

Banbury District Schools – September 2017



Dear Parent/Carer

The importance of good school attendance

We write to you as a group of headteachers/principals from Banbury who are working hard together to improve educational outcomes for all of the children in our community. You can help us to achieve this goal by supporting your child to attend school regularly. We want to be proud to say that we are working in the town with the best attendance in Oxfordshire. Help us to achieve that over the next twelve months and beyond.

Days off school soon add up and missing lessons makes it hard to catch up. Right from the time children start at school learning is affected by absence. When your son/daughter does return after an absence they will have to work extra hard to make ground that they have lost. Every lesson counts because each lesson builds on those preceding it. There is clear documented evidence that children who do not attend school regularly from primary school onwards rarely achieve their true potential. Don't let that be your child.


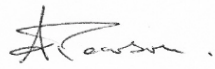
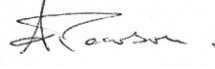

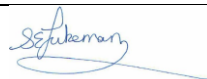



School is about preparation for employment. At school we develop the habits and routines we take into adulthood. All employers are looking to recruit people with good patterns of attendance. Nobody wants to employ someone who takes regular time off work. Businesses in our community will employ many of your children in the future – together let's provide a workforce for the future which is both reliable and committed.

It may be useful for you to know what attendance figures mean for your child.

Attendance level	What this means
Above 98%	Excellent attendance Less than 4 days absence in a year
96%	Good attendance Less than 7 days absence in a year
*90%	Below average/low attendance 19 days absence over the year. Pupils with an attendance of 90% or below are persistently absent from school and parents of pupils with this level of attendance or below could be issued with a penalty notice
85%	Exceptionally low attendance 29 days absences or more in a year (6 weeks!)

*As you are all aware from September 2015 the threshold for becoming a "persistent absentee" is 90% or less attendance.

We all have similar systems and support structures in our schools to help your children maintain regular attendance. If you are struggling in any way we are there to help you.

Sylvia Thomas Principal Banbury Academy 	Alex Pearson Executive Principal Dashwood Academy 
Niamh Dolan Deputy Headteacher Blessed George Napier 	Alex Pearson Executive Principal Harriers Academy 
Annabel Kay Headteacher The Warriner School 	Sarah Jakeman Headteacher Queensway 
Sarah Billins Principal North Oxfordshire Academy 	Clare Ferens Headteacher Hillview School 
Jane Ridley Head Teacher Bishop Loveday C/E Primary 	Neil Blackwell Headteacher St Leonards School 
Harry Wall Headteacher Hanwell Fields 	Bev Boswell Headteacher The Grange School 

Lorna Buchanan
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