



Royal Cross Primary School

Lancashire's school for deaf children

Review of attendance figures - 21/11/17

Dear parent/carers

Good attendance at school is vital because even short periods of absence can mean that a child's ability to keep up with school work may be significantly reduced. Friendship groups can also be affected by time away from school and this can be upsetting for children.

Royal Cross School is working hard to improve the attendance of children within the school. One way of doing this is to inform all parents and carers if their child's attendance falls below a certain percentage, 90%. We review the attendance of individual pupils at least once every half term.

There are many figures published by the DfE (Department for Education) relating to attendance figures. Here are some of them:

- If a school can improve their attendance by 1%, they will see a 5-6% improvement in attainment.
- You may think that managing 90% attendance is a good thing!! However, if your child does only attend school 90% of the time, he/she will be classed as Persistently Absent – and 90% attendance actually means missing one half of a school day every week!! ...Or all of February in one school year!!
- If you take 10 days out of school for a family holiday – this automatically lowers your child's attendance to 94.7% for the year.
- If, for whatever reason, your child missed an average of only one day a week for their whole time in school...this would actually add up to missing the equivalent of two years' schooling. That would be like not starting school until you were 7 or leaving school at 14!!

Under the regulations, we have to follow very strict guidelines if children fail to attend school on a regular basis. If a child's attendance is persistently low and is a cause for concern, then school may have to consider referral to external agencies (such as the Local Authority Pupil Attendance Support Team) and this will involve the sharing of information concerning the child's attendance.

The parents of children who regularly miss school without a valid reason may then be subject to a penalty notice issued by the Local Education Authority, in accordance with their Code of Conduct.

The happiness and educational progress of all our children at Royal Cross are our main priorities and we believe that good attendance is a major way in which these priorities can be achieved. It is for this reason that we ask for your support in this matter. If you would like any advice in relation to attendance please do not hesitate to contact school

Yours sincerely

Headteacher