pharmacy as recommend by the government.

Holidays during term time

This half term, the attendance records show that we have more absences compared to last year; this is due mainly to children having holidays during term time. We would ask that you do consider carefully when choosing your holiday dates as being out of school does affect your child's learning. At present, we do not fine parents if their child is absent due to taking holidays during term time, as do some other Blackpool schools. It has been suggested, by the Local Authority, that we should look into this if our attendance continues to decline.

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If your child's attendance drops below 90%, parents/carers will be invited to an attendance meeting to explore any concerns they may have and identify any support needed.

As well as children attending school regularly, we also expect children to come to school on time. Classroom doors are open from 8.50am until 9am. After which, you will have to take your child to the main office where they will need to be signed in. Children generally do not like arriving late and often report feeling embarrassed or anxious. It is also very distracting for the other children in their class when they have already started lessons. Punctuality will be very closely monitored and we will work with parents to identify any concerns and look at what support, if any is needed. Persistent lateness is poor attendance.

To succeed, school, parents and pupils need to work in partnership - we are always here to support you.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. Satterthwaite
Acting Head Teacher.



Mrs. D A Duke
Family Support Worker/DSL