

Grove Road Community Primary School



Grove Road School is enhanced to support children with social, emotional and behaviour needs

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Headteacher
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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of the recent changes to the persistent absence threshold in all schools in England. From 1st September 2015, the Government has reduced the persistent attendance threshold from 15% to 10%. This will now class a pupil with attendance below 90% as a persistent absentee, compared with the previous figure of 85%, regardless of whether the school has authorised or unauthorised the absence. This equates to 38 sessions or 19 days of absence across the year. All absences, including those for illness are included in the persistent absence statistics.

Schools are no longer judged solely on their overall attendance figures but also on the number of children who fall into the persistent absence category. Regular attendance at school is essential to ensure uninterrupted progress and to enable children to fulfil their potential. The attendance pattern for all children is monitored weekly with the school seeking to work actively with parents to ensure that regular attendance is maintained.

The Department for Education has published data on their website that clearly shows the link between attendance and attainment. This highlights the fact that there will be an impact on your child's education and exam results if attendance is not consistently above 95% throughout their schooling.

I would also like to remind you that the law does not give any entitlement to parents to remove their child from school during term-time for the purpose of a holiday. Headteachers may only grant leave of absence where an application has been made in advance and the headteacher considers that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

We will be using our texting service on a monthly basis to alert parents and carers and notify them of any worrying trends in attendance figures for their child.

We are confident that you will be keen to work with us to ensure that your child meets the new threshold requirements since it is clear that this will have a positive effect on their learning.

As always, my door is always open if you would like to discuss any concerns or worries about this issue.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher