



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School

Attendance Policy

APPROVED BY: LWM

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1. Aims

All that we do in our family of schools is defined by our Mission and our Vision:

Our Mission: 'The glory of God is a human being fully alive!' (St Irenaeus)

Our Vision: Human flourishing and the uniqueness of every individual as a child of God is at the heart of our Catholic educational enterprise. In this context, a human being fully alive is one who is open to faith – to love – to joy – and to learning. They are daily becoming the person God created them to be and they are ready to delight in their God-given gifts, and to use them in the service of the Common Good.

Outstanding attendance is everyone's responsibility. The St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust is committed to providing a quality education for all our pupils and ensuring that learners and their families understand the importance of punctuality and full attendance at school.

Students who are 'fully alive' will be full participants in school life and will look forward to their time in school. Where there are barriers to attendance, they will be examined, every effort made to understand them and to provide solutions. Through the application of this policy, we will unlock the potential of each child to

truly delight in their God-given gifts and recognise this is only possible where a child attends school regularly and punctually.

We are committed to meeting our obligations with regards to school attendance by:

- fostering a shared understanding of the importance of good attendance across the whole-school community
- Promoting good attendance and punctuality
- Setting high expectations for attendance - positively reinforcing full or improved attendance and intervening where attendance falls below 97%
- Acting swiftly to reduce lateness, absence, persistent absence and severe absence, with a specific focus on immediate support for vulnerable learners
- Ensuring every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- Establish protocols to ensure that attendance issues are addressed early and effectively
- Building strong relationships with parents and carers to ensure pupils have the support in place to attend school, engaging and involving families in a proactive and positive way to sustain high attendance and to support and challenge parents/carers where attendance falls below 97%

We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.

Learning:

Pupils' enjoyment of, and ability to participate fully in their education is of paramount importance to us as a Trust. Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling. Regular absence seriously affects learners' learning and progress over time, leading to poorer outcomes, which can inhibit life chances and opportunities. Department for Education (2016) research shows a direct relationship between the attendance of learners and their outcomes at the end of primary school or secondary school: put simply, the more days learners go to school, the better they do. Research also shows us that schools that relentlessly pursue good attendance have better overall attainment and behaviour.

Safeguarding:

Pupils may be at risk of harm if they are not in school regularly. Learners who are missing from school are at significant risk of being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation, underachieving, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later in life. We will do everything we can to ensure our learners are safe including as per guidance in KCSIE 2023 schools where reasonably possible asking for more than one emergency contact per child that is registered with the school. As such having more than one emergency contact may mean these are used to support attendance where it is not possible to make contact with parent / carer including when addressing concerns if a child is missing from education.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the [working together to improve school attendance](#) from the Department for Education (DfE), and refers to the DfE's statutory guidance on [school attendance parental responsibility measures](#). These documents are drawn from the following legislation setting out the legal powers and duties that govern school attendance:

- Part 6 of [The Education Act 1996](#)
- Part 3 of [The Education Act 2002](#)
- Part 7 of [The Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006 \(and 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016 amendments\)](#)

- [The Education \(Penalty Notices\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

This policy also complies with our trust's funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for:

- Promoting the importance of school attendance across the trust's policies and ethos
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole trust

3.2 Each School's Local Academy Committee

The Local Academy Committee is responsible for:

- Promoting the importance of school attendance across the school's policies and ethos
- Making sure school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties
- Regularly reviewing and challenging attendance data
- Monitoring attendance figures for the whole school
- Making sure staff receive adequate training on attendance
- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy

3.3 The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementation of this policy at the school
- Monitoring school-level absence data and reporting it to governors
- Supporting staff with monitoring the attendance of individual pupils
- Monitoring the impact of any implemented attendance strategies
- Issuing fixed-penalty notices, where necessary

3.4 The designated senior leader responsible for attendance at each school

The designated senior leader is responsible for:

- Leading attendance across the school
- Offering a clear vision for attendance improvement
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations and processes
- Having an oversight of data analysis
- Devising specific strategies to address areas of poor attendance identified through data
- Arranging calls and meetings with parents to discuss attendance issues
- Delivering targeted intervention and support to pupils and families

The designated senior leader responsible for attendance at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School and St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School is Sarah Ball and can be contacted via telephone 01582 602420 (SMPS) or 01582 862456 (SVPS).

