



St. Augustine's
Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Berry



Monday 8th November 2021

Attendance Statement

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is essential that children form good habits of regular attendance at school from an early age and that good attendance is maintained throughout their school career. St Augustine's is committed to working together to ensure that there is a consistent approach to school attendance. It is a **legal requirement** that all children should attend their educational provision and it is the **parent/carer's responsibility** to ensure that their children attend school.

St Augustine's Attendance Policy states the following:

- It is important that pupils are in school on time (**by 8.55am**). Time keeping is not only important in obtaining maximum benefit from education but is also a key skill for adult life. Lateness is monitored by the school and contributes to absence rates.
- St Augustine's will monitor the attendance of pupils and work closely with Dorset Council's School Attendance Service to support children whose attendance levels are causing concern.
- Whilst we understand that children do become ill on occasions, children who lose a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning. If a child's health continues to affect their education schools are obliged to make a referral to School Health to ensure that appropriate medical advice and support is provided.
- If a child is ill it is the **responsibility of the parent/carer** to ensure that they inform the school as soon as possible (**by 9.30am**). St Augustine's operates a targeted "First Day Call" system, which means that they will contact you to ask why your child is not in school and when they are expected to return.

• No Leave of Absence (holidays) will be granted during term time, except in exceptional circumstances. Possible situations which may be considered as exceptional circumstances (you will be asked to provide written evidence in certain circumstances) are:

- Return of a parent from active service (Forces)
- Death or terminal illness of a parent, step-parent or sibling
- Young carers
- Disability or respite leave

• We are therefore informing parents/guardians that, should you wish to take your child out of school for any leave of absence, holidays or otherwise, request **will not** be routinely granted. Any absence which has not been authorised by St Augustine's will be recorded as "unauthorised" and this has the potential to impact on your child's overall absence figure and could result in legal action and a fine.

Impact of Attendance on Attainment:

Attendance Percentage	Days off per year	Likelihood of child achieving 5 A-C grades/levels at GCSE
97.5%	7.5 days	89%
95%	10 days	73%
90%	20 days (nearly half a year throughout KS2)	35%
80%	40 days (nearly a whole year throughout KS2)	
50%	100 days	3%

St Augustine's is committed to ensuring that every learner had the opportunity to thrive and achieve, and recognises that good attendance is central to this.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Berry
Headteacher