



Dear Parent/Carer,

Attendance at The Bulmershe School

The school attendance target for 2018-19 is 95%

At The Bulmershe School attendance is a key priority, which links directly to the wider school value of student responsibility. As a school we are committed to giving all our students the best start in life and there are clear links between good attendance and success in adult life. Good attendance both increases a student's chances of leaving school with the best possible grades (*as illustrated in the table on page 2*) and shows potential employers/further education providers that a young person is reliable.

So what does good attendance at the Bulmershe School look like?

- Students should attend every day possible (over 95% of the time).
- Students should arrive by 8.25am every morning, ready for registration to start at 8.30am. Any student arriving after this time will be issued with a same day lunchtime detention, unless we receive a valid reason from Parent/Carer.
- Parents/Carers should inform the school if their son/daughter is unable to attend school for a valid reason*. A message should be left on the school absence line (**0118 9353353**) every morning the young person is not in school. The message must contain: your child's name, tutor group and reason for absence.
- Doctor's appointments, where possible, should be taken out of school hours. Parents/Carers should provide a doctor's note for lengthy absences.
- If a student's attendance falls below 90% they will be classed as a persistent absentee. This will lead to close monitoring by the school, EWO service regular dialogue between the school and Parents/Carers.

A 90% attendance rate over a child's time at school (on average 19 days' absence each year) would mean that by the end of Year 11 the equivalent of half a school year will have been missed.



Holidays in term time

From September 2013 legislation has changed so that **no** absence for holidays will be authorised. Exceptional circumstances can always arise and such situations will be taken into consideration if a letter outlining such a request is submitted to our Headteacher. If you decide to take your child out of school, this will be recorded as unauthorised absence. This may result in you being issued with a penalty notice fine from the local authority of £60 per child (per Parent/Carer) if paid within 21 days, which goes up to £120 if payment is made between 22 and 28 days. Prosecution will be enforced if no payment is received within 28 days.

Students Attendance % in a school year	% chance of achieving 5 X 9-4 grades (A*- C)	Number of days off	Number of lessons missed
95	77	10	50
94	74	11	55
93	60	13	65
92	53	15	75
91	44	17	85
85	30	30	150

*The validity of an absence is determined by the Headteacher.

Any attendance related concerns/information please email Maxine Goddard (Attendance Manager) at Attendance@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk or 01189353353 ext 206/109.

Kind regards
Maxine Goddard