

19th July 2024

## New Statutory Attendance Guidance Information

Dear Parents/Carer,

As we come to the end of this academic year, on behalf of our Federation, thank you for working with us and continuing to support us in maximising your child's attendance to help their learning and future success.

You may already be aware that the Department for Education (DfE) released new statutory guidance in February 2024, '[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)' which applies from 19th August 2024.

The new legislation behind this guidance is The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. All schools/academies in England will be required to follow the guidance, therefore I wanted to ensure that you are aware of what this means.

Once a child is enrolled at a school, parents/carers are by law responsible for ensuring they attend school regularly. The new statutory guidance has created a legal obligation for all schools/academies to promote attendance positively, take early action to prevent absence occurring and offer support to families when exploring absence from school to secure the child's right to access their education.

It also emphasises the importance of good attendance being a key driver for learning, achievement, and personal success but whilst recognising that often, support is required to achieve good attendance. The guidance expects us to form positive, strong relationships with families and work together along with external services to support children.

As a Federation, we wholeheartedly believe in this ethos, and we aim to ensure our schools offer welcoming, nurturing, and supportive environments to enable all students to want to come to school to learn and enjoy success

As stated in the guidance, we have robust monitoring/analysis of data to identify trends and patterns of absence to enable us to have conversations with you as early as possible and provide needs-based support. It is also important that you are aware the guidance stipulates that the **new national threshold for absence is any 5 days or 10 sessions in a 10 week rolling period**. It also states that you must request all absence in advance, or in the case of illness/emergency, you notify of the absence at the earliest opportunity, as after 5 days, we are unable to retrospectively authorise absence that has occurred so it would be recorded as unauthorised absence and must remain so.

Our attendance policy will be updated and in place for September 2024 to reflect the changes. However, please accept this information as prior notice of the changes which will apply from 19th August 2024 and will be effective from the start of the 2024/2025 academic year.

I hope this information is helpful and would lastly reiterate, we welcome you to take the lead on starting conversations at any point to work with us on supporting your child as we want what is best for them too.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Claire Owuor – Attendance Lead