3.5 The school attendance officer

The school attendance officer at each school is responsible for:

- Monitoring and analysing attendance data (see section 7)
- Benchmarking attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Providing regular attendance reports to school staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the designated senior leader responsible for attendance and the headteacher
- Working with education welfare officers to tackle persistent absence
- Advising the headteacher when to issue fixed-penalty notices (in co-ordination with EWO and CBC attendance officers)

3.6 Class teachers / Form Tutors

All class teachers/form tutors are responsible for recording attendance on a daily basis, using the correct codes, and submitting this information to the school office.

3.7 School office staff

School office staff will:

- Take calls from parents about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system
- Transfer calls from parents to the class teacher (where relevant) in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance

3.8 Parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Make sure their child attends every day on time
- Call the school to report their child's absence using the school's agreed systems on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence), and advise when they are expected to return
- Provide the school with more than 1 emergency contact number for their children
- Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day
- Book family holidays during school holidays
- Engage with any support offered to address any barriers to their child's attendance.

3.9 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- attend school punctually every day
- attend all lessons on time
- engage with any support offered by the school to help them overcome any barriers to attendance.

4. Recording attendance

4.1 Attendance register

We will keep an attendance register and place all pupils onto this register.

We will take our attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session. It will mark whether every pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

Any amendment to the attendance register will include:

- The original note
- The additional notes
- The reason for the amendment

See appendix 1 for the DfE attendance codes.

We will also record:

- Whether the absence is authorised or not
- The nature of the activity if a pupil is attending an approved educational activity
- The nature of circumstances where a pupil is unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances

We will keep every entry on the attendance register for 3 years after the date on which the entry was made.

	St. Mary's	St. Vincent's
Time pupils must arrive by each school day	8.50am	8:50am
Time that register will be taken	9.00am	9:00am
Time the register kept open until	9.10am	9:20am

4.2 Unplanned absence

The pupil's parent/carer must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9:00 or as soon as practically possible by calling the school (see also section 7).

We will mark absence due to illness as authorised unless the school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.

If the authenticity of the illness is in doubt, the school may ask the pupil's parent/carer to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily.

If the school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and parent/carer will be notified of this in conversation. This may lead to further action by the attendance officer, SLT or EWO, including the possibility of a home visit.

4.3 Planned absence

Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment and provides evidence of appointments.

However, we encourage parents/carers to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

The pupil's parent/carer must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence. Please note that informing the school of intended absence does not mean that this absence will be authorised; for example, absence due to a term time holiday will be treated as an unauthorised absence. Go to section 5 to find out which term-time absences the school can authorise.

4.4 Lateness and punctuality

A pupil who arrives late:

- Before the register has closed will be marked as late, using the appropriate code
- After the register has closed will be marked as absent, using the appropriate code

Parents/carers will receive notification of their child's current attendance at Parent Consultations and in their child's School Report.

Where there are concerns about punctuality, the school will make verbal contact with parents/carers. If the concerns persist, the designated senior leader responsible for attendance at each school will write to the parents/carers about punctuality, including a copy of the child's registration certificate, and stating the total minutes late over a determined period.

If there is no improvement, the school will arrange a meeting with the parent/carer, offering specific pastoral support using the resources and staffing already available within the school.

In the event of persistent lateness, the school may make a formal referral to relevant external agencies.

4.5 Following up unexplained absence

Where any pupil we expect to attend school does not attend, or stops attending, without reason, the school will:

- Call the pupil's parent/carer on the morning of the first day of unexplained absence to ascertain the reason. If we cannot reach any of the pupil's emergency contacts, we may conduct a home visit or contact the police and/or social services (if appropriate).
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not
- Identify the correct attendance code to use and input it as soon as the reason for absence is ascertained – this will be no later than 5 working days after the session
- Call the parent/carer on each day that the absence continues without explanation to ensure proper safeguarding action is taken where necessary. If absence continues, the school will consider involving an education welfare officer
- Where an absence is unplanned and there is no or insufficient communication with the school, the Attendance Officer will follow up on this with the parent/carer and will refer to the appropriate authority should this be needed; for example, referring to the Child Missing in Education team at the Local Authority.

4.6 Reporting to parents/carers

The school will regularly inform parents about their child's attendance and absence levels with school reports at parent consultation meetings.

5. Authorised and unauthorised absence

5.1 Approval for term-time absence

A headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to pupils during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher's discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for.

A request can only be authorised where there are 'exceptional circumstances' for example bereavement or serious illness.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request.

