

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



Headteacher: Mrs Waring BA (HONS) Primary Education, NPQH

### School Attendance

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome back to another year at Hazelbury Bryan Primary School, I want to address an important issue which affects your child's outcomes in school.

Good school attendance is very important. Your child has a better chance of success in life when they have attended school regularly. The government has 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 a target attendance of 96%.

If we are concerned about your child's attendance we will write to you. We will 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 to discuss any issues together.

At these meetings, a plan shall be agreed to try and solve any problems. The plan will then be reviewed at a further meeting with the school. If attendance continues to be poor, we will contact Dorset Council. We will make 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 North Dorset.

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, "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 of 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.

Did you know that of 365 days in a year, 190 days are school days and 175 are non-school days—that is nearly half of the entire number of days in the year! As a school we expect parents to use these 175 days for your family time, and for activities such as shopping, appointments, day trips and family holidays. While we appreciate it's not always possible to take appointments on non-school days, we do ask that these are kept to a minimum.

Attendance averaged for all classes for the last academic year was 95.1% with only 2 pupils managing 100% attendance. National guidance is 97.4% showing that we all have work to do to help our children achieve.



## Attendance Explained

% Attendance	= days absent per year	= weeks absent per year	= number of lessons missed
95%	9.5	1.9	47.5
92%	15.2	3.04	76
85%	28.5	5.7	142.5
80%	38	7.6	190

## Punctuality Explained

Minutes late per day	= days of learning lost per year
5	3.2
10	6.5
15	9.5
20	12.5
30	19

Children who do not attend school regularly often have the following problems:

- They are not able to keep up with their work.
- Their teachers, on a busy school day, may have difficulty in finding the time to help your child catch up.
- Children who arrive late miss important parts of the lesson and disrupt the learning of other children in the class.
- They are likely to experience friendship issues.
- They are likely to experience increased anxiety.

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 and subsequently be happy and successful in school.

Mrs Waring has arranged an Attendance assembly for all parents and carers on Monday 26th September at 9:15, all are very welcome, we are also happy to follow up with a workshop at a later date if required.

Our governors, along with Mrs Waring, plan to monitor and support attendance for the forthcoming academic year. Many thanks for your support, and I hope your children have a great year at Hazelbury.

Andy Muir

Chair of Governors  
Hazelbury Bryan Primary School