

Monday 16th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Longsight Community Primary, we firmly believe that regular school attendance is essential for the educational progress and overall wellbeing of our pupils. We share the Department for Education's (DfE) ambitions to improve school attendance.

In this letter, we have highlighted some of the support on offer for you. However, we also want to describe the important nationwide changes that came into force on 19th August 2024, in relation to the issuing of fines.

Is 90% attendance (persistent absence) that bad? More days are lost than you think....

90% attendance still means almost a month of education is lost every academic year

0 days absent 190 School days in the year	10 days absence 180 days in school	19 days absence 171 days in school	29 days absence 161 days in school	38 days absence 152 days in school	47 days absence 143 days in school
100% attendance	96% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance
Best chance of success		Poor attendance less chance of success		Very poor attendance leading to serious impact on educational and life chances	

Why regular attendance matters

Consistent school attendance allows your child to:

- Fully engage in learning and make academic progress
- Develop critical social skills by interacting with their friends and teachers
- Grow in confidence in a supportive and nurturing school environment
- Build a sense of routine and responsibility, essential for future success

Support First

We understand that some pupils may face challenges that impact their attendance. Our school's attendance team is here to provide support and guidance to pupils and families in such situations. If you encounter any difficulties related to attendance, please do reach out to **Mrs Stephenson** in the first instance, who is happy to support daily.

What happens if my child has a period of unauthorised absence?

One of the main changes from the Department for Education is how sanctions for unauthorised absence are used.

If you take an unauthorised holiday in term time or have other periods of unauthorised absence school may request that Manchester City Council issue a fine (known as a fixed-penalty notice).

- If issued with one, you'll need to pay this directly to the local authority – £80 within 21 days, or £160 within 28 days.
- The decision whether to issue a fine will consider whether a national threshold has been met – this is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks – as well as other factors.

If there was a second period of unauthorised absence within a three-year period, then a second penalty notice could be issued, and this would be at the higher rate of £160.

Further periods of absence within three years, could mean that you are taken to court with no option of a penalty notice.

These rules came into force across the country on 19th August 2024 as part of the Department for Education's drive to improve school attendance.

Requests for time off school

Term-time holidays are not permitted during the school year. Absences due to term-time holidays are disruptive to learning and lead to missed opportunities in the classroom.

We recognise that there may be exceptional circumstances and in such rare cases, please submit a formal request to Mrs Parker-Stone well in advance. School will carefully consider each request on an individual basis.

Please get in touch with Mrs Stephenson, either by contacting the school directly or calling in to speak in person, with any further questions, and we'll be happy to discuss them with you.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Thank you for your co-operation and commitment in ensuring your child is in school every day.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Parker-Stone
Head of School and Attendance lead