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, at least 6 weeks before the absence, and in accordance with any leave of absence request form, accessible via the school office. The headteacher may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

Valid reasons for **authorised absence** include:

- Illness
- Emergency medical/dental appointments
- Religious observance – where the day is exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil's parents belong. If necessary, the school will seek advice from the parents' religious body to confirm whether the day is set apart
- a pupil taking part in a performance if the local authority has granted a licence for this;
- a pupil being suspended or excluded;
- pupils on a temporary, part-time timetable, where this has been arranged by the school;
- bereavement (close friend or family member);
- study leave (where this has been approved by the school);
- Traveller pupils travelling for occupational purposes – this covers Roma, English and Welsh gypsies, Irish and Scottish travellers, showmen (fairground people) and circus people, bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and new travellers. Absence may be authorised only when a traveller family is known to be travelling for occupational purposes and has agreed this with the school, but it is not known whether the pupil is attending educational provision

5.2 Legal sanctions

The school or local authority can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age.

If issued with a fine, or penalty notice, each parent must pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority.

Penalty notices can be issued by a headteacher, local authority officer or the police.

The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice may take into account:

- The number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year
- One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission
- Where an excluded pupil is found in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason
- whether there are exceptional circumstances that explain an absence that would usually be unauthorised.

If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice.

Legal sanctions will only be pursued when the family concerned have been offered support and this has either been unsuccessful or the family have failed to engage.

6. Strategies for promoting attendance

Rewarding Good Attendance

We expect every child to come to school on time every day. We reward good attendance with special recognition certificates and prizes where appropriate at particular stages through the academic year.

Each school has their own attendance rewards system

Good attendance is celebrated in assemblies, newsletters and Parent Consultation meetings.

7. Attendance monitoring

We recognise that poor attendance can be an indication of difficulties in a child's life. This may be related to problems at home and or in school. Parents should make school aware of any difficulties or changes in circumstances that may affect their child's attendance and or behaviour in school, for example, bereavement, divorce/separation, incidents of domestic abuse. This will help the school identify any additional support that may be required.

We also recognise that some students are more likely to require additional support to attain good attendance, for example, those students with special educational needs, those with physical or mental health needs, and looked after children.

7.1 Monitoring attendance

The school will:

- Monitor attendance and absence data half-termly, termly and yearly across the school and at an individual pupil level
- Identify whether or not there are particular groups of children whose absences may be a cause for concern

Pupil-level absence data will be collected each term and published at national and local authority level through the DfE's school absence national statistics releases. The underlying school-level absence data is published alongside the national statistics. The school and Trust will compare attendance data to the national average and share this with the Local Academy Committee and Board of Trustees. The schools will also be part of the CBC use of Studybugs to monitor attendance.

7.2 Analysing attendance

The school will:

- Analyse attendance and absence data regularly to identify pupils or cohorts that need additional support with their attendance, and use this analysis to provide targeted support to these pupils and their families
- Look at historic and emerging patterns of attendance and absence, and then develop strategies to address these patterns

7.3 Using data to improve attendance

The school will:

- Provide regular attendance reports to class teachers and other school leaders, to facilitate discussions with pupils and families
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of any interventions put in place in order to modify them and inform future strategies

7.4 Reducing persistent and severe absence

Persistent absence is where a pupil misses 10% or more of school, and severe absence is where a pupil misses 50% or more of school.

The school will use attendance data to find patterns and trends of persistent and severe absence.

To respond to persistent and severe absence, the school will seek to identify and address root causes. As there are a wide range of reasons for this occurring, the response will be determined on a case-by-case basis. However, typical strategies will include:

- supporting the pupil and their family to understand the reasons that attendance is important and the possible implications of repeated absences
- enhanced monitoring of individual pupils where attendance is (or could be) an issue
- Letters home
- holding meetings with parents or carers to discuss concerns
- Attendance contracts
- offering specific pastoral support using the resources and staffing already available within the school
- working with external partners to address the underlying factors that are causing the absence
- issuing warning letters and fixed penalty notices;

An individual child whose attendance is under 90% (regardless of whether or not the absences have been authorised) will be closely monitored by the designated senior leader responsible for attendance at each school, and a letter from the Headteacher will be issued regarding our concerns about their attendance.

Support offered to families will be child centred and planned in discussion and agreement with both parents and pupils. Where parents fail or refuse to engage with the support offered and further unauthorised absence occurs, schools will consider the use of legal sanctions.

8. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance from the local authority or DfE is updated, and as a minimum every 2 years. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Local Academy Committee.

9. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection policy
- Behaviour policy

10. Equalities monitoring

<p>To what extent does this policy have any implications for people of relevant protected characteristics (RPC) as outlined below?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Disability • Gender reassignment • Marriage and civil partnership • Pregnancy and maternity • Religion or belief • Sex • Sexual orientation <p>(Equality Act, 2010)</p>	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>This policy is applied in the context of the Object for our Academy Trust as set out in the Articles of Association and Scheme of Delegation.</p> <p>There is no other intentional impact on protected characteristics.</p>
<p>Will this policy advantage or disadvantage any particular group?</p>	<p>Collecting data for all "groups" will disadvantage those students whose attendance is lower than non-RPC students by identifying them as being in needs of support which will enable them to achieve as well as non-RPC students.</p>
<p>How will this policy, if relevant, promote equality of opportunity across our school?</p>	<p>Improving the attendance of any 'group' will lead to greater equality of outcome and therefore improved relations between all groups of students.</p>
<p>Success criteria and monitoring</p>	<p>Success criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress is being made towards meeting attendance targets. • Rates of authorised and unauthorised absence are minimized and at or below national averages. • The attendance of groups identified as having a particular problem will show improvement following relevant interventions. <p>Monitoring:</p> <p>Local Academy Committees will review this annually.</p>

Appendix 1: attendance codes

The following codes are taken from the DfE's guidance on school attendance.

Code	Definition	Scenario
/	Present (am)	Pupil is present at morning registration
\	Present (pm)	Pupil is present at afternoon registration
L	Late arrival	Pupil arrives late before register has closed
B	Off-site educational activity	Pupil is at a supervised off-site educational activity approved by the school
D	Dual registered	Pupil is attending a session at another setting where they are also registered

J	Interview	Pupil has an interview with a prospective employer/educational establishment
P	Sporting activity	Pupil is participating in a supervised sporting activity approved by the school
V	Educational trip or visit	Pupil is on an educational visit/trip organised, or approved, by the school
W	Work experience	Pupil is on a work experience placement

Code	Definition	Scenario
Authorised absence		
C	Authorised leave of absence	Pupil has been granted a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances
E	Excluded	Pupil has been excluded but no alternative provision has been made
H	Authorised holiday	Pupil has been allowed to go on holiday due to exceptional circumstances
I	Illness	School has been notified that a pupil will be absent due to illness
M	Medical/dental appointment	Pupil is at a medical or dental appointment
R	Religious observance	Pupil is taking part in a day of religious observance
S	Study leave	Year 11 pupil is on study leave during their public examinations
T	Gypsy, Roma and traveller absence	Pupil from a traveller community is travelling, as agreed with the school
Unauthorised absence		
G	Unauthorised holiday	Pupil is on a holiday that was not approved by the school
N	Reason not provided	Pupil is absent for an unknown reason (this code should be amended when the reason emerges, or replaced with code O if no reason for absence has been provided after a reasonable amount of time)

O	Unauthorised absence	School is not satisfied with reason for pupil's absence
U	Arrival after registration	Pupil arrived at school after the register closed

Code	Definition	Scenario
X	Not required to be in school	Pupil of non-compulsory school age is not required to attend
Y	Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances	School site is closed, there is disruption to travel as a result of a local/national emergency, or pupil is in custody
Z	Pupil not on admission register	Register set up but pupil has not yet joined the school
#	Planned school closure	Whole or partial school closure due to half-term/bank holiday/INSET day

Policy into Practice

St. Mary's and St. Vincent's will implement this policy on a day-to-day basis as below:

We will monitor punctuality and attendance every half term.

What we do when punctuality is a concern

1. Staff in the school office will remind parents/pupils arriving late the importance of arriving at school on time.
2. Absence and lateness are monitored by the office manager and school welfare officer.
3. Where a pupil is persistently late then a letter is sent home to parents, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Persistently late means more than two occasions in any two consecutive weeks or more than four occasions in any four consecutive weeks. The Welfare Officer is responsible for informing the Head Teacher of any possible exceptional circumstances. The exceptional circumstances can only be approved by the Head Teacher.
4. If a pupil's parents have received a letter regarding lateness and punctuality has not improved the school Welfare Officer should arrange a meeting with the parent. At this meeting the school should stress the importance of punctuality and discuss with the parent's reasons for lateness to see if any support can be offered. After the meeting the child's punctuality should be monitored.
If the child's punctuality does not improve then the matter should be referred to the Attendance Officer from the Local Authority who will contact the parents regarding this matter.
5. If a parent is unable to make the appointment set for the above meeting then another appointment should be offered. If a parent is still not able to attend this meeting, then the matter should be referred to the Attendance Officer from the Local Authority who will contact the parents regarding this matter. Parents will be informed in writing that this will happen.
6. The Welfare Officer will give the Head Teacher regular updates of parents receiving letters regarding punctuality and any meetings that are taking place with parents. In certain instances, it may be more appropriate for the Head Teacher to lead the meeting about punctuality.

