



St Saviours Primary School

Attendance Matters – January 2020

The aim of this letter is to promote improved attendance for the students in our school and to raise awareness of the importance of good school attendance. We expect students' attendance to be at 96% - this is in line with the Government of Jersey's expectations too. As a school, we are absolutely committed to making sure that every child is successful, and encourage parents to ensure their child receives a full-time education, unless there is a very good reason for absence.

The average attendance at St Saviours for the Autumn term 2019 was 95.9% meaning we are close to the average for the Island, however there is still room for improvement! We usually have attendance rates above the Island average.

Punctuality Matters Too!

Today Mrs Ali Moffat, our Educational Welfare Officer, carried out a 'Late gate' drop in. Ali would like to thank those parents/carers that took the time to talk with her. Ali is quite concerned about the high volume of children arriving after 8.45am and would like to remind all parents to ensure that their children are punctual. If a student arrives late on 3 occasions within 1 month, a telephone call will be made home. Those students with persistent lateness (more than 5 lates) will be subject to a Punctuality Plan.

Missed Minutes mean Missed Learning = Missed Opportunities

School starts at 8.45am sharp. Children arriving after 8.45am will be marked as late and must sign in at the School Office. The front door will be closed at 8.45am.

Family holidays and term time leave

Please ensure that family holidays and any other leave are arranged outside of school term time. Parents should not remove their child from school during term time without having first requested a leave of absence in writing from the Head teacher. All requests for absence will be responded to in writing and will only be authorised in the most exceptional circumstances. All term dates and INSET days are available on the school website and gov.je. Taking your child out of school without authorisation could potentially result in the school needing to take action.

Change to Sickness Policy

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. At the end of this newsletter we have some useful tips on how to assess whether your child is too unwell to be in school, please read this as it will enable you to make a decision whether your child is well enough to attend. If your child becomes unwell at school, the school will send your child home. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school **each morning** and give a reason for the absence. There are two registration sessions in a school day, so if you can send them in later in the day, if your child appears to improve, every session counts!

Is my child 'too ill' for school?

There are clear government guidelines for schools that say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. The guidance below taken from the NHS website and includes information on common childhood illnesses where school is missed when it needn't be. It is vital to follow this, as school will not authorise your child's absence if we feel they are well enough to be in school (this could lead to consequences for parents/ carers, which we would like to avoid!):

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or cold. However, if they have a high temperature, keep them off school until the temperature returns to normal. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it is considered normal again.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You should treat your child and send them into school.

Thank you for your support in helping to raise attendance, if you need support or advice relating to your child's attendance, please contact the School Office on 725549.

We are here to work in partnership with all our families and offer any support where needed. We are excited about promoting excellent attendance here at St Saviours and hope you will continue to encourage your child.

Sometimes there are underlying reasons why a child does not attend school regularly. If at any time you encounter any difficulty in getting your child to school ***please speak to us.***

We are here to help and support, and can often find ways to address any problems.

