

Wednesday 10th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Exeter, we aim for every child to reach their full potential. Research shows that children achieve better if they are on time and have good attendance. In order to provide children with the best education, we aim for every child to achieve at least 96% attendance, with a goal of achieving 100%.

Good attendance is important because:

- Statistics show a direct link between higher achievement and good attendance
- Regular attendees make better progress, both socially and academically
- Regular attendees find school routines and school work easier to cope with
- Regular attendees find learning more satisfying
- Regular attendees have an easier transfer to secondary school

Currently, our whole school attendance figure is **92.2%**, far below our expected figure of 96%.

You can monitor your child's attendance figure via the 'My Child at School' app.

At Exeter, we encourage good attendance by:

- A weekly 'best class attendance' trophy in assembly
- Rewarding children who are on time each morning with the attendance raffle
- Work to identify specific barriers to attendance and how to overcome these

We also do the following to support good attendance:

- Regularly monitor children's attendance figures and inform parents if this is below expectation
- Set up parent contracts with parents to encourage good attendance
- Refer to the local authority for penalty notices in line with DfE guidance for term time absence or irregular attendance.

In addition, we will not authorise term time absences, such as holidays, due to the negative impact this time away from school can have on a child's education.

The table below highlights time missed related to specific attendance figures:

% attendance in a school year	Days of absence in a school year	Weeks missed in a school year
98%	4	Less than 1 week
95%	9.5	Almost 2 weeks
90%	19	Almost 4 weeks
85%	28.5	Almost 6 weeks

This means that by the end of the academic year, 4 weeks missed equates to:

- At least 19 phonics sessions
- 19 break times and lunch times missed, including social opportunities
- 19 maths and writing lessons

The above equals a high proportion of your child's academic and social learning opportunities, and can lead to gaps in learning.

We would like to thank you for working with us to improve attendance in school. Please contact our Attendance Officer, Tonia Shalgosky, should you require further support with your child's attendance, or alternatively you can speak to your child's teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Doherty
Head of School

Hannah Crawford
Head of School