



Parent/Carer Bulletin

Attendance Special!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS ... ATTEND TODAY = ACHIEVE TOMORROW!

Every School Day Counts!

Good attendance means being in school **at least 95%** of the time or **180 to 190 days** in a whole academic year.

Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve.

Important information for parents/carers:

There are 365 days in the calendar year ... **190 school days in each year** ... 175 non-term days each year (all the time students need for holidays, appointments and other activities).

Parent/carers responsibilities:

As a parent/carers, you have a legal responsibility to ensure that your child of school-age receives a suitable full-time education.

Parents/carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly and arrives to school on time each day.

You are encouraged to maintain high levels of attendance by:

- making sure you and your child understand the importance of school attendance and punctuality;
- getting involved and showing interest in your child's school work and activities;
- talking to school if your child has any issues which could affect attendance levels;
- making non-emergency appointments after school, weekends or during the school holidays;
- not taking holidays during school term-time.



Attendance information:

There is a great deal of research showing how a child having low attendance affects children's achievement. **This in turn impacts their life chances.**

Children who are unwell will find learning difficult but those who take time out for other reasons are missing out on valuable education.

If your child's attendance is below 90% it will be affecting their learning.

If you are aware that your child's attendance is low, please contact school to make an appointment where we can support you. You may also be contacted by school if your child's attendance is below 90% which is classed as persistent absence, under current legislation.

Obviously, we don't want poorly children to come into school, however, we would encourage students to return to school as soon as they are able following a period of illness.

National information shows:

- Students who did **not** achieve grades 4 to 9 in English and maths GCSEs in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 8.8% over Years 10 and 11.
- Generally, the more school days missed throughout KS4, the lower the chances of gaining good GCSE grades at 4 and above.
- Among students with no missed sessions over KS4, 83.7% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and maths compared to 35.6% of pupils who were persistently absent.

Hermitage Academy, 2022 results vs attendance:

- Students with an attendance of **at least 96%** achieved, on average, at least a grade better than other students across the country.
- Students with attendance **below 90%** achieved half a grade (or more) below those nationally.
- Students with attendance **below 80%** achieved more than a **full grade**, on average, below that of other students nationally.

As a school...

... we will always aim to support parents/carers and students.

Where we have concerns about attendance, we will intervene early and maintain regular contact.

If a student has a current attendance of 88% or below ... **if** they attend school for the next **10 consecutive** school days, their attendance will be above 90% and they are no longer a persistently absent student.

Any absence **must** be followed up, as the student returns to school, by a parental/carer note explaining the absence or a phone call of each day of absence to keep the school updated.

In conclusion, students cannot afford to miss out on their education.