



16 January 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

School Attendance

St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy is committed to providing a full and efficient education for all students. We believe that all pupils benefit from the education that we provide and, therefore, from regular school attendance. As such, we will do as much as we can to ensure that all students achieve maximum possible attendance and that any issues, which may impede full attendance, are acted upon as quickly as possible.

The law states that parents/carers have a legal obligation to ensure that children within their care attend school regularly. Schools and the Local Authority have a duty to ensure that poor school attendance is dealt with swiftly. Local Authorities have legal enforcement powers under sections 444, 4441(A) and 444ZA of the Education Act 1996 to bring legal action against parents in order to enforce attendance at school. Our Local Authority is Lincolnshire County Council.

Higher overall absence leads to lower attainment at KS2 and KS4. The Department for Education (DfE) published research in 2016 which found that:

- The higher the overall absence rate across Key Stage (KS) 2 and KS4, the lower the likely level of attainment at the end of KS2 and KS4
- Pupils with **no absence** are 1.3 times more likely to achieve level 4 or above, and 3.1 times more likely to achieve level 5 or above, than pupils that missed 10-15% of all sessions
- Pupils with **no absence** are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs A*- C or equivalent including English and mathematics than pupils that missed 15-20% of KS4 lessons

There is a clear link between poor attendance and lower academic achievement. DfE research (2012) on improving attendance at school found that:

- Of pupils with absence over 50%, only 3% manage to achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including maths and English
- 73% of pupils who have over 95% attendance achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C

Pupils with persistent absence are less likely to stay in education. Advice from the National Strategies (hosted on the National Archives) says that:

- The links between attendance and achievement are strong
- Pupils with persistent absence are less likely to attain at school and stay in education after the age of 16 years

Students are marked late (with a "L");

- If they arrive between 8:50am and 9:30am for the morning session
- If they attend lesson 4 after 12:00pm for the afternoon session

Students are marked with an unauthorised absence (with a "U");

- If they arrive after 9.30am for the morning session, without an authorised reason – it is important to note that this will mean a full session of absence is recorded on the register and therefore has an impact on a pupil's overall attendance figure
- It is important to note that failure to attend the afternoon session, without an authorised reason will mean a full session of absence is recorded on the register; and therefore has an impact on a pupil's overall attendance figure

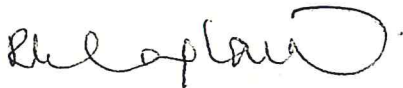
If unauthorised late arrival continues, parents/carers will be contacted and a meeting will be arranged to discuss this. If no improvement is made, a Penalty Notice may be requested from the Local Authority, Lincolnshire County Council.

The register is not only a legal document, but it also provides evidence that pupils have arrived in school and are safe.

We will continue to support families regarding attendance, including meetings in school or at home. However, if required the school will work with Lincolnshire County Council to address persistent non-attendance in accordance with education regulations 2007.

Thank you in advance for your support in this matter. If you would like to discuss any aspect of this letter please contact the academy on 01522 871400.

Yours sincerely



R Le Caplain
Headteacher