7. All letters to parents regarding punctuality should be copied to the child's file. Records of all meetings will be recorded on CPOMS.
8. Class teachers must share the responsibility for encouraging good punctuality among their class by discussing the impact of frequent lateness on a child's learning in class.
9. For more complex and ongoing concerns with regards to a child's punctuality, the Pupil Wellbeing and Safeguarding Officer will be notified and asked to monitor concerns. The Pupil Wellbeing and Safeguarding Officer will then forward information of findings to the class teachers, Welfare Officer and Headteacher as well as record any notes or meetings on CPOMS.
10. The Headteacher reserves the right to accelerate the process directly to a meeting or referral to the Attendance Officer from the Local Authority should a pupil's punctuality or attendance not improve.

What we do to maintain attendance at 96-100%

Inform parents re good attendance once per term.

What we do when attendance is between 90 - 95%

Parents receive a letter detailing their child's attendance percentage and highlighting any patterns of absence which may have been observed. Attendance is then monitored half termly for this group and support may be offered.

What we do when attendance falls below 90%

Parents receive a letter detailing their child's attendance percentage and highlighting patterns of absence which may have been observed. Parents are invited to an attendance meeting to review barriers to good attendance. An attendance contract may be offered. Monitoring continues half termly for this group and the support offered will be also monitored.

At this meeting the importance of good attendance should be stressed and the reasons for the absences discussed to see if any support can be offered. At this meeting parents will be asked to bring any evidence (e.g. medical letters) to explain the reasons for their child's poor attendance. Parents will also be informed at this meeting that any further absences will require evidence (e.g. Doctor's note, proof of prescription, letter of appointment/meeting) to support the reason for their child's absence. Without it the absences will be recorded as unauthorised.

After the meeting the child's attendance will be monitored closely by the Welfare Officer.

All meetings with parents regarding attendance will be recorded and information regarding a child's absence will be shared with the class teacher and Headteacher.

What we do when attendance falls below 80%

Parents receive a letter detailing their child's attendance percentage and highlighting patterns of absence which may have been observed. Referral to external agencies will be considered.

All meetings with parents regarding attendance will be recorded and information regarding a child's absence will be shared with the class teacher and Headteacher

What we do when attendance falls below 50% (severe absence)

External agencies will always be involved at this stage.

Template letters:

Punctuality letter

Date

Dear

RE: 's punctuality at St Mary's/St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School

We have consulted with the Education Welfare Officer for St Mary's/St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School who is responsible for monitoring the school attendance and punctuality of the children at the school.

Following their recent register check, it can be seen that has been late to school times this academic year.

It is essential that attends school on time. We find that when a child arrives late they are greatly disadvantaged because they miss starting the day with their peers and the beginning of lessons. This means that they are often unsettled and can feel embarrassed when they have to walk into class or assembly late. It can also be disruptive to the rest of the class.

It is the duty of parents / carers, under provisions of Section 7 of the Education Act 1996, to ensure regular school attendance. Regular school attendance also means punctual attendance.

Minutes late per day	Equivalent of missing
5 Minutes	3.4 school days a year
10 Minutes	6.9 school days a year
15 Minutes	10.3 school days a year
20 Minutes	13.8 school days a year
30 Minutes	20.7 school days a year

If you have any queries regarding this letter, or require support with ensuring your child arrives to school on time, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office.

In the meantime, the school will continue to work closely with the Educational Welfare Office, monitoring attendance and punctuality.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs L Waldram

Letter 1 – Awareness letter

Date

Dear

Re: Class:

Attendance Awareness Letter

I am writing to you, to inform you of your child's school attendance which currently stands at %. I have enclosed your child's attendance certificate, highlighting areas of concern.

At St. Mary's/St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School, we generally expect school attendance of 96% or above as this promotes good academic achievements. Government research has shown a direct correlation between good attendance and positive academic achievement.

