

Hazelbury Bryan CP School
Droop
Hazelbury Bryan
Sturminster Newton
Dorset
DT10 2ED



Have courage, grow roots, shine bright!

Telephone: 01258 817492

Headteacher: Mrs K. Waring BA (HONS) QTS NPQH

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have received updated information regarding attendance from Dorset Council:

'As we move forward into the next school year, we would like to place an emphasis on School Attendance. You will all be aware that COVID has affected School Attendance over the last two years. We are hopeful that as we move forward, this will be much less of a problem. Additionally, the government guidance with respect to Attendance was reinstated at the end of the last lockdown. You may be aware that Dorset have not taken Legal Action regarding School Attendance since the first lockdown. However, we are keen to ensure that attendance is a priority for all schools, parents and children. While we do not see Legal Action as a primary solution to attendance issues, we do acknowledge that it is sometimes useful and indeed necessary. Dorset will now be resuming Legal Action work.'

Good school attendance is very important. Your child has a better chance of success in life when they have attended school regularly.

The government have said that any child with below 90% attendance is a **Persistent Absentee**. This is a very low level of attendance and cause for serious concern. We want to prevent any child's attendance falling to this level and have agreed a school target of 96%.

If we are concerned about your child's attendance, we will write to you. We will also try to talk to you to find out if there is a problem. If attendance continues to be low, you will be invited into school to discuss any issues. These meetings are an opportunity for you, your child (where appropriate) and the school to discuss any issues together.

At these meetings, a plan should be agreed to try and solve any problems. The plan should then be reviewed at a further meeting with the school. If after this, attendance continues to be poor, we will contact Dorset Council. We will make their Dorset Council Inclusion Lead aware of our concerns. You are then likely to be invited into school for an Inclusion Panel meeting which involves the Dorset Council Inclusion Lead for Hazelbury Bryan.

The Inclusion Panel involves you, your child (where appropriate), the school, the DC Inclusion lead and any other professionals who may be involved. The Panel will listen to everyone and come up with a plan to try to solve any problems.

School attendance is a legal requirement. The law states that "If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, his parent is guilty of an offence." S444(1) Education Act, 1996. If having gone through all the above, a child still has poor attendance, Dorset Council may take Legal Action against parents and carers. This could result in issuing a £120 Penalty Notice, a Parenting Order or seeking prosecution which could result in a fine of up to £2,500.



The school and Dorset Council work hard with children and parents to avoid taking Legal Action. We hope that your child will have good attendance. We hope that your child will be happy and successful in school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K. Waring

Headteacher at Hazelbury Bryan Primary School