



September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Chosen Hill School we believe that excellent attendance and punctuality are fundamental in ensuring maximum progress for each student and that the students grow up with the correct work ethos for their future lives.

Our aspirational goal this year is to ensure that every student attends school every day.

Clearly going to school regularly matters!

Attending school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realise some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances, but, we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically.

There are strong links between poor attendance and poor attainment. A child who has 90% attendance misses the equivalent of 1 whole **month** of education each year, which over the course of their school life equates to one whole **year** of education missed. This can equate to the equivalent of one whole GCSE grade drop.

Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is persistently absent—which means missing 19 or more days over the course of an entire school year. Absences can add up quickly. A child is persistently absent if he or she misses just two days every month!

Our Education Welfare Officer will be working with the staff in school to monitor the attendance and punctuality of our students, as well as take any supportive and legal action to ensure all students attend school regularly.

You should also be aware that if absences are “unauthorised” you may ultimately become at risk of legal action under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please make every effort to ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. School are happy to help and support if we can do so but the responsibility for ensuring regular attendance at school is that of the parent or guardian.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact your child's Learning Mentor in the first instance.

Sincerely,

David Hearing
Senior Progress Co-ordinator
School Attendance Lead