Your child's attendance will continue to be monitored by the School Attendance Officer as part of our normal practice. Although your child's absences may have been due to illness or other circumstances and you may have notified the school, these absences have a negative effect on their overall attendance percentage. Good attendance for the remainder of the academic year will ensure that their attendance percentage increases to a more acceptable level.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you would like to discuss this matter.

Yours sincerely

L. Waldram
Headteacher



Letter 2 – Medical evidence required letter

Date:

Dear

Re: Current attendance: %

I am writing to inform you of your child's attendance, which currently stands at %. At St. Mary's/St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School, we expect attendance of 96% or above.

Subsequently, medical evidence from your GP or Medical Professional will be required for all future absences and medical appointments, which will not be authorised unless this is provided. Examples of evidence would be an e-mail or text from the surgery, a prescription or an appointment card, etc.

Should unauthorised absences occur, you will be issued with a Penalty Notice Warning letter by the Education Welfare Service and may incur a fine if your child's attendance does not improve. This has been a difficult year and it is important that students attend school for the remaining days of the academic year.

If you have concerns regarding your child's health you may find it helpful to contact the School Nursing Service for advice on childhood illness / medical conditions on 01582 532853.

I have attached your child's attendance certificate with areas of concern highlighted.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 01582 602420 or 01582 862456 if you have any queries or concerns.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

L. Waldram
Headteacher



Letter 3 – Referral to LA

Date: Monday 20th February

Dear

Re: Current attendance: %

As you know, we have been concerned with regards to your child's school attendance, which currently stands at %. At St. Mary's/St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School, we expect attendance of 96% or above.

As a result of this, a referral has been made to Central Bedfordshire Council in order to support you with your child's attendance. The details regarding such a referral are on the school portal at the location given below:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/97/school_administration/538/access_and_inclusion_for_schools/2

This is part of our duty as a school to ensure a child attends school as much as possible. Please be aware that this is part of a supportive process which we trust will enable you, as a family, to see an improvement in your child's attendance.

I have attached your child's attendance certificate with areas of concern highlighted for your information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 01582 602420 or 01582 862456 if you have any queries or concerns. If you would like a school attendance officer from CBC to contact you, please email access.inclusion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

L. Waldram
Headteacher



Letter 4 – Non statutory letter for Reception parents

Wednesday 3rd May 2023

Dear Mr Brown,

Re: John Brown Year 4

Current attendance: 83%

I am writing to alert you to the fact that your child's attendance has become concerning which means they have dropped below Government guidelines for statutory school age children; the expectations would be that children have attendance of 96% and above. I fully appreciate that your child is non statutory school age but it is important that good routines are established early to support the transition into full time education. Your child will reach statutory school age in the term after his/her 5th birthday.

Research has shown that attendance is closely linked to achievement at both SATS and GCSE level. Research has also shown that children who have poor attendance in nursery and reception can often have poor attendance through their school life. We want your child to have the best possible start to their education and embedding routines and attending regularly and punctually will help them to settle into school life.

ADVICE:

If your child is unwell on waking in the morning and you administer medicine; please review their health shortly afterwards as it might be that they have improved enough to attend school for the afternoon session – every hour counts! Every day your child misses school, they miss approximately 5 hours of valuable learning time.

If your child has a diagnosed medical condition which would account for these absences or is currently undergoing hospital or GP tests, please inform the school in writing so they are aware of your child's health needs and have a greater understanding of how this might impact on their school attendance. School can also offer you support if they are aware of particular needs.

Please also be mindful that unapproved term time holidays are recorded as unauthorised absence. The calendar year is made up of 365 days, 190 school days and 175 non-school days to spend on family time, visits, holidays and routine and dental appointments. Days off school add up to lost learning time and we want your child to do well and achieve their potential.

May I also remind you that you should inform the school by 9.00 am every morning your child is absent with the reason they will not be attending. This can be with a message on the absence voicemail as preference but by the admin email is also appropriate. We would ask that if your child is absent for more than 3 days, that supporting evidence is provided to the school (for example

evidence they have attended a GP appointment/Walk-In Centre/Dental appointment, prescription or other).

It is important to know that schools can access numerous support agencies. If you feel you or your child would benefit from any support, please contact the school on 01582 602420/ 01582 862456 or at admin@stmarysprimary.org.uk or admin@stvincentshr.org

I look forward to seeing an improvement in your child's attendance at the next register check; we want your child to do well in school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Waldram
Headteacher

