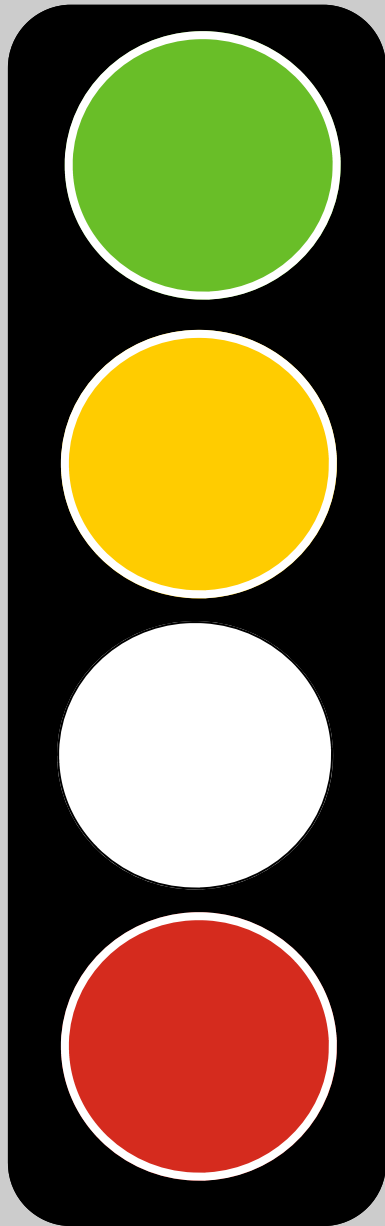


Attendance Matters!

WHY? Good attendance has been proved to improve academic attainment. Pupils with attendance under 96% have been shown to seriously underachieve, cutting off potential opportunities later on in their school lives. There are 190 school days and 175 non-school days in a year. Plenty of time for holidays/shopping/appointments.



96 to 100%

95% chance of achieving A-C Grades at GCSE

Congratulations for reaching the school target! Keep it up to receive an 'Excellent Attender' certificate at the end of this term.

91 to 95%

72% chance of achieving C grades & C grades at GCSE

You are at risk of underachievement. Parents will receive a warning letter from school and may be asked to meet with the Deputy Head, Miss Coxhead.

86 to 90%

55% chance of achieving around 5 C grades at GCSE

Your attendance is a serious concern and must improve. Parents will be contacted to explain their child's absences.

Below 85%

20% chance of achieving 5 C grades at GCSE

Parents may receive a Court Summons and a fine of up to £2500.

Why we need good attendance at

St Mary & St Michael Catholic Primary School



- To learn
- To achieve
- To develop new skills
- To experience new things in life.
- To build confidence and self esteem.
- To develop an awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences.
- To have the best possible start in life.
- To make friends.
- To have fun.

'The greater the attendance the greater the achievement'

THE FACTS ABOUT ATTENDANCE!

RESEARCH SHOWS:

- ◆ 90% of persistent non-attenders DO NOT achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all
- ◆ Employers want to recruit people who are reliable and have attended school regularly.
- ◆ Many employers ask for information about student's punctuality and attendance at school.
- ◆ Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour.

A child who misses one day of school per week misses the equivalent of two years of their school life.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS:

- ◆ The Education Act 1996 states that parents and carers must ensure that all children of compulsory school age (5-16) receive a full-time education that is suitable for their age, ability and aptitude and special educational needs.
- ◆ As a parent you may be committing an offence if you fail to ensure that your child attends school regularly.
- ◆ Once you have registered your child at a school it is your responsibility to make sure that he/she attends regularly and punctually.
- ◆ If you fail to do so the Local Authority has a statutory duty to consider legal action to enforce school attendance. This may involve the issuing of a **penalty notice, prosecution** or application for an **Education Supervision Order**.
- ◆ The Headteacher authorises absence depending on his/her belief that the reason given for absence by the parent/carer is justifiable and/or genuine.

Education is not an option—it is compulsory!

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME:

School holiday dates are published well in advance and parents are expected to plan and take their family holidays as this time so as not to disrupt their children's education.

*Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as unauthorised absence unless written permission has been given by the Headteacher due to exceptional circumstances. **Parents can be fined for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.***

PUNCTUALITY

The school, by law, has to take a register of pupils first thing in the morning and the afternoon. If a pupil is late but the register is still open they are marked as late. If a pupil arrives late without a satisfactory explanation and the register is closed, it may be classed as an unauthorised absence. This may lead to legal action for not ensuring regular and punctual school attendance. As an example, if a child arrives late at school 15 minutes late each day they lose almost 2 weeks of education a year!

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

- ◆ Establish a good routine in the morning and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- ◆ Ensure your child arrives at school on time—not late.
- ◆ Try to arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours.
- ◆ Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness
- ◆ Take family holidays outside term time.
- ◆ Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school and homework. Attend all parents evenings and school events where possible.
- ◆ Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- ◆ Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- ◆ Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school—staff are there to help and will always be supportive.