

PSA Bulletin

This week let's talk about 'Attendance'

Why is this linked to Safeguarding?

Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child has good attendance at school.

Children may be at risk of harm if not attending school regularly. We have a responsibility to prevent impairment of health or development for children, protect children from maltreatment, ensure children are receiving safe and effective care and must take action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

At BB we recognise the importance of good school attendance and we observe the direct links that this has on not just attainment for children but also for their overall wellbeing.

Children who miss days from school or those who are frequently late can be disadvantaged in comparison to their peers. It can disrupt their learning journey, impact on their social interactions and affect their confidence and self-esteem.

It is the school's responsibility to promote good attendance and reduce absences. To do so we monitor patterns of attendance and punctuality closely and work in collaboration with The Education Welfare Officer with whom we meet with at least once a term to review families of concern (usually those who have fallen below 94%).

Reminder: For safeguarding reasons, if your child arrives late to school (9am or later) an adult must accompany them to reception to sign them in.

All absences must be reported to reception. If leaving a voicemail please communicate clearly about the reason for the absence / type of illness etc.

How to contact me: It's never too soon to make contact if you have any concerns. You can reach me via text on the PSA mobile **07903 613074** or via email, terri-anne.old@celticcross.education Normal working days are Tuesday and Wednesday 8.00-16.00 and Thursday 8.00-13:00



We understand that there are various reasons why a child may miss school. Some of these are recorded as 'authorised' and others would be considered 'unauthorised'. The Education welfare officer looks closely at patterns of absence too. Frequent blocks of illness can require further investigation from us at school and medical evidence can be requested.

Parents need to know that their child's attendance statistics will be impacted irrespective of the reason being authorised or unauthorised. Any time away from their class brings their statistics down and your child's teachers' wish you to know that open, honest communication is always the best policy. It can create additional safeguarding concerns when a child is asked by parents to conceal the real reason for a period of absence.

At BB we continue to aim high and expect a minimum level of attendance of 96% which is reflected in our Attendance policy which can be found on our [website](#).

During the pandemic national average attendance has fallen and BB's previously very good attendance figures have also suffered. We do continue to believe that good attendance is a priority and wish to work in conjunction with parents and pupils where there are barriers to achieving this.

How can we work together to achieve good attendance?

- ✓ From an early age communicate the importance of good attendance. Help children to learn that striving for good attendance is a priority because it affects their wellbeing and their attainment.
- ✓ Recognise the value of helping children to develop resilience (even if a little 'under the weather' many children are able to 'bounce back' once they are amongst their peers and school can accommodate the need for a dose of Calpol for example if this may help them get through the day).
- ✓ Please be assured that class staff will notify parents if a child deteriorates through the day.
- ✓ Confront barriers which are affecting attendance honestly – ask for help at an early stage, communicate concerns/observations with school and chat through any issues with class staff or Parent support advisor.
- ✓ Recognise the role we have as parents; we are the role models. We need to role model things such as 'communicating honestly', 'being organised', 'ensuring we set off in enough time', 'how to get enough rest to be ready for the next day' or 'effective self-care' (so that we can cope with minor ailments alongside attending school).
- ✓ Please avoid 'blaming' a child. Children are not responsible for their attendance/punctuality. However, they can be supported to develop a sense of accountability for collaboratively working with their parents to get to school on time and to having overall good attendance.
- ✓ Think carefully about how your family handle things such as minor illnesses, tiredness or school anxiety. Sometimes a 'coping strategy' is only effective short term and we need to mitigate against children learning unhelpful patterns (as these tend to stay with us into adulthood).
- ✓ Where possible avoid making appointments that will require school absence.
- ✓ Understand that school has a responsibility to keep parents informed about attendance statistics and ultimately just wants what is best for the children.

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