

## Banbury District Schools – September 2018



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%        | <b>Excellent attendance</b><br>Less than 4 days absence in a year   |
| 96%              | <b>Good attendance</b><br>Less than 7 days absence in a year  |
| *90%             | <b>Below average/low attendance</b><br>19 days absence over the year.<br>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%              | <b>Exceptionally low attendance</b><br>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.

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

**Lorna Buchanan**  
*Executive Headteacher*  
St John's Roman Catholic Primary  
School

